

## **Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting September 10, 2003**

Present at the meeting were: Klaas Nijhuis, Bob Mack, Linda Jeynes, Lisa Christie, Eileen Brady, Maryse Wirbal, David Cull, Peter Kelleher, Ruth Morrissette, and Laura Nault.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and had everyone introduce themselves.

Copies of last month's minutes were reviewed. B. Mack noted an omission in the name of this committee on the heading of the minutes. L. Christie motioned that the minutes be accepted with this change; P. Kelleher seconded and the motioned carried.

The remainder of the meeting centered on strategic planning for the Ending Homelessness Plan and was facilitated by B. Mack as a member of the sub-committee working on the strategic planning element of the Plan. (Handout)

The sub-committee membership includes: L. Christie, B. Mack and M. Wirbal. Others are invited to join.

B. Mack suggested that we start by adopting a formal vision statement. M. Wirbal motioned our vision statement read:

All individuals and families facing homelessness in the greater Nashua area will have access to safe, decent, affordable housing and the resources and supports needed to sustain it."

P. Kelleher seconded the motion and the motioned carried.

B. Mack then suggested a formal statement of the goals and objectives also be adopted. The statement generally accepted by the committee reads:

Prevent homelessness wherever possible  
Rapidly re-house people when homelessness cannot be prevented  
Provide wraparound services that promote housing stability and self-sufficiency

The committee further agreed that the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care would be the Lead Entity for this plan.

B. Mack spoke of needing a statement of the problem: what the needs are, ways we want others to help and showing the cost benefits of solving the problem. There was discussion about the gathering of this information from all the agencies, religious organizations, and other groups involved in helping the homeless in the greater Nashua area.

P. Kelleher suggested that the Nashua CoC look at becoming an incorporated entity in order to be more effective in terms of applying directly for funding to pay for hiring

people to help put the plan together, gather information, etc. A discussion followed. A recommendation could be made to the Lead Entity (Executive Committee of the CoC) but no decision to do so was made at this time.

L. Christie suggested inviting influential citizens and officials to visit the non-profit agencies dealing with homelessness to see first hand the problems and help spread the word to the public of the need for ending homelessness.

M. Wirbal shared copies of the “Housing Consumer Education Centers” flyer from the Massachusetts Housing Consumer Education Center.

M. Wirbal said the sub-committee dealing with the strategic planning element should put a draft together before the next monthly meeting and then invite more members to join their committee in developing the draft into a finished plan by the end of the year. B. Mack said the sub-committee would meet again to work on this on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in room 208 at the Nashua City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am. The next Meeting will be October 1, 2003 at 9:00 in Room 208, Nashua City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban Programs