

GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 21, 2005

Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street

PRESENT: Klaas Nijhuis, Urban Programs, Chair
Miles Pendry, Harbor Homes, Inc.
Linda Jeynes, Urban Programs
Bob Mack, Nashua City Welfare
Ruth Morrissette, Maguerite's Place
Sandra Hurd, Keystone Hall
Grace Hicks-Grogan, Nashua Housing Association
Maryse Wirbal, Nashua Pastoral Care Center, Inc.
Donnalee Lozeau, Southern NH Services, Inc.
Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Private Citizen

The Chair provided an agenda and started discussions at 8:05 am. Minutes of the August 17th meeting were distributed. B. Mack motioned to except the minutes, R. Morrissette seconded, and the motion was passed.

New Business

Nominations, Slate of Officers: K. Nijhuis asked if anyone had received any nominations from other GNCOC members, there were none. R. Morrissette said that Wendy Furnari might be willing to become a Co-Vice Chair with the idea that she would be the Vice Chair next year. R. Morrissette also reported that, because of other commitments this year, she would not be able to move into the role of Chair, but would be willing to continue as a Co-Vice Chair. When asked, K. Nijhuis indicated that he would be willing to serve another year as Chair. No other person being nominated to serve as clerk, L. Jeynes offered to serve another year as clerk for the GNCOC and GNCOC Executive Committee only, and asked to be relieved of serving as clerk on the Ending Homelessness Committee and the GAPS Committee. The following slate of officers were proposed:

Chair	Klaas Nijhuis
Co-Chairs	Ruth Morrissette and Wendy Furnari
Clerk	Linda Jeynes

D. Lozeau motioned to accept the proposed slate of officers to be presented at the next GNCOC meeting for elections on October 5th, M. Pendry seconded, and the motion carried.

Project Homeless Connect: B. Mack gave a review of the San Francisco project, taking place nationally on December 8, 2005. He said that John O'Brien, from the regional ICH, was looking at the model to see if it could be done in this area. They have had several meetings and discussions about the best way for Nashua to participate. K. Nijhuis said that this was something HUD would like the COC to do and it would also be good PR and enabling our member agencies to reach more homeless people and inform each other of the services available. Discussion ensued around how and where this could be done. It was agreed to try an educational "fair" setting where participating agencies could each set up a booth/table for information sharing as well as some formal presentations. Volunteers and homeless people would be encouraged to attend. Two places suggested were the Café at Grace Fellowship on Franklin Street or the Mill Yard buildings. M. Wirbal will present the idea to the GNCOC to "generate excitement" at their next meeting and see if a committee could be formed to pull this event together.

Next GAPS Census: K. Nijhuis reported that the next quarterly homeless count form will be faxed to agencies end October. The next annual point-in-time count is scheduled for January 25-26, 2006.

Leveraging Letters: D. Lozeau has created a sample letter to be used for leveraging services between agencies. It will help the agencies to count and report to each other for services in the same way. She will get copies to the SuperNOFA team.

Impact of Katrina on local providers, community response: K. Nijhuis reported that there has been some concern that the funds being raised for the hurricane victims may mean fewer donations for the local agencies. M. Wirbal said the Nashua Pastoral Care Center has a fund set up to help evacuees, which is separate from their own funds and has been given to them for this purpose only. Discussion ensued about how many families were in the Nashua area already and how they were being housed. B. Mack said the Red Cross has put many in motels for a limited amount of time and the Salvation Army has been helping also. It was decided to invite representative from these two groups to the next GNCOC meeting to give a report.

General Meeting Agenda: K. Nijhuis referred to the handout of the GNCOC agenda for October. It was agreed to leave out the Ending Homelessness Committee Update and replace it with M. Wirbal's presentation on Project Homeless Connect. More time was allowed to have reports from the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The agenda was accepted with these amendments.

Old Business

Update on Chamber, Business participation: B. Mack and M. Wirbal announced that on November 16th there would be a "Leadership Greater Nashua" session where people from the Chamber, GNCOC, Welfare office and Planners will come together to share information and ideas. The "Help Books" will be passed out at this session.

Guidelines: K. Nijhuis is working/consulting with Manchester about the writing of their Ending Homelessness Plan and he is talking with the other COC's about possible participation in the ranking of each other's SuperNOFA. BOSCOG will likely be voting on this issue in October. Manchester will continue to do it locally.

COC ListServ: M. Pendry announced that Harbor Homes would be installing a new server on September 30th and he would be sending out test e-mails to everyone to make sure nothing was lost in the transfer. Any changes to the ListServ for GNCOC would have to wait until after this occurs.

Discharge Planning: K. Nijhuis reported he that David Villioti from the Nashua Children's Home had convened a meeting on September 14th around discharge planning out of Foster Care. In that meeting a gap in discharge plans for people in the 17-18 year age group were identified. Agencies must write their own plan on this issue. Legislators have been informed about this gap in hopes of addressing it. M. Wirbal and D. Lozeau will contact the local hospitals to see what discharge policies they have in place and/or have the GNCOC help them to develop one to prevent discharging patients into homelessness. This is needed for the SuperNOFA.

New Business Continued:

S. Hurd announced there would be a walk for National Recovery Week called "Gratitude in the Park" on Saturday (September 24th) beginning at 9:00 am. Walkers will start at City Hall and walk to the park.

Next Month's Meetings:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be **October 19, 2005**, 8:00 am, at Harbor Homes Inc., 78 Main Street. The GNCOC will meet October 5, 2005, 8:00 am in the City Hall Auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

