

Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2008

Attendees:

Irma Hinkle, ACCESS	Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS
Barbara Gaddy, Barrett Haven	Doris Stokes, The Dwelling Place
Kathy Nious, Eastside CDC	Marge House, ForKids
Thaler McCormick, ForKids	Vikki Henderson, ForKids
Martha Gorman, Ghent Area Ministry	Cheryl Moore, Habitat for Humanity
Karen Martin, Norfolk Community Services Board	Peggy Crutchfield, NCSB
Alisa Berry, Office to End Homelessness	Bill Groom, Sacred Heart
Mary Mann, Salvation Army	Cynthia Thompson, Second Chances
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba	Brian O'Dell, TACT
Claudia Gooch, The Planning Council	Debbie Williams, The Planning Council
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council	Pat Vedomske, The Planning Council
David Wall, VA Medical Center	Kurt Clemons, VEC
Clara Smith, VSH- Gosnold Apartments	Roxie Hoven, YWCA
John Skirven, Senior Services of SEVA	Jackie Spratley, NCSB
John Kownack, NRHA	

I. Welcome

Thaler McCormick called to order the regular meeting of the Norfolk Homeless Consortium and asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Continuum of Care Funding Announcement

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that on December 21st HUD announced the funding of the 2007 Continuum of Care. Norfolk's application was fully funded for approximately \$2.6 million. All renewal projects were funded, as was the new Housing First project submitted by Residential Options. The Continuum of Care process becomes increasingly competitive each year and several projects throughout the state were not funded.

III. Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority presentation

John Kownack spoke to the NHC about housing services provided by NRHA and the waiting list for rental assistance. He gave NHC members a Housing Division fact sheet which showed the income and demographics of clients receiving rental assistance from NRHA.

Mr. Kownack also discussed NRHA's five year plan which includes a one year component and NRHA is in the process of revising the 2009 annual plan. Mr. Kownack stated that when the revisions are done he would contact Katie Kitchin to arrange for feedback from NHC members.

Thaler McCormick asked about the income tiering component of the plan, and Mr. Kownack confirmed that this component had been accepted by HUD. However, NRHA has not and cannot begin to use the income tier process because the waiting list is diverse. The waiting list for NRHA rental assistance mainly consists of the households with income less than 80%. Mr. Kownack stated that NRHA would formally notify NHC members when income tiering begins. Income tiering is a part of NRHA's comprehensive plan, but there would be a one to one replacement of assisted rental units before income tiering would begin.

Mr. Kownack stated that NRHA would contact the NHC when the 2009 draft plan is available and would be willing to present that plan and answer any additional questions.

IV. Point in Time Count reminder

Debbie Williams reminded NHC members that the 2008 Point in Time Count is January 23rd-January 24th. We are still in need of volunteers. The volunteer training will be January 22nd at 4:00pm at NDHS, 741 Monticello.

V. Continuum of Care Committee Report

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that the NHC adopted priorities for the 2008 Continuum of Care process and that only projects that meet these priorities and guidelines would be considered. The guidelines and priorities are available on the NHC website. The CoC Committee has designated a workgroup that will be working on a ranking process that does not include "automatic" ranking for renewal projects. This workgroup will be meeting on **January 22nd**.

VI. Central Intake Report

Alisa Berry reported that Central Intake is approaching its one year anniversary and they are in the process of compiling comparative data. Also, 50 families are receiving in-home case management services.

VII. Healthcare Committee

Julie Dixon reported the Healthcare Committee is working to ensure that the Healthcare for the Homeless grant is being used efficiently to maximize the services that can be offered through the grant. Park Place Medical Center is currently working specifically with Union Mission regarding necessary paperwork.

The Committee will meet again in January but they are still working on a date for that meeting.

VIII. Employment Taskforce

The taskforce is in the process of developing a resource list for clients. They are also looking into GED and trade licensing programs that could be accessed by homeless clients.

IX. Single Adults Committee

Clara Smith reported that the Single Adults Committee continues to work on their project to raise public awareness.

X. Homeless Vigil

Martha Gorman reported that 62 people participated in the march and 75 attended the program at the church. Martha stated that the Homeless Vigil was very successful considering the event was right before Christmas. She was pleased with the number of people who turned out. She stated that the committee would like to reach out to the other cities to see if they would consider a regional vigil next year.

Martha also announced that the names of anyone who passes away on the streets or in emergency shelter should be sent to the Office to End Homelessness. They will maintain the

list from now on. Please send those names throughout the year, so that the Vigil Committee can ensure the accuracy of the list.

XI. Announcements

Salvation Army collected 1,000 coats during their drive.

None of the Virginia Employment Commission offices have been closed but there have been some layoffs. There is a new registration site for job search services, so please register all clients.

The Regional Conference on Ending Homelessness will be February 5th at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth. Individuals can register at www.theplanningcouncil.org.

The next NHC meeting is **February 20th**.