

Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2008

Attendees:

Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS
Trish Manthey, The Dwelling Place
Marge House, ForKids
Martha Gorman, Ghent Area Ministry
Sari Friedman-Rosner, HART
Alisa Berry, Office to End Homelessness
Bill Groom, Sacred Heart
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Claudia Gooch, The Planning Council
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Marti Chick-Ebey, VA Med Center
Clara Smith, VSH- Gosnold Apartments
Sue Baynes, Portsmouth Community Health Center
Subir Vij, Portsmouth Community Health Center
John Kownack, NRHA
Yvonne Price, Park Place Medical Center
Evie Woods, VA Med Center
William Woods, Senior Services of Southeastern VA

Barbara Gaddy, Barrett Haven
Juanita Dowdy, ForKids
Thaler McCormick, ForKids
Cheryl Moore, Habitat for Humanity
Calvin Durham, New Hope COGIC
Katie Kitchin, OTEH
Larry Ryan, Salvation Army
Brian O'Dell, TACT
Debbie Williams, The Planning Council
Pat Vedomske, The Planning Council
David Wall, VA Med Center
Roxie Hoven, YWCA
Elisabeth Buzzard, The Planning Council
Terri Giuliana, NRHA
Pam Phillips, Bon Secours DePaul Med Ctr
Haisezetter Hines, Park Place Medical Ctr
Marsha Engle, HART program

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 Committee Report

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that the Continuum of Care Committee had developed a Ranking and Evaluation Plan for the 2008 application process. In November 2007 the NHC adopted priorities for new projects for the upcoming application cycle. After these priorities were adopted the CoC Committee was asked to develop a process for renewal projects that would look at nonperforming programs. The evaluation plan has been adopted by the CoC Committee and is available on the NHC website.

Each renewal project will be reviewed by the CoC Committee and then sent to the Ranking Committee. The CoC Committee will review the projects based on the Standards of Care report, effect on the CoC score, occupancy rate and consistency with Norfolk's Blueprint to End Homelessness. After the review, projects will be deemed eligible without condition, eligible with condition, or ineligible. Eligible projects will be sent to the Ranking Committee and the order that projects will be included in the CoC application will be determined by the Ranking Committee.

Each project determined to have conditions will be given the opportunity to submit a corrective action plan, and would only be deemed in eligible the following year if the agency fails to address the conditions.

Katie Kitchin made a motion to adopt the 2008 Ranking and Evaluation Plan and Martha Gorman seconded the motion. All eligible voting members were in favor of the adopting the plan; none were opposed.

Stacie Walls-Beegle also reported Norfolk received its 2007 CoC Score. Norfolk scored a 94 out of possible 100 points, which Stacie believes is the highest score in the region. However, we lost 3 points in the housing emphasis score and in each other section we lost no more than 1 point. The Norfolk CoC has to address the housing emphasis, since last year the cut off score was 86 and this year it was 90.25. There is no where else that Norfolk can gain points other than housing emphasis.

III. Healthcare Committee

Julie Dixon reported that the Healthcare Committee discussed transportation, access and outreach at their last meeting. They've also worked on the medical section for Project Homeless Connect which will be much larger this year. St. Columba will most likely run out of funds for prescriptions in March or April.

Park Place gave an update that they now have a new 10:00am slot for homeless patients. This is in addition to the already scheduled appointment times. There will be transportation for this patient, but the case manager needs to call by 3:00pm the day before to schedule this appointment.

Also, if patients are coming from a referring agency they do not need a photo id. This is a change. The Park Place referral packet is now available on the NHC website under the Healthcare Committee page.

IV. HMIS Committee

Juanita Dowdy reported that the HMIS Committee has continued to work on data quality. Last year 67% of questions were unanswered and currently only 1.45% of questions are left blank. The HMIS Committee is ready to begin discussion of adding services to HMIS and begin tracking new data. The Committee would like to hear from agencies on outcomes, trends and service gaps that they would like tracked. Please send these requests to Juanita Dowdy or Irma Hinkle. Also, in the 2007 CoC the HMIS section scored 5 points out of a possible 5 points.

V. Additional Committee Reports

Employment Committee – Katie Kitchin reported that they have developed a chart of resources. Also, the Committee has worked on Project Homeless Connect and the employment section will be larger than in previous years.

Single Adults – All members of the Committee will be at Project Homeless Connect.

Central Intake – Committee meetings are going well. Central Intake has been operational for a year and soon they will have data on how many placements have been made.

VI. Project Homeless Connect

Katie Kitchin reported that PHC will be February 28th at Scope. There are more service providers and volunteers than ever before. Volunteer training is only for people who have never volunteered before or who have new assignments this year. Training will be at 4:00pm on February 27th.

VII. Point in Time Count

Claudia Gooch reviewed the results of the 2008 Point in Time Count. This year the total number of homeless persons was 502, in 2007 the total was 540. This is a decrease of 38. However, there was an increase in the number of families and persons in families. Debbie Williams compiled the data from the last three years and she will send this out to the NHC. For the last three years, the count has been conducted in the same manner and Norfolk has seen a continuing decrease in the total number of persons as well as the unsheltered population and chronically homeless.

VIII. NRHA update

John Kownack gave an update on NRHA's annual plan. Copies of the plan have been emailed out. He will send the one page summary to Debbie Williams and she will send the summary and a copy of the plan to the NHC. This plan will be for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Mr. Kownack will talk about the plan with agencies and individuals. Please contact him for more information.

Priorities in the plan are to make communities safe and a place where people want to live. The goal is to revitalize communities and change perception of public housing, otherwise units will go away. Currently, NRHA has vouchers that they cannot use because of a lack of housing willing to accept the vouchers.

One major update is that income tiering has been removed from the plan.

The next NHC meeting is **March 19th**.