

Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2008

Attendees:

Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS
Margie Mazzarella, ForKids
Martha Gorman, Ghent Area Ministry
Alisa Berry, Office to End Homelessness
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Marti Chick-Ebey, VA Med Center
Roxie Hoven, YWCA
Chris Young, NCSB
Crystal Bonneville, Barrett Haven
Angela King, STOP – DePaul ER
Tanya Riddick, Portsmouth Comm Health Center
Haisezzetter Hines, Portsmouth Comm Health Center

Trish Manthey, The Dwelling Place
Thaler McCormick, ForKids
Calvin Durham, New Hope COGIC
Yvonne Price, Park Place Medical Center
Debbie Williams, The Planning Council
Pat Vedomske, The Planning Council
Clara Smith, VSH – Gosnold Apartments
Subir Vij, Portsmouth Comm Health Center
Suzanne Davis, NCSB
Jenine Harland, STOP – DePaul ER
Sue Baynes, Portsmouth Comm Health Ctr
Elisabeth Buzzard, The Planning Council

I. Welcome

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

II. Veterans Affairs Program Presentation

Marti Chick-Ebey gave a presentation on homeless programs at the VA. She gave updates on new and pending grant and per diem programs. Currently inspections and renovations are being done and the new transitional program for Veterans will be opening at the Salvation Army 19th street center.

Marti also asked for help with the Challeng survey. She asked if everyone would please fill one out with needs that they see in the community. This survey helps determine funding which is based on need.

Marti Chick-Ebey and David Wall also provide outreach in each city in Hampton Roads. Also, they will come to Norfolk and pick people up for the Tuesday Medical Clinic. Please contact Marti by 9:00am on Tuesday mornings for transportation needs.

III. Continuum of Care Committee

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that the Committee is getting ready for the 2008 Continuum of Care application. The process is electronic this year so we are preparing to register in E-SNAPS. Stacie reported that the committee also discussed a project which was awarded funding in 2004 but has not yet opened. The Committee discussed asking the agency for a timeline on when the project would be opened and what the CoC's options are for working with the agency.

The Committee also discussed performance goals for the HMIS provider which include:

- Bed coverage
- Training and
- APR monitoring

Several NHC members attended a HUD training on strengthening the local CoC. There will be a training on the E-SNAPS process for all applicants on July 15th in Hampton.

The next meeting will be June 18th at 11:30am.

IV. Healthcare Committee

Julie Dixon reported that at the last meeting the Committee took a tour of Park Place Medical Center. She also reported that the pharmacy assistance program at St. Columba was out of funds in April. PICH presented on their pharmacy program which they said could develop a MOU with Park Place to assist with prescriptions.

The next meeting will be June 4th at Gosnold at 10:00am.

V. HMIS Committee

The next meeting will be June 10th at CSB.

VI. Single Adults Committee

The committee has a meeting scheduled for June 10th to meet with Robin Herbert to discuss Portsmouth's summer shelter. However, Clara Smith stated that they will probably have to change that date. She will notify the committee if she needs to reschedule the meeting.

VII. Employment Taskforce

Alisa Berry handed out a KRA work fair flyer and reported that Katie Kitchin will be scheduling their next meeting.

VIII. Central Intake

Alisa Berry reported that the Dragas funding will help with funding that has been lost. It will also be used to work towards building a regional central intake and rapid rehousing program.

New Hope's shelter will be a part of Central Intake.

IX. Regional Taskforce

Alisa Berry reported that the Regional Taskforce discussed a meeting with school representatives from Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. The school systems are facing rising transportation costs for transporting children to school. They are also working on how they verify homelessness. There are families that have lived doubled-up for at least two years but are still classified as homeless. The schools need to determine for how long living in a doubled-up situation is considered a homeless episode.

The taskforce also discussed the capacity study RFP which has been released for strategic planning with an outside consultant. The consultant will look at the PIT count and census data, meet with service providers and conduct focus groups. The capacity study will work towards creating a strategic plan. The City of Norfolk is putting up half the funds for the project and the NHC will pay for the other half. Martha Gorman asked about the cost of the project and how the NHC will cover its portion of the project. The cost of the project will not be known until the responses come in, but Thaler said the estimated cost is between \$10,000 and \$40,000. Thaler sent the RFP to the Norfolk Foundation and received a favorable response from them for funding the NHC's portion. The other cities want to be

included in the capacity study and were included in the RFP, but each locality will have to come up with the funds to cover adding the cities to the study.

The Taskforce also continued the discussion of a regional substance abuse program. A meeting has been scheduled with the head of each CSB and the Regional Taskforce to determine the best approach.

X. Treasurer's Report

Martha Gorman reported that the NHC currently has 30 members and an account balance of \$1,060.51.

Debbie Williams reported that the bill for the website renewal needs to be paid. The cost for 2008-2009 is \$572.40. Stacie Walls-Beegle made a motion to pay the bill and Martha Gorman seconded the motion. Each NHC member agency has one vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Martha announced that dues for 2008-2009 will need to be paid soon and are currently \$24. The question was raised about whether or not the NHC should consider raising the dues. The main costs for the NHC are the Homeless Vigil and the website which is covered by the NHC dues. However, the dues have been \$24 for a long time and after discussion, Calvin Durham made a motion to increase the dues to \$30. Clara Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. Announcements

June 27th is National HIV testing and the YWCA Women in Crisis program and ACCESS will be holding a joint event at the YWCA.

Clara Smith announced that Gosnold has a new van.

On June 12th the ACCESS Bute St. office will be moving to the corner of 24th St. and Llewellyn.

The next NHC meeting is **June 18th**.