

Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2008

Attendees:

Shelby Jones, TACT	Roxie Hoven, YWCA
Juanita Dowdy, ForKids	Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Margie Mazzarella, ForKids	Crystal Bonneville, Barrett Haven
Calvin Durham, New Hope	Chris Young, NCSB
John Kownack, NRHA	Donnell Brown, NRHA
Elisabeth Buzzard, The Planning Council	Debbie Williams, The Planning Council
Martha Gorman, Ghent Area Ministry	Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS
John Miller, ACCESS	David Wall, VA Med Center
Marti Chick-Ebey, VA Med Center	Alisa Berry, OTEH
Thaler McCormick, ForKids	Katie Kitchin, OTEH
Vikki Henderson, ForKids	Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Ron Keys, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response	

I. Welcome

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

II. Capacity Study Update

Thaler McCormick updated the NHC membership that two responses to the RFP were received. The Executive Committee has reviewed the proposals and the references are currently being checked. The Norfolk Foundation has agreed to fund the NHC's portion of the cost.

III. Regional Taskforce Report

Katie Kitchin reported that the Mayors have adopted an outline of the regional ten year plan. Before the plan is finalized, the Taskforce is waiting for the results of the capacity study.

The Taskforce continues to work on a regional Substance Abuse treatment program. They have had a meeting with the leaders of the local CSBs to discuss various approaches and which would work best in Hampton Roads. The best practices discussed include the Healing Place, San Diego's initiative, and 1811 Eastlake in Seattle.

Katie reported that the Taskforce is looking for a matching gift for the \$1.5 million that Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk have received for rapid re-housing. Each city received an equal share, and they are working on the best way to use that money, since each city is in a different stage in the services that are being provided.

Cloverleaf is scheduled to open in late October, and Portsmouth is currently looking for an SRO site.

IV. Hurricane Preparedness

Ron Keys from the City of Norfolk, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response gave a presentation on Hurricane Preparedness. There is no place in Norfolk that is considered safe during a Category 3 hurricane or above. During a Category 3 or above storm the

Governor will issue a state of emergency and there will be a mandatory evacuation. The City needs help in identifying who would need transportation and help with evacuation. There are several identified pick-up points throughout the City. Instructions on the location and times for evacuation pick-ups will occur if an evacuation is ordered.

V. NRHA update

John Kownack gave an update on the NRHA annual plan. The entire plan is available online, but he gave everyone a copy of the executive summary which includes comments and NRHA's response. Mr. Kownack also discussed some upcoming projects for NRHA.

There was the article in the Pilot on Section 8 vouchers and they have received several calls from landlords who saw the article and are interested in the program. They are also working on a multi-family rental expansion initiative. There is \$500,000 in the current budget for this project and they are working on identifying private landlords or developing affordable rental housing in the city and region. NRHA is going before the board on June 30th to discuss the Moton Circle project and they are recommending relocating residents and demolishing the existing 138 units. The number of assisted units when the project is completed will range from 86-175, but realistically NRHA is looking at a mix of assisted units.

VI. Continuum of Care Committee Report

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that on July 15th there is a CoC training in Hampton on the E-Snaps process that everyone needs to plan on attending.

The Committee met before the NHC meeting and discussed a new rapid re-housing demonstration project that HUD is funding. Norfolk is an ideal location based on the criteria HUD has given, but the Committee needs to develop an application process for this money.

The Committee also discussed monitoring performance outcomes for each program semi-annually.

VII. Healthcare Committee

Julie Dixon reported that the Healthcare Committee continues to discuss improving the utilization of Healthcare for the Homeless. There has been a high no show rate for the 10:00am appointment so Park Place will begin to double book these appointments. Agencies should continue to contact Yvonne at Park Place for transportation needs. Sentara's Ambulatory Care Clinic has been seeing homeless patients so Park Place will set up a referral system so that they can pay the co-pays. Park Place is also developing a plan to begin street outreach and some on-site care.

VIII. HMIS Committee Report

Juanita Dowdy reported that the HMIS Committee continues to work on reports. At next month's NHC meeting they will have two city-wide reports for the membership. They will distribute a report on city of origin and substance abuse/mental illness.

IX. Central Intake Report

Alisa Berry reported that Central Intake/Families Committee is working on the Dragas funding as Katie reported earlier. There is also a new family shelter opening at New Hope. The ribbon cutting will be July 12th and they will be able to help with the larger families that Central Intake has been seeing.

X. Treasurer's Report

Martha Gorman reported that the NHC currently has 30 members and an account balance of \$488.11. The invoice for the website was paid this month which is reflected in the current balance.

Martha also reported that the dues form has been distributed and will also be sent through email. Please remember that the dues were raised to \$30 at last month's meeting.

XI. Announcements

Thaler McCormick reminded everyone that next month's meeting is the annual meeting at which time new offices will be elected.

Next Meeting – July 16th, 12:30pm – Annual Meeting