

Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2007

Attendees:

Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS	Barbara Gaddy, Barrett Haven
Trish Manthey, The Dwelling Place	Juanita Dowdy, ForKids
Thaler McCormick, ForKids	Martha Gorman, Ghent Area Ministry
Cheryl Moore, Habitat for Humanity	Pamela Davis, NCSB
Sari Friedman-Rosner, HART	Alisa Berry, Office to End Homelessness
Katie Kitchin, Office to End Homelessness	Bill Groom, Sacred Heart
Larry Ryan, 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
Marti Chick-Ebey, VA Med Center	David Wall, VA Med Center
Kurt Clemons, Virginia Employment Commission	Clara Smith, Virginia Supportive Housing
John Allen, Child and Family Services	Mike Taylor, The Planning Council
Kathy Nious, Eastside CDC	Natasha Jackson, ACCESS
Charles Winslow, Urban League	Marge House, ForKids
Evie Woods, VA Med Center	Duane Miller, NCSB
Calvin Durham, New Hope Church of God in Christ	Roxie Hoven, YWCA

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. St. Columba program presentation

Alicia Matthews gave a presentation on St. Columba's programs. She discussed the day center, clothing closet, homeless assistant, food pantry, rental assistance, utility assistance, prescription assistance, and Next Step transitional housing which is HUD funded through the Continuum of Care.

Alicia also shared the funding sources for St. Columba's programs. St. Columba receives funding from SHP, CDBG, ESG, HSG, EFSP, Churches as well as individuals and businesses.

III. Homeless Vigil

Martha Gorman reported that the Homeless Vigil Committee has been "meeting" over email and has discussed the purpose of the event as well as when the event should be held. The Committee believes that the national event was started to pay tribute to those who had lost their lives on the streets. The Committee is in agreement that the NHC's Homeless Vigil should return to the original intent and the committee would like to hold the event closer to the national date.

Last year the Homeless Vigil was held at the end of February and 100 people walked to the park and 160 people attended the presentation at TCC Park. To hold to the original intention of the Homeless Vigil the Committee is recommending that this year the NHC hold have the walk, read the names, and have a moment of silence and not have the presentation of accomplishments.

Members discussed the format of the event and when to hold the event. There were individuals in favor of having the original format and individuals in favor of having a format similar to last year's. Some agencies also stated that while some individuals would be able to attend the Vigil if it were held in December, they could not ask their staff to attend as they did when the event was in February. After the discussion, based on a show of hands the preference of those present was to hold the event in December on the 19th or 20th.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Martha Gorman reported that there are 22 members and the NHC account balance is \$983.97.

V. 2007-2008 NHC Goals

Thaler McCormick presented the goals that the Executive Committee developed for the next fiscal year. In developing these goals the Committee recognized the limited manpower and resources of the NHC and tried to set goals that were realistic and achievable.

The following are the 2007-2008 NHC goals:

1. Complete a community needs assessment to complete the priorities of the Norfolk Homeless Consortium.
2. Revise the Standards of Care and expand the number of agencies participating in the review process.
3. All major providers will participate in HMIS by the end of the year. The sheltered PIT count will be completed using HMIS.
4. Increase participation in the Homeless Vigil.
5. Increase the number of persons employed by building partnerships with the business community.

VI. Continuum of Care Committee Report

Stacie Walls-Beegle reported that the CoC committee is almost finished revising the Standards of Care. The Committee met last week to work on the revisions. A meeting has been scheduled with the consultant who is doing the reviews to discuss the revisions and scheduling of the 2nd round of reviews. The grant states that 3 new agencies may be added to the 2nd round of reviews. The committee is discussing who the agencies will be and how to select the agencies. Several agencies have already volunteered to participate in the Standards of Care reviews.

The CoC Committee will begin discussing and revising the NHC supplemental applications and evaluation tools at the October 10th meeting.

VII. HMIS Committee

The HMIS Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at the NCSB Bute Street office. The Committee will work on its plan for 2007-2008 at the October meeting. On October 2nd there will be a test run for central intake agencies to ensure that the privacy settings are working accurately. After that test run the system should be open for central intake agencies.

Pat Vedomske has been installing the PKI certificate on computers at each agency and as she installs the certificate she is training the users on the general open system. The agencies she has visited are currently open and sharing the basic client data decided on by the NHC.

VIII. Families Committee

The Central Intake/Families Committee is moving to once a month meetings. The committee began meeting once a week and is currently meeting twice a month. The Committee will meet on the 1st Monday of every month at DHS, 741 Monticello Room 106.

Calls have still been heavy from other communities. Sari Friedman-Rosner reported that they recently did a presentation for VA Beach on Central intake. Also, the Housing Broker Team started on August 1st and has been a valuable resource.

IX. Healthcare Committee

The Healthcare Committee will meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at Gosnold Apartments. The Committee held their first meeting yesterday.

Julie Dixon reported that the Committee discussed frustration with the Healthcare for the Homeless grant and the difficulties in setting appointments for clients. The Director of Park Place was there to hear the discussion and said that she would go back and discuss the appointments to see if any changes could be made.

The transportation system will continue with pick-ups rotating between Union Mission and St. Columba each week. Pamela Davis had asked if a pick-up in Ocean View could be scheduled. There are 3 patient openings during the Thursday van pick-up.

Also, at the Healthcare meeting Barbara Willis reported that there are 2 slots each morning and afternoon for same day appointments. Providers can call first thing in the morning to try and schedule these appointments. However, they are for all patients so they go very quickly.

Park Place is also going to work with their front desk staff on providing better customer support. The Committee also asked for a funding and clients served report from the HCH grant.

X. Single Adults Committee

Clara Smith reported that the Single Adults Committee will meet after the NHC meeting.

XI. Employment Taskforce

Katie Kitchin announced that the Employment Taskforce will meet in September 24th at 10:00am at City Hall on the 6th floor. They will determine a recurring meeting time at this meeting.

XII. Regional Taskforce

Julie Dixon reported that the regional conference will be on February 5th at the Renaissance hotel in Portsmouth. Participants will be able to register on The Planning Council's website.

The third SRO is being planned for Portsmouth and there is a second large scale efficiency project being planned for Portsmouth as well.

Katie Kitchin reported that there is another Vet House opening in Virginia Beach and the JCOC is opening their transitional and permanent housing programs in the near future as well.

XIII. NHC website

Debbie Williams announced that the NHC website has been updated. The member contact list can be found on the website as well as announcements, documents and minutes for all of the committees. A meeting schedule will be made available very shortly.

The website has been averaging between 650-700 visits a month.

XIV. Announcements

Larry Ryan announced that he had forms from the DMV for handicapped placards. The DMV is providing the placards for agencies that transport handicapped individuals.

Julie announced that the SOAR training has taken place. There were 50 participants from across the state, 17 of those 50 were from Norfolk agencies.

Katie Kitchin announced that the August 23rd Project Homeless Connect was a success. 609 homeless individuals attended and there were approximately 800 volunteers. 35 individuals were approved for permanent housing. The next Project Homeless Connect is February 21, 2008.

Katie also asked that everyone remember to RSVP for the Blueprint luncheon on September 26th.

XV. Upcoming Meetings

The next NHC meeting is **October 17th**.

Brown Bag Series – September 14th – Predatory Lending