

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER 10 – 8:30 A.M.
MANCHESTER ROOM – TOWN HALL**

Members present: Jenifer Eukers – DVA-HCHV, Debra Macht – Worksource,
Phil McNally – MACC, Beth Stafford – MACC, Diane Wicks - SAFS

Also present: Gary Anderson, Planning Department

After welcoming the group, Mr. Anderson introduced Jenifer Eukers of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Ms. Eukers distributed her contact information and encouraged those who encountered a homeless veteran in Manchester to contact her. She also reminded the group of a Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services military support program which provides transportation, support for families, and mental health services for homeless veterans.

October Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

Ms. Wicks reminded the group the October Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless will take place from Sunday, October 19 through Saturday, October 25, 2008. She asked members to post a flyer about the count to make people of the community aware. Ms. Wicks said a mailing would go out by the end of the day to Manchester service agencies including a letter, description of the count, instructions, and several surveys. Completed surveys should be returned to Mr. Anderson in the Manchester Planning Department.

Ms. Eukers said she would coordinate the completion of the surveys at Dinda House. Mr. McNally will coordinate the survey with other area shelters. Ms. Stafford said she and Mr. McNally will ensure that a MACC staff member attends the Sunday feeding at the Salvation Army and attendees are included in the survey.

As per the suggestion of Ms. Macht, Ms. Wicks added a section to the letter reminding agency staff that helping with the survey ultimately provides funds for homeless prevention and services in the community.

Mr. Anderson told the group he received an e-mail from Cheri Bragg, Vice President of the Manchester Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Ms. Bragg stated the organization was holding an informational meeting on October 23, 2008 to educate the community about supportive housing, specifically as it relates to mental health issues. She asked if the Town could partner with the organization in preparing for this meeting. Mr. Anderson said he told Ms. Bragg he would approach Continuum members to see if there was interest in attending the meeting and helping to detail the homeless situation in Manchester. He said he would contact Andrea Harnois Cherry, current chair was not present, to see if she would be interested and/or available.

Ms. Stafford said she attended the most recent Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing (MISH) meeting. She said the organization is currently at a crossroads in terms of what its role in the community should be, either as a developer for supportive housing, or as purely an advocate. MISH talked about creating a 10 year plan for ending homelessness in Manchester. Ms. Stafford noted Manchester is already part of the recent Greater Hartford plan to end homelessness and thought it would make more sense to follow that plan instead of creating a new one. Mr. Anderson said he would send Ms. Stafford the Hartford 10 year plan in preparation for MISH's next meeting. The group agreed it was important to have an active member of MISH as a member of the Continuum of Care Working Group. The group also expressed the desire to convey to MISH that the Continuum is able to apply for HUD funding for supportive housing and could provide the organization with a gateway to these funds.

Mr. Anderson asked the working group how they would like minutes to be distributed. The group preferred to have the minutes distributed over e-mail with a reminder about the date and time of the next meeting.

Ms. Wicks reported the Board of Directors has directed the Human Services Department to plan an energy forum. The forum will take place on November 5 and the goal of the event is to spread the word in the community about resources for people concerned with heating and other energy costs. She reminded the group there is no heating assistance available until November 3 when both the State Energy Assistance Program, and Operation Fuel will be available.

Ms. Stafford reminded the group MACC's annual Fashion for Good fashion show will take place on November 2. There are still tickets available and all proceeds will go to MACC.

The next meeting of the Continuum of Care Working Group will take place on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Manchester Room of Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.