

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKING GROUP  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.  
MANCHESTER ROOM – TOWN HALL**

**Members present:** John Wheedon – Food Share, Sally D'Attilio – Head Start, Debra Macht – WorkSource, Valerie Bozzi – EHCHC, Andrea Harnois-Cherry – Genesis, Diane Wicks – Senior Adult & Family Services

**Also present:** Gary Anderson, Planning Department  
Heather Donoghue, Community Development Block Grant Manager

After welcoming the group, Ms. Wicks distributed updated foreclosure assistance information from the Human Services Department. The information is also available on the Town's web site. In particular, she noted a new federal program to help determine eligibility for foreclosure prevention programs. Residents can access that information at [makinghomeaffordable.gov](http://makinghomeaffordable.gov).

Ms. Wicks distributed an article from the Journal Inquirer highlighting assistance for individuals and families attempting to get out of debt. She said Senior Adult and Family Services would be holding another Money Matters program on May 6. The program is designed to provide residents with assistance with household budgeting. Ms. Wicks also said Senior Adult and Family Services was planning a "Financial SOS" workshop specifically targeted toward residents who had not traditionally tapped into social service programs. Ms. Bozzi said East Hartford community Health Care would like to participate in order to provide residents with information on access to local health care. Ms. Macht said she would like to include information on mental health issues. Mr. Wheedon said Food Share could do food stamp screening.

Mr. Anderson asked those in attendance to provide updates on their agency's recent activities.

Ms. Donoghue said applications for the Community Development Block Grant funds were due that day. She said only a small percentage of the funds are dedicated for service activities and those who applied for such funds include Genesis and MACC, the Town mentoring program, and a program to assist survivors of domestic violence.

Ms. D'Attilio reported construction on the Head Start building on Hollister Street continues and the facility would be open in the fall. She said because of funding issues, three of the classrooms would be empty this fall.

Ms. Wicks said CPAS had discontinued funding for its downtown outreach program. She said the organization may continue funding outreach activities in another way. She said the Connecticut Commission to End Homelessness annual meeting will be held on May 8. The public is also invited to an event on National Transit Policy on April 29 at Union Station at 10:30.

Ms. Harnois-Cherry said Genesis was in the process of assembling an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. The team was designed to serve 60 people who did not respond to traditional treatment. Staff would be able to go into the homes of these individuals for treatment and to write prescriptions. She said Genesis was also currently undergoing some restructuring which includes the addition of five new case managers. One would operate out of Rockville, two out of Manchester, and two out of the clinic itself.

Ms. Macht said WorkSouce was still waiting on a decision for its Women and Education funding application. She hopes they will hear by the end of the month.

Ms. Bozzi said EHCHC is quickly adding programs and clients. The Health Center will be adding another part-time OB doctor in East Hartford and clients now have same day access to a doctor. The organization will also be receiving funding for strategizing birth to eight care in Manchester. She said although many people have been applying for the new Charter Oak State Health Care Program, the process takes a long time and this is not working out for most families she sees.

Mr. Wheedon said he was there to represent Food Share and was happy to connect the Agency with the Continuum of Care.

Ms. Macht said WorkSouce would be holding a consumer art exhibit in May and if case managers knew of any clients who may have something to submit they should let her know.

#### ***October Point-In-Time Count Update***

Mr. Anderson thanked Ms. Wicks, Ms. Harnois-Cherry, Ms. Donoghue and Ms. Melquist for working on the report. Ms. Wicks said the report was 98% done and she would be forwarding it to Mr. Anderson in the next week.

#### ***January Point-In-Time Count Update***

Ms. Wicks said she took part in a conference call with leaders from other towns and cities who participate in the statewide Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless. She said the group discussed the following changes:

- Only doing the count in alternate years, which would mean the next count would be in 2011.
- Using HMIS would be used for sheltered counts
- The option for communities to use their own methodologies. The main options were a street count with interviews and an option centered on food pantry or lunch program count.
- Including another way to count the at risk population. There was a feeling that the count was currently missing the at-risk and doubled-up population and some felt the Manchester week-long survey could be used as model to try to get this population.

The group was soliciting ideas on how the count could work better for its next meeting. Ms. Wicks asked the Working Group to think about what would make that count work better and get those thoughts to her at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next meeting of the Continuum of Care Working Group will take place on ***Friday, May 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Manchester Room.***

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