

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKING GROUP
NOVEMBER 7, 2008 – 8:30 A.M.
MANCHESTER ROOM – TOWN HALL**

Members present: Phil McNally – MACC, Miles Godard – CPAS, Valerie Bozzi - EHCHC/MCHS), Nydia Einsiedel - Manchester Head Start, Katie Martin – CCEH, Andrea Harnois-Cherry - Genesis

Also present: Gary Anderson, Planning Department

SAFS Report

After introductions, Ms. Wicks told the group Senior Adult and Family Services has planned an energy forum for November 13, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 549 East Middle Turnpike. The forum will include a panel discussion on programs to help residents with heating costs, suggestions on ways to lower energy bills, fire prevention tips and gas and electric consumer protection and payment plans. Representatives from the Town of Manchester, Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Community Renewal Team, Manchester Fire Department and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund will also be available to speak with residents after the panel discussion. Ms. Wicks asked members in attendance to spread the word and to post the flyer she distributed.

Ms. Wicks handed out a sheet detailing new information on the Food Stamp program which is now called SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Mr. McNally asked if able-bodied, single people still get cut off from the food stamp program after three months of receiving assistance. He said he would check on that and report back to the group.

October Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Mr. Anderson reported he has received 89 surveys from nine different agencies. The number of surveys is lower than in past years, but the number of agencies returning surveys has increased. He thanked all agencies for participating, especially Phil McNally of MACC and Miles Goddard of CPAS for their outreach activities.

Ms. Martin volunteered to do the data entry of the surveys. Mr. Anderson said he would get her copies of all the surveys and a copy of the spreadsheet used for data entry in past surveys. The group will form a subcommittee of those willing to work on the server report at the December meeting.

NAMI Supportive Housing

Mr. Anderson handed out a flyer for an event presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Manchester Chapter. The event is entitled, WHAT IS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING? and it will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Center Congregational Church, 11 Center Street. The event is intended to educate the public on what supportive housing is in relation to mental illness. Ms. Harnois-Cherry will be attending on behalf of the

Continuum Working Group and will present information on the group's activities and on the homeless situation in Manchester. Ms. Harnois-Cherry also reported three Genesis clients will be in attendance to speak as well.

MISH Report

Ms. Martin reported that at the last MISH meeting the group continued discussions on what its role should be in the future in regard to developing supportive housing in Town. She said the group has been connected with Sara Gallagher of Journey Home, who is coordinating the implementation of the Hartford Region's ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. Ms. Martin agreed to provide communication between MISH and the Continuum of Care Working Group.

Other Business

Ms. Harnois-Cherry said Genesis is currently looking to recruit clients for the SOAR Program. The program helps those applying for Social Security Disability for the first time. Those with referrals for the program should contact Sarah Melquist, Andrea Harnois-Cherry, or Kristen Coefield. Ms. Coefield runs the program and can be reached at 646-3888, Ext. 354. Ms. Martin noted that applicants for SOAR are screened according the severity of their condition, educational history, age, and ability to hold employment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting of the Continuum of Care Working Group will be ***Friday, December 5, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Manchester Room of Town Hall.***