

**Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care
Public Policy Committee
12-20-05 Minutes**

Present: Carmen Colon, Helen Wasserman, Laurie Gross, Andrew Martinez, Kristina Foye,
Andrea Kovacs, Judy Sklarz, Kate Kelly, Kyle Meehan

General Discussion

The Housing Committee has been working on a Permanent Supportive Housing Pipeline Chart to track projects in process. CARC will keep the Public Policy Committee on copy for this document as the updated information will be important.

Helen updated the group on the meeting with City Council Leadership earlier this month. Both Andres Ayala and Ritchie Paoletto were supportive and willing to assist as we look for support among city council members. They are also interested in seeing examples of City ordinances or resolutions supporting and endorsing ten year plans from around the country.

City Council Event

Helen will contact Andres Ayala to arrange a date for our presentation to the City Council.

We hope to get on the calendar for the January meeting. We would hold the session one hour ahead of the normally scheduled City Council meeting and will attempt to secure funds to offer dinner to Council members.

The event will include a history of the process, a summary of the plan, and an update on implementation and highlights of policy implications for consideration by the Council. We will also show the Reaching Home video and put the plan into the perspective of regional and statewide efforts.

It was suggested that we provide data on homelessness in Bridgeport and the region as well as a Cost benefits analysis highlighting the value of permanent supportive housing. Andrew Martinez from BCAC will put together a handout showing poverty rates in Bridgeport's neighborhoods, Carol will prepare a handout highlighting data on homelessness in the City.

Andrea suggested that we write a follow up letter to Council members and include the Executive Summary of the plan after our presentation. We also discussed the resolution or ordinance and agreed that it should be introduced after our session, not concurrently as we had previously discussed.

We agreed that Merle Burke Schlessel should moderate the discussion that Meghan Lowney should present on behalf of the CoC regarding implementation and that we should see if there is an appropriate consumer who can speak as well. Kristina and Carol will contact agencies regarding a consumer who is from the City and currently receiving services in the City. It was agreed that if we cannot find an appropriate consumer who wants to speak, we will provide some success stories in a separate handout.

We still need to determine additional presenters for the event as well as discuss a final agenda.

Before the next meeting Helen will get possible dates from Andres, Andrea will talk with Merle about presenting, Kristina will talk with Meghan Lowney about the same as well as inquire regarding appropriate speakers, and Carol will follow up with Jim Bombaci and others regarding a consumer.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 6th at 2:30---United Way.