

**Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care
Public Policy and Information Committee**

January 10, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Laurie Gross, Keith Brown, Andrew Martinez, Andrea Kovacs, Dick Tenenbaum, David Byron, Margaret Peabody, Helen Wasserman, Tony Bonetti, Natalie Matthews, and Carol Walter

- I. Introductions
- II. Point-In-Time Count – January 30th – 7-9 PM
 - a. GBACoC seeks 50 volunteers
 - b. Discussed the media and the Point-In-Time
 - i. Best time will be at the event when volunteers come together at 5 PM.
 - ii. No pre-event publicity except to recruit volunteers.
 - iii. Professionals will be paired with volunteers.
 - iv. Put volunteer opportunity on United Way website
 - v. Online event registration is a tool to have one central location for volunteers
- III. Project Homeless Connect Review
 - a. 3 news articles and news story on Channel 12
 - b. Meeting to be scheduled to discuss Project Connect event
- IV. Legislative Agenda Discussion
 - a. Reviewed legislative agenda of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness and partner organizations
 - b. GBACoC Legislative Priorities relevant to the 10 Year Plan
 - c. Three priorities selected:
 - i. Expansion of the Beyond Shelter CT Program
 - ii. Expansion of the Rental Assistance Program
 - iii. Funding for the second phase of the Next Steps Initiative
- V. Legislative Breakfast
 - a. Invite all legislators from Greater Bridgeport Area
 - b. Discussion around inviting local leaders. An invitation will be extended.
 - c. Location: United Way of Eastern Fairfield County
 - d. Dates: February 9th or February 15th
 - e. Time: Begin at 7:30 AM and agenda starts at 8 AM
 - f. Helen Wasserman to check with Representative Caruso on any conflicts with dates and which date would be best.
 - g. Andre Kovacs to check availability of Merle Berke-Schlessel, Esq. and invite
 - h. Carol Walter will check availability and invite Meghan Lowney
 - i. Invite either Kathy Marchione or Lisa Mazzeo to speak as chairs of GBACoC
 - j. Agenda Items:
 - i. Overview of 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
 - ii. Housing Pipeline
 - iii. GBACoC Legislative Agenda Items incorporated into Breakfast
 - k. Develop materials for breakfast by January 29, 2007
 - l. Tony Bonetti to develop legislator invitation. Andrew Martinez of BCAC will forward copies of invites. Invite will be on GBACoC letterhead and signed from co-chairs.

- m. Tony Bonetti will identify Bridgeport legislators on Housing and Appropriations Committees
- n. Tony Bonetti will develop FAQs to go with GBACoC legislative items
- VI. Federal Legislation Update
 - a. Natalie Matthews provided information on ELSHI and a sign-on letter being circulated. ELSHI seeks to create a federal funding stream for the services needed to develop supportive housing.
 - b. Tony Bonetti announced CCEH will hold a McKinney-Vento Reauthorization Forum next week, January 18th at the Lyceum in Hartford.
- VII. Chair and Co-Chair for Committee
 - a. Discussion tabled until next meeting

Next Meeting of the Public Policy and Information Committee will be Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 11 AM at the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County, 75 Washington Street, Bridgeport to review materials for the legislative breakfast and finalize plans.