

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

January 31, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Laurie Gross, Andrea Kovacs, Margaret Peabody, and Tony Bonetti

Legislative Agenda Discussion

- I. Reviewed legislative agenda of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness and partner organizations
- II. GBACoC Legislative Priorities relevant to the 10 Year Plan

Legislative Breakfast Planning

- III. Legislative Breakfast will be held Thursday, February 15th from 7:30-9 AM at the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County, 75 Washington Ave, Bridgeport
- IV. Invitation to Legislators and RSVPs
 - a. Invitation went out January 24th to all 20 legislators representing the Greater Bridgeport Area to both LOB and home addresses
 - b. To date: Rep. DebraLee Hovey and Rep. Kim Fawcett are not able to attend
 - c. Committee members divided up legislators for follow-up phone calls
 - d. Tony Bonetti will e-mail the listing of legislators with phone numbers to committee
- V. Audience
 - a. The committee discussed who should be invited to the breakfast and decided an invitation will be extended to all members of the GBACoC
 - b. Andrea Kovacs will establish online link to register via United Way website for event
 - c. Tony Bonetti will send out an invite to GBACoC members with link to register
- VI. Agenda for Legislative Breakfast
 - a. Proposed agenda:
 - i. Welcome and Introduction of GBACoC Chairs – Merle Berke-Schlessel, Esq.
 - ii. What is the Continuum of Care – Kathy Marchione, Co-Chair, GBACoC
 - iii. Who Is Homeless – Margaret Peabody and a consumer
 - iv. What's Next (Closing) – Meghan Lowney
 - v. Discussion (Opportunity for Legislators to Speak)
 - b. All three co-chairs to be invited to be present
 - c. Agenda framed around notion that "You couldn't pick someone out of a crowd who is homeless" and to confront NIMBYism in the suburbs of the City of Bridgeport
 - d. GBACoC 2007 Legislative Priorities incorporated into the closing about "What's Next"
 - i. GBACoC Legislative Priorities:
 1. Expansion of the Beyond Shelter CT Program
 2. Expansion of the Rental Assistance Program
 3. Funding for the second phase of the Next Steps Initiative
 - e. Tony Bonetti stated both Kathy Marchione and Meghan Lowney have been invited and will follow-up to confirm the will attend and will speak.
- VII. Packet and Review of Materials
 - a. Reviewed materials created for the legislative breakfast
 - b. Materials will be placed in a pocket folder. Andrea Kovacs will get folders and labels for folders. 30 will be created.

- c. Packet Contents:
 - i. Left Side: Legislative Breakfast Agenda, GBACoC 2007 Legislative Priorities 1-Pager, Executive Summary of the GBA Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
 - ii. Right Side: Overview and Ask Sheet for Beyond Shelter CT, Rental Assistance Program, and Supportive Housing Program (3 pages total), Reaching Home Campaign informational pamphlet, Beyond Shelter CT Program informational pamphlet, RAP informational sheet
 - d. Andrea Kovas will have 30 copies of the Executive Summary printed
 - e. Tony Bonetti will obtain pamphlets and color copies of the remaining documents
 - f. Legislator packets will be assembled at our next meeting on February 14, 2007
- VIII. Press Release
- a. Discussion around press release for legislative breakfast. Consensus was to do a press release following the event addressing the event, legislators who attended, and emphasizing the GBACoC legislative priorities.
 - b. Andrea Kovacs to check with Caryn Kaufman to get advice on the press release and what we should do.

Next Meeting of the Public Policy and Information Committee will be Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 11 AM at the Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport to assemble packets for the legislative breakfast and tie up any loose ends.