

Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care  
Safety Net Committee  
Minutes-October 25, 2005

In attendance: Lisa Mazzeo-Operation Hope, Betty Skaggs-St. V, Bill Hoey-Catholic Center, Nilda Havilla-Ct. Legal Svc., Eileen Lopez-Cordone-Info line

We decided that the following should be invited (and who agreed to contact who): ABCD, Ms. Mathews (Nilda), FSW (Eileen), CWF (Betty), Pat Ginyard and BCAC (Lisa)

Discussion Points: We took a look at goal one and 2005 objectives. We discussed which area agency already provides funding services and decided to get them around the table, if nothing else but for their expertise. We wondered if FSW has the capacity to change their program a bit, with additional funding to meet the needs of the ten year plan. The thought was, if there was more money added to the fund, would they be willing to be the fiduciary? If not, more money would need to be secured through community grants so this need could be met. The group thought that we could begin small with a few thousand dollars and grow the funding pot from there after the first year or so. If this were the situation, we need someone (not yet determined) to research grant options and then the task force would apply.

We began talking about objective two and followed a similar process of determining who already does this work. Eileen offered to contact Connecticut Light and Power to see if they offer a similar financial education program in Bridgeport as they do in Stamford. She will report back at next meeting.

We discussed barriers to implementation:

- MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!
- STAFF TIME, STAFF TIME, STAFF TIME!
- Lack of centralized intake or "information holder" so providers do not know the resources available to consumers. Do we need a group like Info-Line to be the central holder of all resources for the homeless?
- Do we need a marketing plan of some sort so those in need know where to go for help?

Where do we go from here?

- Contact those who need to be at meeting, ask people like FSW and CWF to do a brief presentation of their programs.
- Devise plan to access funding
- Prepare agenda for next meeting so those who are invited are intrigued by the information that is to be shared by other providers.

*Lisa A. Mazzeo, LCSW, BCD.*