

COC Steering Committee Meeting

January 9, 2008

Present: Lisa Mazzeo, Kate Kelly, Joyce Platz, Duncan Yetman, Rose Christy, Margaret Peabody, Anne Carr and Donna

Issues Discussed:

**Project Connect:** Numbers were lower this year over last. Possible explanations: Outreach for this event was done solely with homeless individuals hence, organizations were not bringing in large groups of people and the event was held in two locations which could have caused a reduction in attendees.

Overall, the event was a success that keeps improving with time and additional planning.

**Last rounds of Super Nofa:** Duncan announced that the allocations for last round have been published and Bridgeport received a cut in funding. Operation Hope received a small cut from their original application.

**Action Steps:**

Lisa Mazzeo to check our application and determine if we did, in fact, receive a cut.

**ABRI:** COC Steering Committee agreed that we should write a letter to ABRI asking them to take the necessary steps in resolving the current issues with the City of Bridgeport. Kathy Hunter notified of us of the issue and asked for our intervention. It was agreed that we can do this in a collaborative way so ABRI isn't feeling attacked but rather supported by us.

**Action Steps:**

Joyce and Duncan will do the necessary research into this issue then draft a letter to ABRI. Duncan, due to his work on the Super Nofa, will sign off. If another letter needs to be drafted then we will have it signed by the COC co-chairs so there is a progression in chain.

**CDBG Grant:** Much discussion around how we will pay for Super Nofa consultant this year as there is no money available to do so. Last year the City of Bridgeport paid with money they had left over in the budget. Joyce shared that the Norwalk COC members all pay pro rata for their consultant and their consultant doesn't do the entire application for them, as we have had in Bridgeport. In other words, we typically pay Mike McCarthy \$15,000 and he does the entire packet. 0 to the

\*Since this meeting, Judy Sklarz and Lisa Mazzeo had a meeting with Alanna Kabel who has tentatively offered \$10,000 to COC for these purposes. She will confirm and get back to us. In the meanwhile, Judy is canvassing other resources by seeing how much of the Super Nofa is given to other COC agencies then determining a pro rata based on what the Super Nofa brings in to them. More to follow on this as the information unfolds.

**Action Steps:**

In preparation for next year, Rose Christy will let Lisa Mazzeo know when the CDBG application comes out for Bridgeport and Lisa will pick up.

TBD-Which agency will complete the CDBG on behalf of COC? The application is due no later than February 25, 2008.

**Point in Time Count:** To be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> statewide. Cheryl Bell (Catholic Family Services) is coordinating this and doing an outstanding job, as she did last year. The group is still in need of volunteers and we should all spread the word to get people interested in this. Senator McKinney is going to take part this year.