Advocacy Reboot Webinar: New Leadership, New Resolve, New Opportunities

January 31st, 2019
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
House Keeping

• Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted.

• Please type any questions you have into the Chat Box.

• We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.
Presenters

Kate Robinson
Gallo & Robinson

Kiley Gosselin
Partnership for Strong Communities

Richard Cho and Sarah Fox
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Agenda

1. New Leadership
2. Budget & Appropriations Process
3. Reaching Home Legislative Agenda
4. Advocacy Strategies
Budget & Appropriations

Kate Robinson
Gallo & Robinson
Biennium Cycle

2019 (Odd Year) is the Long Session (January 9th – June 5th)
This is the budget setting year.

2020 (Even Year) is the Short Session (February 5th – May 6th)
This is the budget adjustment year.
Budget Timeline

February 20th
Governor’s Budget Proposal

Early March
Appropriations Hearings
(exact dates for each agency still to be announced)

May 3rd
Appropriations Committee Deadline

June 5th
Legislative Session Ends
Budget Landscape: FY 2020 – FY 2021

• Fiscal Year 2020
  • July 1st, 2019 – June 30th, 2020
  • Projected Deficit: $1,500,000,000

• Fiscal Year 2021
  • July 1st, 2020 – June 30th, 2021
  • Projected Deficit: $2,000,000,000
Current Department of Housing Funding

Housing/Homeless Services: $77,748,308

Homeless Youth: $2,282,505
Current Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Funding

Housing Supports and Services: $22,804,287
Legal Services for Housing: $700,144
Grants for Mental Health Services: $65,874,535
Grants for Substance Abuse Services: $17,788,229
Community Investment Account (CIA)

- Supports work of the Coordinated Access Networks (CANs).
- **There is no budget line item for CIA funds!**
- Funds raised through $40 recording fee on all land transactions.
- A portion of these funds go to the Department of Housing and support our coordinated system to end homelessness.
### Biennium Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Hearings</th>
<th>• Advocates submit testimony for hearings and explain importance of maintaining momentum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Committee makes recommendations to chairs</td>
<td>• Subcommittees on Health and Conservation and Development will make recommendations about the DMHAS and DOH Budgets to the Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Deliberation</td>
<td>• Appropriations Committee deliberates prior to the deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Negotiation</td>
<td>• Governor, leadership and Appropriations Chairs negotiate changes before the Session ends</td>
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Balancing the Budget

The Governor and the Legislature will have to...

Cut spending, raise revenue...
or will have to do some combination of both options.

The budget must balance!
Making the Case for Investments

Richard Cho
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
We Are Making Progress in Ending Homelessness in Connecticut, But Need Resources to Finish the Job

An End to Homelessness in Connecticut

A system that can prevent homelessness, or whenever it is not prevented, ensures that it is rare, brief, and non-repeated.

Core Messages

- State investments are funding proven programs that are working to help people exit homelessness into stable housing.
- We’ve built coordinated systems that make it easier for people to get the help they need quickly and matched to their needs. Our system is helping more people exit homelessness than ever before.
- We now have real-time data on how many people are homeless at any time, how many are being housed, and how many are newly falling into homelessness. This data tells us that we need more investments to help us reach goal of ending homelessness.
9,478 people experienced homelessness across Connecticut in 2017, a decrease of 34% since 2012.
Victories to Date

• CT was recognized in 2016 by the federal government as one of the first two states in the nation to end homelessness among Veterans.

• From January 2015 to December 2018, CT providers housed 2,579 people experiencing chronic homelessness, bringing CT within reach of our goal of ending chronic homelessness.

• Since January 2014, there has been a 62% decrease in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness (long-term homelessness with a severe disability).
Calendar year 2018 – Total individuals on BNL
Calendar year 2018 BNL inflow vs. outflow
Current Reality: outflow = inflow, few returns
Desired Reality: outflow > inflow, keep returns low

Shelter diversion, discharge planning, and homelessness prevention reduces inflow.

Adding housing investments increases outflow.

By ensuring supportive services, we can keep returns low.
We can end homelessness with key investments
CAN System Overview

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit.

Household in Need of Assistance

CALL

OUTREACH

2-1-1

CAN Assessment

Diverted or Self-Resolved

Waitlist for Shelter

Staying in Shelter

By-Name List

Housing Placement Meetings

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Conduct VI-SPDAT when/if appropriate, which adds client to By-Name List

Outreach plays the critical role of ensuring those outdoors or unlikely to use the 2-1-1 process are put on the By-Name List.

Begin identifying clients who are Chronically Homeless.
Investments in the Coordinated Access Infrastructure are central to ending homelessness.

Annualizing CAN in the state budget enhances staffing and infrastructure capacity.
Key Messages to Share with Legislators
Reaching Home
Legislative Recommendations

Kiley Gosselin
Partnership for Strong Communities
Unified Legislative Agenda

More than 200 participating organizations are working together through Connecticut’s Reaching Home Campaign to develop public policies, grow community support, and secure the resources to end homelessness in Connecticut.
DMHAS Housing Supports and Services

$24.2 million

Supportive housing continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut public costs by up to 70%.

Rescissions to funding have led to a gap in the service system. Restoring the funding to FY2017 levels (back to $24.2 million) allows us to help provide stability and support to over 100 more individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
Preserving the homeless youth program that provides critical housing services for youth and young adults.

Provides greater access to crisis response services where there are geographic gaps, increases identification, and reduces safety risks for homeless/housing unstable youth/young adults.
DOH Housing and Homelessness Line Item

$78.6 million

Frontline homeless services, outreach, emergency shelters, and the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) – a critical component of supportive housing.

Continued investment in the programs and supports embedded into this line item are critical to maintaining our progress.
Coordinated Access Network Support

$1.55 million

This funding will help communities to provide ongoing data management, coordinated intake staffing, maintenance of the “By Name Lists”, and similar functions that improve coordination.

Maintaining funding for the CAN system allows communities to maximize available resources through better coordination, and improves positive impact.

Moving away from CIA funds to a line item in the DOH budget allows for a more stable source of funding. Having a stable funding source enhances staffing and infrastructure capacity.
Rapid Re-Housing

$2 million

Rapid Re-Housing is a key strategy to move people from homelessness to stable housing, and is critical to meeting our goal of finishing the job of ending chronic homelessness and ending family homelessness by the end of 2020.

New investments in Rapid Re-Housing programs increase the number of exits from the homeless response system, and moves CT closer to looking at homelessness through a preventative lens.
Identify/Educate Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

By improving identification and affirming protections that allow homeless students to stay in school, we can move the needle toward our goal of ending youth homelessness by the end of 2020.

Aligning with the federal McKinney-Vento statute clarifies the process and helps students and districts in implementing a consistent, predictable path outlined at the federal level.
Continued Investments in Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a proven solution for achieving economic mobility, stability and resolving homelessness amongst families.

We must continue to make critical capital investments at the Department of Housing, in order to prevent and end all forms of homelessness and sustain the progress we’re making in CT.

$165 million
...for the Affordable Housing FLEX Fund

AND

$40 million
...for the State Housing Trust Fund.
Advocacy Strategies

Sarah Fox
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Make Your Voice Heard

Testify at Public Hearings

Handwritten letters

Phone calls

Emails

Host In-District Site Visits
You are the experts
Highlight your community work and tell your story

Share Your Story

Educate Legislators
Personal stories speak louder than statistics
Share the data
Positive Impact of Funding

Impact of Cuts on Your Community

Cost of Homelessness

The Impact of Housing
Advocacy Days Logistics

Invite Legislators

Convene Advocacy Planning Group

Meet with Opening Doors Staff (PSC + CCEH)

Cultivate Testimonies

Finalize Fact Sheets and Powerpoints
Materials Provided

Fact Sheets

Legislator Face Sheets

Folders and Leave Behind Messages

Power Point Template
April 17th Arrival Times

9:30 AM    Greater Hartford
10:45 AM   Meriden, Middlesex, Wallingford
12:00 PM   Waterbury and Litchfield County
1:15 PM    Eastern CT
April 18th Arrival Times

9:30 AM    Central

10:45 AM    Greater New Haven

12:00 PM    Fairfield County
Schedule for Advocacy Days

• Meet in Cafeteria at LOB
• Prep Meeting Room
• Meet with Legislators in RM 2600
• Distribute Folders and Leave Behind Messages
Further Advocacy Opportunities

Engage community leaders and citizens in discussion

Respond to Action Alerts by emailing and calling your representatives
Questions?

Type in question

Click the icon to raise your hand.
To Learn More, Contact:

Sarah Fox
Director of Advocacy & Community Impact Initiatives
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
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Danielle Hubley
Policy Analyst
Partnership for Strong Communities
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