

# **BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER**

NEW BRITAIN'S PERMANENT WORKPLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

November 17, 2014

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## *NEW BRITAIN'S PERMANENT WORK PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS*

### **The Vision:**

In 2007, Mayor Timothy T. Stewart and community leaders banded together and made a commitment to end homelessness in the City of New Britain. The “Mayor’s 10 year plan to end homelessness” was established. Now in its seventh year, times have changed and the need remains. Today, Mayor Erin Stewart and those same community leaders, as well as new partners, have undertaken to revise the “10 year plan” to better address the needs of our homeless population and the social service providers in town. Our shared vision for New Britain is a place of wide opportunity, with businesses that employ all who are able to work, including youth and individuals who are homeless. We see New Britain as a community where all residents find economic opportunity and a place to call home.

### **The Need:**

There are approximately 74,000 people who reside in New Britain today. The 2010 US Census data shows that over 58 % of all households are renters in NB, and over 30% pay more than one third of their household income for rent, meaning thousands of households are in-or-near poverty and at risk of homelessness. According to the 2013 “*Point in Time Count*” conducted by the State of Connecticut, there are about 173 individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness. The multiple causes of homelessness are rooted in the realities of today’s rising housing costs, skill driven employment needs, family disasters, and the challenges faced by people with limited financial resources when confronting illness, mental health & addiction issues.

# ACRONYM KEY

BHT – Building Hope Together

SOAR – SSI Outreach, Access and Recovery

DMD – Department of Municipal Development

CHFA – CT Housing Finance Authority

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

CMHA – Community Mental Health Affiliates

NIMBY – Not In My Backyard

MEDA – Municipal Economic Development Authority

ESG – Emergency Shelter Grant

RR – Rapid ReHousing

CHR – Community Health Resources

NCRMHB – North Central Regional Mental Health Board

DOH – Department of Housing (State)

CoC – Continuum of Care

DOL – Department of Labor

FSC – Friendship Service Center

HRA – Human Resources Agency of New Britain

CHRO – Commission on Human Right and Opportunities (City)

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## **Facts:**

- 10% of Connecticut residents fall below the poverty line set forth by the federal government
- 22.9% of residents in New Britain fall below that line
- Average Income in State of CT: \$69,000/year
- Average Income in NB: \$39,898/year

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## **Our Goals Focus on 3 Areas:**

### **1. Residence Retention**

Providing supportive housing, expanding access to affordable housing & preventing evictions

### **2. Employment**

Bridging the skill gap between local jobs and local workers by building relationships with local employers

### **3. Mental Health & Wellness**

Assessing individual need, providing access to care & linking community partners

# WHO ARE WE?

## **Executive Committee Members:**

**Mayor:** Erin E. Stewart

**Chairman:** Greg Howey

**BHT Coordinator:** Mary Floyd (YWCA)

**Treasurer:** Robin Sharp (YWCA)

Zeena Tawfik (Mayors Office)

Ellen Simpson (Friendship Center)

Maureen Voghel (NHS)

Kenneth Malinowski (City- DMD)

Alderwoman Tonilynn Collins (City Council)

David Davidson (Am. Savings Foundation)

Thomas Phillips (Capital Workforce Partners)

Ray Gorman (CMHA)

Lisa Royce (NB Housing Authority)

Timothy Stewart (Chamber of Commerce)

Bruce Baxter (EMS)

Dr. Carl Lovitt (CCSU)

Michael Tomasso

Jim Williamson (Community Foundation)

William Carroll (MEDA)

Joe Vaverchak (CSDNB)

# SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

**Chair: Lisa Royce**

**Ellen Simpson**

**Greg Howey**

**Mary Floyd**

**Michael Tomasso**

**Maureen Voghel**

**Jim Williamson**

**David Davidson**

**Ken Malinowski**

**Lorraine Gauthier**

**Manssour Hanne**

**Sue Murphy**

**Marzena Bukowski**

**Barbara Damon**

**Marcia Moskal**

## EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

**Chair: William Carroll**

**Mike Bartley (DOL)**

**Janice Albert (DOL)**

**June O'Leary (CMHA)**

**Donna Bergin (FSC)**

**Timothy Stewart (Chamber of  
Commerce)**

# SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Chair: Karolina Wytrykowska**

**Michelle Stewart-Copes**

**Zeena Tawfik**

**Marcia Dufour (NCRMHB)**

**Father Kapriel**

**Desiree Agosto (YMCA)**

**Marianne Farr**

# WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

Okay Industries

American Savings Foundation

Community Foundation

Prudence Crandall

Friendship Service Center

Salvation Army

CMHA

YMCA

Rebuilding Together NB

NB EMS

NB Food Share

NB Chamber of Commerce

CW Resources

CCSU Community Engagement

North Central Regional Mental Health Board

Landlord Consortium

NHS

Farrell Treatment Center

Housing Authority

YWCA

NB Housing Authority

HOCC Emergency Dept.

NBPD

NB Downtown District

HRA

Community Health Center

# COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are generally held the  
third Monday of the month at noon in the Mayor's conference  
room in City Hall.

**February 3, 2015**

**March 16, 2015**

**May 18, 2015**

**September 21, 2015**

**November 16, 2015**

# I. RESIDENCE RETENTION. PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, EXPAND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING & PREVENT EVICTIONS

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Year 10
<p>Increase development opportunities for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and affordable housing units</p>	<p>Prepare for the availability of annual CHFA funds for a project based application by:</p> <p>Collecting data on the effects of PSH on neighborhoods and real estate rental values</p> <p>Identifying potential sites that would be least prone to NIMBY</p> <p>Reach common ground with community leaders and stakeholders about PSH/affordable housing</p> <p>Educate people on why PSH works, and why we need to take advantage of funding opportunities</p>	<p>City of New Britain</p> <p>Housing Committee</p> <p>Local stakeholders</p> <p>Banks through Community Reinvestment</p> <p>Community partners with ability to take on PS Units</p>	<p>57 PSH units</p> <p>56 affordable units</p> <p>50 units for family reunification</p>	<p>We know at any given time there are 42 chronically homeless individuals in the City. Our Year 10 goal will be to cut that number in half &amp; provide 100 additional PSH units.</p>
<p>Eviction Prevention Program</p>	<p>Information and funds to prevent eviction</p>	<p>HRA CHRO</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>

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Strategies	Actions	Partners/Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Outcomes Year 10
Expand Rapid-Rehousing to shorten all lengths of time of homelessness	Use ESG RR funds when eligible, use CHR RR funds & Short Term RR funds from state	City/ESG RR recipient agency	44 rapidly re-housed through federal stimulus funds	TBD based on availability of funds. Avg. 5/6 families per year
Provide basic essentials for households moving from shelters to promote housing stability	Use Fresh Start Funds & private donations	BHT Liaison	61 households assisted	Assist 70 additional households
Critical Time Intervention Program (State of CT)	Apply for state funds through Department of Housing	DoH & Steve DiLella (DMHAS)	n/a	Additional 20 units based on state funds.
VA, Inc. Development 232 Arch St.	Monitor Progress, offer letters of support to help with access to additional funds .	Va, Inc. DMD	n/a	18 units filled. See project to completion by 2016.
Find a permanent overflow shelter for winter months	Secure a location. 25 beds.	Local Shelters Providers CoC City	n/a	Secure permanent location & line item from State \$80k/yr.

## II. EMPLOYMENT: BRIDGE SKILL GAP BETWEEN LOCAL JOBS AND WORKERS BY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Outcomes Year 10
Utilize Employer to Employer Outreach	Current employers speak with potential employers	Participating Employers	70 current employers	20 New Employees
Promote career advancement for those in entry level positions	On-site mentoring, build better relationships with employers, use incumbent worker training funds	Participating Employers, DOL Employers	15% of clients advanced their careers	25% of clients advance their careers
Promote job creation	Use StepUP and Work Opportunity Tax Credit Programs. Encourage business owners to hire homeless.	DOL Employers CT Works Capitol Workforce Local Employers		TBD
Job seekers to utilize DOL services	Liaison links job seekers to DOL resources	DOL/CT Works		100% of job seekers use DOL/CT resources

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Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Outcomes Year 10
Provide transportation to work, trainings, job interviews	Bus Pass Project	BHT Liaison	311 people assisted	Assist 200 additional clients
Remove impediments to finding and keeping employment	Path to Employment Program	United Way	100 people	Assist 100 additional clients
SOAR	Apply for SSI/SSDI process	SOAR CMs	8 applications submitted	Additional 20 applications

### III. MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS: ASSESS INDIVIDUAL NEED, PROVIDE ACCESS TO CARE & LINK COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Outcomes Year 10
Maintain Homelessness Prevention Program	Grant applications, Fundraiser, Donations	Grantors, New Britain residents, Liaisons	252 households prevented from becoming homeless	Aid additional 75 households.
Emergency Needs Program	One time bill payment and referral to utility forgiveness and payment plans	FSC	n/a	Assist 75 Individuals
Educating tenants about housing obligations and budgeting	Link client to NHS classes & workshops	NHS	Open Enrollment	Expand workshops to include education for landlords & rapid rehousing.
Referral to resources that can prevent and help households from entering homelessness	Cash assistance, food stamps, behavioral health services and other state and local services as needed	All local providers linked by BHT.	n/a	Continue to be constant, on-going process.

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Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcomes Year 6	Outcomes Year 10
Asses individual needs	Fill out client assessment Form - Quick Assessment Form Subcommittee will make	BHT Liaison, FSC, CMHA & other local providers . Sidekicks Program, Foodshare & Community Central.	n/a	Advise 200 clients.
Monitor local assistance accessibility	Ensure community partners provide wrap around services as needed	All community providers	n/a	Ongoing
Give police resources to deal with mentally ill & homeless	Implement NBPD Crisis Intervention Team - officer training required	NBPD	n/a	Half of all officer received proper training.
Provide community with education training	Utilize CAP & TIPS programs for residents and business owners	CMHA provides instruction	n/a	Hold quarterly educational sessions on various topics.
Raise funds to support the Plan	Empty Bowl	BHT Committee	n/a	Have an annual dinner or fundraiser planned.

# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Making a difference starts with YOU!

- **Advocate.**
  - Call your state & federal delegations to advocate for increased mental health funds
- **Volunteer.**
  - Call a local shelter or non profit to offer your help
- **Donate.**
  - Checks can be made payable to “Building Hope Together – YWCA” and mailed to YWCA New Britain, 22 Glen St. New Britain, CT 06051