



Getting to Zero Newsletter

July 2016



Fairfield County Kicks Off 90 in 90 Challenge!

Nadim Matta of the Rapid Results Institute stood before a room of over 80 local agency providers from Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford, and asked "how about we have a challenge to end 100 day challenges; what would that look like?" Collaboration, communication and a bottom-up approach to leadership, led by the frontline staff on a consistent basis was the response. "We know from experience that when frontline providers are allowed to take charge and lead the effort, change takes place," said Pam Ralston OFDC Manager.

In anticipation of verifying and matching 90 percent of the by-name list in 90 days to housing resources, members of the Fairfield County CAN met to rally in a final push towards ending chronic homelessness by the end of this year. "This is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in the movement to end chronic homelessness in Fairfield County and all of Connecticut. What we thought was not possible just a few years ago is now within our grasp, all that is left is a sprint to the finish as we roll up our sleeves and redouble our efforts over the next three months," said Adam Bovilsky Co-Chair of ODFC.



Adam Bovilsky summarizes next steps



Nadim Matta of Rapid Results



David Rich kicks off the event

The event provided an opportunity for frontline staff to lead the conversation on the barriers of verifying those who are chronically homeless on the by-name list, while assessing their strengths, identifying strategies and creating a wish list of resources that would assist them with meeting the goal of the 90 in 90 Challenge. Representatives from each of the four major cities were invited to present their case for what they need before the shark tank and get feedback on their asks.

While many agreed that more staff and monetary resources were needed, shark tank members Adam Bovilsky and David Rich co-chairs of Opening Doors Fairfield County, and Steve DiLella and Kara Capobianco of the CT Department of Housing, assured the group that OFDC could come up with some funding to assist with the cost of birth certificates and photo identification, but that to verify the by-name lists, only disability and history of homelessness verification would be needed. Following the event, Kara Capobianco provided the group with a document readiness training produced by DOH and CCEH. To view the training webinar, go to <http://cceh.org/document-ready/>

Success Story

If you have grabbed a cup of coffee or a doughnut in East Haven recently, you might recognize Christina, who works behind the counter at a doughnut shop. What you might not know, is that Christina had lived in her turquoise Chevy Cavalier for an entire year. She was one of the many people classified as chronically homeless in Greater New Haven.



Photo submitted by GNH CAN

In May, the Greater New Haven CAN matched her to a local apartment. "Now I'll have stability. I'll have a place I can actually go and feel secure, safe, and a place I can call my own, a place I can start a life," Christina said.

Together we changed what's possible for Christina. This Zero-2016 goal is ambitious - but attainable. We can do it, one person at a time.

Staff Spotlight

Mollie Greenwood (Hartford CAN Manager) would like to spotlight the **Hartford CAN provider staff** for putting on a successful document fair. There were over 80 households served at the fair, with **seven** individuals experiencing chronic homelessness **becoming document ready for housing**. The DMV opened up a special line the following week for participants in the fair where **nine** people got photo IDs the following week (2 or 3 of whom experience chronic homelessness). (Photos courtesy of Jose Vega of McKinney Shelter)



Matt Morgan, Hartford CAN



Team Work!

Kara Capobianco saw a man in Waterford holding a "help homeless and hungry" sign; he has been living in a tent. She contacted Dave Pascua who went out to talk to the gentleman at the encampment, since PATH was engaged with folks elsewhere. Dave was able to match the gentleman, who had already been through 211, to Rapid Rehousing since he only needs security deposit and a few months' rent. Good job team!