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CABHN FEVER

Need to Find Child Care in Connecticut? Chat Live with 2-1-1 Child Care!



There is a new way to connect with *2-1-1 Child Care* when you are looking for care for your child.

2-1-1 Child Care has launched a new live chat service. Chat directly with a Child Care Referral Specialist via instant messaging, by clicking on the live chat button in the upper right corner of www.211childcare.org. A specialist will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on child care options in Connecticut. *2-1-1 Child Care* has current listings of all state licensed child care centers and family child care homes, as well as nanny agencies, nursery schools, play groups and summer camp programs in Connecticut. Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211childcare.org to search the child care database or chat live.

2-1-1 Child Care is funded by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and administered by the United Way of Connecticut. For more information contact Maria Dynia at maria.dynia@ctunitedway.org.

Gubernatorial Candidate Forum

CABHN and the Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT are co-sponsoring the "Prospering Communities, Thriving Families Gubernatorial Candidate Forum." Come hear the views of Connecticut's Gubernatorial candidates on important issues, such as the state budget, jobs, education, health, and related topics.

Confirmed candidates to attend include:

- Dan Malloy (D)
- Rudy Marconi (R)
- Mary Glassman (D)
- Tom Marsh (R)
- Juan Figueroa (D)
- Christopher Duffy Acevedo (R)

The forum will be moderated by John Dankosky of CT Public Radio.

When: Monday, May 10, 2010, 6:30 PM

Where: SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium, on the campus of Manchester Community College (Parking available in Lot "C,")

The forum is sponsored by CT Association for Human Services, CT Voices for Children, CT Association for Community Action, CT Women's Education and Legal Fund, CT Council of Family Service Agencies, End Hunger CT!, CT Nonprofit Human Services Cabinet, Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT.

Space is limited. To RSVP, contact Ellen Small at CABHN at esmall@larcc.org or (860) 278-5688 x. 208.

Please spread the word. A forum flier is included with this newsletter for you to distribute and display. Thank you for your help in publicizing this important event!



Summer Food Service Program

Children in your community do not need to go hungry this summer. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program can help fill the hunger gap.

In 2009, approximately 33,000 eligible children received summer meal benefits, but this number only represents a small percentage of the children getting meals during the school year. Numerous outreach materials have been produced and are available to promote this worthwhile program.

For more information about the Summer Food Service Program, contact Susan Bohuslaw at (860) 807-2073 or Susan.bohuslaw@ct.gov or Robert Zwak at (860) 807-2081 or Robert.Zwak@ct.gov. To find the nearest Summer Food Service Program site in your area, go to <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320658> or dial 2-1-1.

Birth Certificates Invalid as of July 1, 2010

What you need to know!

The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) has developed information sheets on the law that goes into effect July 1, 2010 concerning birth certificates. **On July 1, 2010, the new law will invalidate all birth certificates issued before that date by the Puerto Rico Health Department, through its Vital Statistics Record Office.** For answers to frequently asked questions and fact sheets in English and Spanish, go to <http://www.preccf.org/>

DSS and Proof of Out-of-State Benefits

The Department of Social Services has recently stated that SNAP rules put the final burden on DSS to show that benefits from another state have ended. Some people who apply for SNAP benefits got benefits before in another state. They need to show that the benefits in the other state have ended in order

(See Proof of Benefits p. 3)

Protection Of Tenant Possessions After Eviction Still At Risk

This year, Connecticut towns have made a major push to be relieved of their century-old duty to pick up and store tenant possessions that are left in an apartment when a tenant is evicted. Under existing law, a state marshal (who is hired by the landlord) moves the possessions out of the unit and the town picks them up and stores them so that the tenant can reclaim them.

H.B. 5255 would implement this proposal. Advocates for tenants, landlords, and marshals all oppose changing the existing system -- each for their own reasons -- and have therefore strongly opposed H.B. 5255. Tenants believe that the existing system best protects their possessions and gives the best chance of getting them back.

As this article is being written, however, there has been movement toward a compromise proposal under which part of the town's duties would be transferred to the marshal while the rest would be kept by the towns. In no case, would the tenant's possessions be in the control of the landlord, and the tenant would retain the right to reclaim the property from the town.

In particular, the marshal would not only move the possessions out of the apartment but would also transport them to the storage location designated by the town. This would, in effect, transfer the cost of moving the goods into storage from the town to the landlord, since the town would no longer have to pick the goods up. Towns would continue to be responsible for storage.

At press time, there appears to be a significant possibility that this compromise will be adopted by the General Assembly.

Diaper Bank Stroll-A-Thon



Save the date! May 15th, College Woods Pavillion, East Rock Park, New Haven - for info, call 203-934-7009 or go to www.thediaperbank.org.



2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan Passed

The House and Senate passed a 2010 deficit mitigation plan on April 14th that was signed by the Governor later that afternoon. The final version passed unanimously in the Senate and with only one "no" vote in the House. The plan eliminates \$323.2 million of the projected \$371 million deficit. Lawmakers hope that the remaining \$50m will be made up through incoming tax revenue.

Following are cuts in the Deficit Mitigation Package just adopted:

Cuts made by legislative action:

- Conversion of SAGA to Medicaid – cost of \$15, 000,000 in year one, savings of \$68,000,000 in year two
- HUSKY outreach (211 Infoline) – savings of \$335,565 in second year (see below for cut for this year)
- Align HUSKY B co-pays to state health plans – savings of \$250,000 in second year
- Conform SSI Atty Fees to Federal law – Savings of \$50,000 in first year, savings of \$200,000 in second year
- Suspension of coverage for most over-the-counter drugs (insulin and insulin syringes will still be covered) - \$320,000 savings first

year, \$3,300,00 savings second year

- Update Medical Necessity Definition – savings of \$570,000 in first year, \$1,800,000 in second year (language endorsed by the Medical Inefficiency Committee is in the law).
- Restrict vision services for adults in Medicaid – savings of \$885,500 in second year
- Delay implementation of HIV/AIDS waiver – savings of \$385,000 in second year

Cuts made by the Governor not requiring legislative action:

- Suspension of balance of funds for HUSKY outreach (which is the 211 HUSKY Infoline) – savings of \$176, 613 this year
- Suspension of limited SAGA Vision/NEMT benefit – savings of \$350,000 this year

Democrats agreed to set aside earlier proposals to raise taxes on wealthy estates and to impose a 5.5 percent levy on gross hospital revenues. Those initiatives are likely to be considered again, however, because the legislature must still address the \$725.7 million deficit projected for the preliminary \$18.93 billion budget for 2010-11.

Intake Applications on State's Security Deposit Guarantee Program Suspended

The Department of Social Services will close intake for NEW applications for its Security Deposit Guarantee program at the close of the business day on April 23, 2010. No new applications will be distributed past 4:00pm on that date. In addition, all pending applications must be returned to a regional DSS office no later than 4:00pm on May 6, 2010 to be processed. **State funds are no longer available to support new clients in this program.** Requests from landlords for security deposit reimbursement will continue to be honored on previously approved applications, based on the present rules and regulations of the program.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), there is the potential for clients to obtain a federally-funded security deposit through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. To learn more about this program, clients can contact 2-1-1 Infoline.

For questions to DSS, please contact Cindy Perjon, Social Work Program Manager at (860) 424-5872.

Governor Rell releases FY11 Budget Plan

Governor Rell has released her FY11 budget plan to close the estimated \$725 million budget hole. A copy of the Governor's FY11 budget proposal is attached. As anticipated, there are significant cuts to social service programs, most of which were previously proposed by the Governor.

The Governor's plan includes:

- \$100 million savings by deferring contributions to the state employees pension fund.
- \$61.5 million in cuts from the Appropriations Committee FY11 budget proposal that remain after the cuts that were just made in the recently passed Deficit Mitigation Plan.
- \$37.9 million in cuts in the Governor's recommended budget options in excess of the Appropriations Committee cuts and after the cuts in the recently passed Deficit Mitigation Plan.
- \$76 million in additional proposed cuts, changes. Of that amount \$65 million is projected to be saved by offering an Early Retirement Incentive Plan. An estimated 3,000 state employees will take early retirement and 1,500 positions will be replaced with lower-paid positions for a net loss of 1,500 jobs.

The Governor's plan anticipates new revenues:

- \$266.5 million in new revenue through a 6-month extension of federal FMAP.
- \$99.1 million in new revenue through federal funding for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.
- \$11.5 million in anticipated improvement in revenue in FY11.
- \$17 million in revenue from Social Security Billing (Medicare/Medicaid) Resolution.

At the time of this publication, it is not known what action the Legislature will take on this plan, although discussions between the Governor and Legislative leadership have been occurring.

Federal Health Care Reform – What's In It for Low-Income Residents of Connecticut?



Many of the provisions of the federal health care reform law enacted on March 23 will not take effect until 2014. But there are some immediate – and positive – effects for Connecticut residents who rely on Medicaid, SAGA and HUSKY for health care coverage.

1. States may expand Medicaid coverage to include individuals under 65 with household income below 133% of the federal poverty level beginning April 1, 2010. This opens Medicaid up to childless individuals without disabilities who are currently not eligible for Medicaid.

On April 6, Connecticut became the first state to submit a state plan amendment under this provision.

Under Connecticut's state plan amendment, the state will offer Medicaid coverage to individuals now covered by the state-funded SAGA (State Administered General Assistance) program. DSS has indicated that it intends to offer full Medicaid benefits to people who would be eligible for the current SAGA program, if the amendment is approved by the federal administrative agency.

Bringing SAGA into Medicaid will mean that for the first time, Connecticut will be eligible for federal reimbursement of about 50% of the costs of the SAGA program. The state anticipates a net gain of about

\$53 million through June 30, 2011 by implementing this change.

2. States must at least maintain current eligibility levels and enrollment procedures in Medicaid, including HUSKY A, until January, 2014. For children, Connecticut must maintain current eligibility levels in HUSKY A and B until January, 2019. (There is a provision that would allow states with budget deficits in 2011 to seek an exemption to permit them to lower adult coverage to 133% of the federal poverty level. There is no indication that Connecticut is considering this option. This would affect parents in HUSKY A, who are covered if the family income is below 185% of the federal poverty level.)
3. States are required to provide Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation services for pregnant women. This provision will become effective on October 1, 2010.

There are more benefits for low-income residents and for the state in the future. A few highlights:

- In 2014, Medicaid coverage will be extended to all individuals with incomes below 133% of the federal poverty level. This expansion will be fully funded by the federal government for two years.
- Simplified enrollment procedures and support for community outreach will make it easier to bring eligible people into Medicaid and HUSKY.
- Low-income individuals not eligible for public programs will receive subsidies to assist them in buying insurance through newly established "Exchanges".

Proof of Benefits (continue from p. 1)

be able to reach the old worker. If they do, the worker might not make it a high priority to provide the statement. In this situation, DSS can ask the applicant to try to get this proof. But, if he or she cannot get the proof, it is up to DSS to get it. Furthermore, cases should be granted within 30 days even if DSS is still waiting for this proof.

**Goodworks, Inc.
8th Annual
Walkathon**

*Women supporting
women in transition.*

May 1, 2010

Registration time: 8:30-9:00 am
Walk begins at 9:00 am, starting
in East Hartford

Registration fee: \$10.00

Goodworks mission is to support female non-violent ex-offenders who are in need of emotional support during their transition back into the community. Help us raise funds by joining this 3.5 mile walk!

For more information, please visit www.goodworksct.com or call (860) 290-8329 or email gworks47@sbcglobal.net.

All proceeds will benefit the New Beginnings mentoring program.

**Grant Available to
Low-Income Mothers**

The Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Foundation for Low Income Women and Children will offer 5 grants of up to \$2000 each to low income mothers who are enrolled in education and/or training programs. Applications will be accepted from May 1, 2010 through July 15, 2010. See the foundation website, <http://www.patsyminkfoundation.org>, for eligibility criteria and application materials.

Energy Assistance

There's still time to apply for energy assistance with heating bills. The application deadline is May 3, or May 17 for utility heated households with a shut-off notice. If you heat via fuel delivery, the program can pay for past deliveries through March 15. To find your local Community Action Agency call the state's energy hotline: 1-800-842-1132 or Infoline: 2-1-1.

**Upcoming
CABHN/FESN Meeting**

**Friday
May 7, 2010
9:30-11:30 A.M.**

**Location:
AARP, Corner of Oak &
Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT**

**Topics:
Temporary Family
Assistance (TFA)**

The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of individuals, community groups and organizations which supports and promotes advocacy on low-income issues. For more information, please call (860) 278-5688.

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**Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and
CABHN (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)**
44 Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106



***Prospering Communities, Thriving Families
Gubernatorial Candidate Forum***

Monday, May 10, 2010

6:30 PM

SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium

On the Campus of Manchester Community College

Parking Will Be Available in Lot "C"

Forum Sponsors

CT Association for Human Services, CT Voices for Children,
CT Association for Community Action, CT Women's Education
and Legal Fund, CT Council of Family Service Agencies, End
Hunger CT!, CT Nonprofit Human Services Cabinet,
Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT

Contact Ellen Small to RSVP

esmall@larcc.org

[Come To Hear Candidate Positions on a Variety of Important Issues](#)