

**Highlights in this issue:**

*Child & Youth Well-Being Index...p2*  
*CT Pardon Team Offers Training..p2*  
*Post-Eviction & Foreclosure .....p3*  
*Veto & Special Session Update.....p3*

# CABHN FEVER

## **The Election is Coming! Are you ready?**

Common Cause in Connecticut has been working around the state to register voters and increase citizen participation in government.

It is imperative for the health of our democracy in Connecticut that citizens participate in the electoral process. While voter turnout in Connecticut has increased in the past few years, it still is not high enough. In the 2008 election with the so-called Obama surge, 67% of voting age residents of Connecticut cast their votes versus 63% in 2004. However, only 44- 47% of voting age adults cast their votes in the cities of Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. This demonstrates an increase over 2004 voter turnout in these cities (38 – 44%), but turnout in Connecticut’s cities remains too low. Common Cause in

*(See Election p. 2)*

## **2010 National Edition of Between the Lines: A Question and Answer Guide on Legal Issues in Supportive Housing**

More communities have embraced permanent supportive housing as the model for reducing homelessness among populations vulnerable to housing instability. The law has changed as well, often attempting to catch up with this trend.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing has released an updated version of its Guide to Supportive Housing, addressing changes in the law and to update readers on new interpretations of previously-referenced laws.

To access this publication, visit:

<http://www.csh.org>

## **Healthy Home Healthy Child, Inc. has New Web Site**



Healthy Home Healthy Child, Inc. is a community based organization providing prevention and intervention strategies and services to parents, families and members of the community. Healthy Home Healthy Child, Inc. offers programs and services that create an environment of learning and enrichment.

Check out the new Healthy Home Health Child website at <http://healthyhomehealthychild.org>

## **Reminder: Summer Food Service Program Available**

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to kids 18 and under at schools, parks, recreation centers, and summer camps. To find a site in your community, call United Way 2-1-1 or End Hunger CT! at (860) 560 – 2100 x. 303. You can also email Dawn Crayco at [dcrayco@endhungerct.org](mailto:dcrayco@endhungerct.org).

## **Cleaning for a Reason**

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning, 1 time per month for 4 months while in treatment.

To sign up, it is necessary for a doctor to provide a faxed confirmation of treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service make contact within the client's zip code area and arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help women undergoing cancer treatment. Go to [www.cleaningforareason.org](http://www.cleaningforareason.org).

## **Federal Healthcare Portal Available**

A federal healthcare site managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, aimed at helping you understand the changes in federal healthcare law and explore coverage options available to you and your family.

This website will help you:

- ✓ Find Insurance Options
- ✓ Get Prevention Tips
- ✓ Compare Care Quality
- ✓ Understand the Law

Visit <http://www.healthcare.gov> to learn more.

## **Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Connecticut Association for Human Services**

### ***Reclaiming the American Dream: Opportunity and Prosperity for All***

This one-time event will take place November 10, 2010 at The Bushnell in Hartford, followed by a reception and award ceremony.

Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Yale Professor Jacob Hacker, author of The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream will offer their insights, and will be joined by prominent Connecticut thinkers.

Tickets may be purchased online through the CAHS website <http://cahs.org/100years.asp>. For more information contact Lois Taylor, Director of Development and Marketing at (860) 951-2212, Ext 229 or email [ltaylor@cahs.org](mailto:ltaylor@cahs.org)



## Update OnThe Child & Youth Well-Being Index (CWI)

The Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) is designed to provide a view of changes over time in the overall well-being of children in the United States through data from 28 key indicators which are divided into seven Well-Being Domains. 1975 serves as the baseline from which all subsequent years have been measured. The 2010 ed. of the CWI report demonstrates impact of the Recession of 2008-2009 on American children's overall safety, health, and quality of life.

It shows children under the age of 18 are the largest group of Americans living in poverty. Recent trends in the CWI show a decline in children's overall quality of life in 2009, and the conditions for children are expected to bottom out in 2010. This means "virtually all the progress made in the family economic well-being domain since 1975 will be wiped out." Also, state and citywide budget cuts will create a "lag time" between improvement in the economy and improvement in children's well-being.

### CWI findings and predictions:

**Poverty Rate:** The percentage of children living in families with incomes below the official poverty line is expected to peak at a 20 year high of about 21.5 % in 2010, or about 15.6 million children, a level comparable to '81-82 and '90 to 91 recessions.

The rate of children in "extreme poverty" (less than 50 % of the poverty line) is projected to climb to 10.1 % in 2010 to roughly 7.41 million.

**Secure Parental Employment Rate:** The number of children living in families without any parent employed full time, year round, is expected to increase by 20 million children.

**Unemployment:** The CWI researchers posit that levels of overall unemployment approached 25% in 2009, putting the current recession on par statistically with the early 80's recession.

**Health Domain:** Children's overall health to decline because of obesity from parents resorting to low cost and fast foods.

**Community Engagement Domain:** Children's connections with their communities are to be negatively impacted by declines in pre-k enrollment due to parent unemployment and town budget cuts.

**Safe/Risky Behavior Domain:** The 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey data shows increases in alcohol drinking and illicit drug use among 12th graders and increases in cigarette smoking, alcohol drinking, and illicit drug use among 10th graders. Increased Suicide rate.

**Cohort effect on academic skills:** Reduced reading and math scores in future years for children at age 9 (3rd and 4th graders). Higher Highschool dropout rates at age sixteen.

**Food Insecurity:** The percentage of all children living in food insecure households is expected to increase from 16.9% in 2007 to 17.7% in 2010; an increase of 750,000 children.

Additionally, 2 out of 5 households will face cost burdens associated with housing in 2009-2011, but at a slowing rate that seems to be leveling off at 39 %.

**Homelessness:** a limitation on residence-based sampling. It is estimated the US homeless population increased by 15% or 50,000 people in 2008. If this 15% increase continues annually, extending to 2009-2013, the impact of the recession could be a nearly 50 % increase from 2007, to 500,000 children.

## CT Pardon Team, Inc. Offers Training the Trainer Program

The CT Pardon Team's Pardon Assistance program is a comprehensive effort designed to assist an individual formerly convicted of a crime to obtain an Expungement/Provisional Pardon petition. This will clear the criminal record and will allow him or her to make a fresh start to obtain employment, housing, schooling and other services.

The Pardon process can be very complicated and the CT Pardon Team, Inc. is working to address the needs of many individuals who require help.

The *Training the Trainer* program was developed by members of the CT Pardon Team, Inc. Members of the team will travel to other organizations to instruct individuals on how to counsel their own clients and on how to build and submit Pardon applications.

### The program includes:

- onsite instruction including Power Point presentation, instruction booklets and the complete Expungement/Provisional Pardon Petition
- A full 3-hour Presentation for up to 10 staff people

For information on scheduling a program and fees, go to [www.connecticutpardonteam.com](http://www.connecticutpardonteam.com) or call 860-823-1571.

## Election (cont. from p.1)

Connecticut would like to partner with organizations in Connecticut interested in registering voters, educating people about the voting rights restoration process (after having served time after a felony conviction), and increasing interest in civic engagement. Non-profit organizations are key partners in this non-partisan work.

If you are interested in working with us to help people own their voices and power, please contact Kim Hynes at (203) 979-4676 or [khynes@commoncause.org](mailto:khynes@commoncause.org).

## **SAGA – Medical Moved into Medicaid**

Connecticut is the first state in the nation to permanently add low-income adults to its Medicaid program under the new Affordable Care Act (ACA). This means that individuals enrolled in the State Administered General Assistance – Medical (SAGA – Medical) program are now enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid covers more services than were available under the SAGA – Medical program.

Retroactive to April 1, 2010, Medicaid services are administered directly by the Department of Social Services, rather than Community Health Network of CT (CHNCT).

Medicaid enrollees under this coverage expansion will receive the standard Medicaid benefit package for adults, including:

Inpatient and outpatient hospital services

- Physician services
- Laboratory services
- Prescription drugs
- Mental health services
- Immunizations
- Emergency services

In order to have Medicaid pay for services you receive, you must:

- Receive your services from a provider who participates in Medicaid. Otherwise, we will not pay for the visit.
- Bring your gray CONNECT card with you when you go to the visit for a Medicaid covered service. This will tell the provider to bill us for your medical service.

To find out which of your medical providers participate in Medicaid:

You may call your current provider and ask if he or she participates in Medicaid. If your provider does not participate in Medicaid, you may ask if he or she would like to participate. If so, he or she may call 1-800-842-8440 to enroll.

**(See SAGA, page 4)**

**Please Alert Us to Problems!**

## **Legislature Changes Post-Eviction And Post-Foreclosure Procedures**

The General Assembly has adopted legislation – P.A. 10-171 -- that will change how tenant possessions are handled after an eviction. The same rules will also apply to the “ejection” of homeowners after a foreclosure. The new law, which took effect on July 1, was a legislative response to municipal complaints about the cost impact of their historic role in the eviction process. The law reflects a compromise that is intended to preserve tenant protections, while giving some cost relief to towns. There is, however, a concern that it may be causing problems that were not originally anticipated.

Under the old law, if a tenant failed to vacate after an eviction judgment, the tenant’s goods were moved to the street by a marshal (formerly called a “sheriff”), from where they were picked up and stored by the town. The tenant could redeem the possessions from the town. If they were not redeemed, the town would sell them at public auction.

The new law requires that the marshal, rather than the town, move the goods to the place where the town intends to store them. The rest of the law remains substantially the same. In particular, the town remains responsible for storage, return of the goods to the tenant, and auction. The law preserves the principle that the tenant’s property will at all stages be in the control of either the marshal or the town – never the landlord – and that the town will continue to be responsible for making the possessions available for release to the tenant. The town, however, will no longer have to pick the goods up (the landlord, who pays the marshal, will bear that cost).

While representatives of tenants, landlords, and marshals all agreed to accept the bill with great reluctance (all wanted the old system to stay in place), there is now much concern about how it will be implemented in practice. In theory, nothing should change other than the entity which moves the possessions.

***If anyone becomes aware of other changes in practice (e.g., a greater role for landlords in controlling the property), please contact LARCC at [Rpodolsky@larcc.org](mailto:Rpodolsky@larcc.org).***

## **Veto and Special Session June 21, 2010**

On June 21, the legislature reconvened in a one-day session to re-consider bills vetoed by the Governor and adopt some additional measures. The Governor vetoed two bills highlighted in the last issue of CABHN Fever: HB 5207 (Ban the Box) and SB 493 (Electric Industry Regulation and Rates). The legislature overrode the veto of HB 5207 but did not take any further action on SB 493. The changes in electric industry regulation will not take effect.

The legislature also adopted two new bills (SB 501 and SB 502), which the Governor signed. For the most part,

these bills clarified laws adopted in the regular session or corrected mistakes made in legislation adopted in the regular session. During the regular session, the HUSKY Plus health care program was repealed; the HUSKY Plus program was restored in SB 501.

Under legislation adopted in the regular session, over-the-counter drugs, other than insulin and insulin syringes, were removed from Medicaid coverage. Section 50 of SB 501 restores Medicaid coverage for nutritional supplements for people “who are required to be tube fed or who cannot safely ingest nutrition in any other form”.

## Update on Invalidation of Puerto Rican Birth Certificates

If you were born in Puerto Rico and are applying for services at the Connecticut Dept. of Social Services (DSS), you CAN continue to use a birth certificate issued before July 1, 2010 when applying for services **UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**.

After September 30, a voided PR birth certificate will not be accepted as a form of proof. An applicant cannot be required to show a birth certificate and can always use alternative means of proving identity. DSS must assist the applicant in finding this alternative proof.

Verification of citizenship can be done by signing an attestation of US citizenship. More proof can only be required if citizenship is questionable (ethnic background, race, etc are DO NOT make a citizenship claim questionable, things like evidence

of forgery do.)DSS should not be reverifying anyone's ID and citizenship at redeterminations solely because the birth certificate previously provided is now void.

### SAGA (Cont. from p. 3)

If you would like to find out which providers participate in Medicaid in your area, you may go to [www.ctdss-map.com](http://www.ctdss-map.com) and select the Provider Search Options or call the Client Assistance Center (1-866-409-8430).

For any other questions that you may have about this transition, please contact the Client Assistance Center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at: 1-866-409-8430 (in-state toll free) 860-269-2031 (local to Farmington, CT)

### Join our mailing list!

Please let us know if you'd like to be included on our mailing list to receive CABHN Fever via e-mail or hard copy. E-mail or call Ellen Small at [esmall@larcc.org](mailto:esmall@larcc.org) or (860) 278-5688 x208.

## Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting



Friday  
September

9:30-11:30 A.M.

Location & date  
to be announced.  
Enjoy the summer!



*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.*

Return Service Requested

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U S POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO 3377

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



## Jobs First Employment Services Program (JFES) for Parents Moving from Welfare to Work has New Rules!

*Under a new law passed this legislative session and signed by the Governor, pursuing two- and four-year degrees can now be approved work activities for parents under certain circumstances.*

**W**hen the state unemployment rate has been 8% or above for three months, activities leading to a two- or four-year degree program can be approved as work activities for parents in the Jobs First program.

**C**onnecticut's unemployment rate has been above 8% since May of 2009. The Department of Labor's Jobs First Employment Services division is now authorized to approve participation in a two- or four-year degree program as an authorized work activity for a parent in a family receiving cash assistance who is required to work.

*This DOES NOT extend the amount of time a family can receive cash assistance - usually 21 to 33 months - and it DOES NOT mean that the state will pay for tuition or other school expenses.*

*Parents wishing to pursue this option should talk to their JFES case manager and will probably have to make their own arrangements with the school that they wish to attend concerning registration, applications for financial aid and other matters relating to enrollment.*

### What does this mean?

**T**his means that the parent will be eligible for child care assistance while in school and for some transportation assistance.

**T**his means that a parent in the JFES program who has higher education as an approved JFES activity may be eligible for child care and transportation assistance in order to participate in this activity.