

<b>Highlights in this issue:</b>	
<i>InfantSEE Program</i> .....	<i>p.1</i>
<i>Social Security Basics</i> .....	<i>p.2</i>
<i>Legislative Wrap-Up</i> .....	<i>p.3</i>
<i>HUSKY Update</i> .....	<i>p.3</i>

# CABHN FEVER

## Summer Camp for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Sign Up Now!



The Salvation Army Camp CONNRI has several available slots for grandparents and other relative caregivers who are raising grandchildren and other kin. Camp CONNRI is located in Ashford, CT and offers an affordable family camping experience for grandparents and their grandchildren ages 7-11. The camp session for grand families is Saturday, August 13 through Friday, August 19.

Camp CONNRI offers a variety of activities for children and adults. Children will participate in the Youth Camp program and enjoy a week filled with swimming, arts & crafts, and other recreational activities. The grandparents will spend a week at the Lodge at CONNRI and enjoy boating,

fishing, miniature golf, shuffleboard, workshops and much more.

Registration for Camp CONNRI is held at the Salvation Army Community Services Department, 217 Washington Street in Hartford. Information needed for registration includes a birth certificate, social security card, medical insurance and income verification.

The Salvation Army of Greater Hartford offers this camp opportunity to individuals and families in Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Wethersfield, West Hartford and Windsor. For more information about grand families camp registration call (860) 543-8413 ext. 113. ❖

## Rebuilding Together Hartford

Applications are now being accepted for review in September. RTH will select houses for participation in its one-day home rehabilitation blitz on Saturday, April 26, 2006. In addition to this program, RTH is excited to inform you of an addition to this program called "Emergency Home Repair Services." This will assist Hartford's low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled and families with children, with critical issues such as lack of heat or hot water, safety and/or accessibility modifications. The aim of the program is to help people who have an immediate need that impacts the ability to live in warmth, safety and independence. Anyone who could benefit from these services should contact Rebuilding Together Hartford at 860-757-9425 or email to info@rthartford.org

Rebuilding Together Hartford (RTH) is the nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities. ❖

## Baby's First Eye Exam - Free!

The American Optometric Association (AOA) encourages parents to include a trip to the optometrist in the list of well-baby check-ups. Assessments at six to twelve months of age can determine healthy development of vision. Early detection of eye conditions is the best way to ensure your child has healthy vision for successful development-now and in the future.

InfantSEE is a public health program designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, which will be available in Summer 2005, member optometrists will provide a comprehensive infant eye assessment within the first year of life as a no cost health service. For more information, call toll-free (888) 396-EYES (3937) or visit [www.infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org). ❖

## Disability Advocacy

The Disability Advocacy Collaborative (DAC) is presenting a series of introductory meetings to share plans for the development of six regional disability advocacy networks, as well as a Disability Convention that has been set for September 16, 2006. Regional coalition building and self-advocacy workshops will be held throughout the state in the months prior to the convention in hopes of mobilizing a large number for participation at the convention. DAC will be looking for individuals to provide leadership at the regional level. The next introductory meeting will be held from 5:15-7:00 pm at:

South Central Region - July 12  
Senior Center Activity Room  
Miller Complex  
2901Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, CT

## Wanted: Advocate

CT Early Childhood Alliance seeks experienced advocate to advance state policy agenda: *All CT children will reach Kindergarten healthy, eager to learn, ready for school success.* This person will facilitate consensus process, coordinate diverse groups to meet clear objectives, engage new members, communicate social/economic policies to broad audiences. Excellent computer, writing, interpersonal skills, B.A. Knowledge of early childhood trends and legislative process. Send resume to: Juleen Flanigan, EC Alliance c/o CAHS, 110Bartholmew Ave., Hartford, CT 06106

Light refreshments will be provided. For more information on how to get involved, please call (203)-238-9391 or email [jjk1009@hotmail.com](mailto:jjk1009@hotmail.com). ❖



## Social Security Reform - The Basics

*“Social Security is one of America’s most successful government programs. It has helped millions of Americans avoid poverty in old age, upon becoming disabled, or after the death of a family wage earner.”*

This opening sentence of The Brookings Institution Policy Brief #126, written by Peter Diamond, an MIT economist, and Peter Orszag of the Brookings Institution, highlights why keeping Social Security available and solvent is so important. Here’s a little more background information on this important issue (adapted from a brief produced by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities):

### Is Social Security working?

Yes. Social Security benefits raise nearly 13 million American seniors out of poverty, greatly reducing the share of America’s elderly population that is poor. Without Social Security income, about 47% of elderly people in the United States have income below the poverty line. With Social Security income, only 8.7% are poor. In Connecticut, Social Security lifts 157,000 seniors above the poverty line, reducing elderly poverty from 37% to 5%.

### Is Social Security in danger of disappearing?

No. While Social Security faces a significant long-term funding shortfall, the Social Security Trustees report that it will be able to pay full benefits until 2041 and about 70% of promised benefits after that, even if no changes are made to the program. The Congressional Budget Office has more optimistic projections. The CBO research indicates that Social Security can pay full benefits up to 2052 and close to 80% of promised benefits after that.

### Are radical changes needed to maintain Social Security?

No. The Social Security shortfall over the next 75 years is about one-third to one-fifth as big as the cost the Bush Administration’s tax cuts over that period. The Social Security shortfall can be closed through a mix of moderate benefit changes and new revenues phased in over a number of years.

A number of these proposals are discussed in the Brookings Institution’s Policy Brief. There is a link to that brief, and much more information about Social Security on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities website ([www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)). The AARP website ([www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)) also has a lot of information on this issue and a set of proposals for keeping Social Security solvent. ❖

## Correction...

Connecticut's Health and Human Services (CHSS) database, maintained by 2-1-1 Infoline/United Way of Connecticut, is on the web and accessible to all. The search engine has just been redesigned and you are invited to check it out by going to this site and trying out different searches. Please update the web address that was listed in May's Cabhn Fever. The correct address is:

[www.infoline.org/referweb/](http://www.infoline.org/referweb/)



## Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) offers children the opportunity to obtain free, nourishing meals during the summer months. Frequently, food pantries and soup kitchen report increased demand in the summer, due to the number of children who lose the benefit of free and reduced price school meals when school is out. Most SFSP sites are open between late June and mid-August. To find the the nearest open SFSP site, call Infoline 2-1-1. ❖

## Transportation Forums

Help shape the DOT state action plan for a coordinated transportation system.

The UConn Center on Disabilities is sponsoring a series of forums on transportation and they need to hear from people with disabilities who use various local bus services and specialized transportation services.

### Here’s what they need to know:

- What programs/services work well?
- What are the biggest gaps/barriers/obstacles you experience?
- What are your needs for training and customer service?
- What are the most important areas for action?

### When & where will the forums be held?

**July 14, 10:00 – 12:30**

Torrington, Northwest Chamber

C o - s p o n s o r s W e C A H R ,  
Independence Northwest, Litchfield  
ARC

**July 19, 1:00 – 3:30**

Newington Senior & Disabled Center

**July 28, 4:45 – 7:00**

Miller Hamden Library/Senior Center,  
Hamden

**August 16, 1:00 - 3:30**

North Branch Library Community  
Center, Bridgeport

Co-sponsor: Disability Resource  
Center of Fairfield County

Call for directions or if there are any accommodation you will need. Limited funds will be available for transportation.

Contact: Jayne J. Kleinman

Phone: (860) 679-1575

Fax: (860) 679-1571

TTY: (860) 679-1502

Tollfree: (866) 623-1315

Email: [jkleinman@uchc.edu](mailto:jkleinman@uchc.edu)



## 2005 Legislative Wrap-Up

The 2005 legislative session ended on June 8 and many of the issues that we were working on were addressed either in the final budget language or through specific legislation. The DSS implementer bill (HB 7000) contains many of these proposals and was passed on the last night of the session after much negotiations. Here's an update on what happened this session regarding some of the legislation we worked on and the issues we care about:

■ **HUSKY A, HB 1323**, would have expanded HUSKY A to 185% of the FPL. This bill was not successful but the concept stayed viable through budget negotiations. The final budget and DSS Implementer restores coverage for HUSKY adults up to 150%. However, DSS will be seeking federal approval for a \$1 co-pay on outpatient visits and a \$25 per adult/per month premium.

■ **SAGA Medical, HB 6927** - would have restored services to the SAGA Medical program and removed the program funding cap. This bill was not successful but the budget did allocate \$500,000 for a 100 person pilot for 18 to 21 year olds with a diagnosis of mental illness and a chronic health condition who live with parents or caretakers who have income that would make them ineligible for SAGA Medical. Individuals are presumed to be waiting for SSI disability approvals during the period of eligibility.

■ **Preferred Drug Lists (PDL), SB 607** - language to provide consumer protections to any PDL for low-income ConnPACE, SAGA and Medicaid recipients was not successful.

■ **Medicare Part D Protections, HB 6846** - would have provided protections for those low income individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid but will be subject to co-pays and possibly restrictions on available drugs when the new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan takes effect in January. This bill was unsuccessful and the final budget and implementer

language also did not cover the gaps in coverage.

■ **Presumptive Eligibility for HUSKY kids** - was restored in the DSS Implementer. This allows for same-day enrollment in HUSKY thereby allowing children to get care when they need it.

■ **State Supp COLA - HB 5290**, allows State Supp recipients to receive federal cost-of-living increases without incurring a corresponding decrease in state supplement benefits. This bill passed both Houses but at the time of this writing was not yet signed by the Governor.

■ **Unemployment Compensation - HB 6751, PA 05-34**, allows DOL to use an alternate base period (ABP) when determining eligibility for UC benefits through December of '07. The ABP particularly benefits new entrants to the work force.

■ **Minimum Wage, HB 6228, PA 05-32**, increased the minimum wage from \$7.10 to \$7.40 on Jan 1, 2006 and \$7.65 on Jan 1, 2007.

■ **Expansion Of State RAP (Rental Assistance Program)** - The state budget includes \$1.8 million per year in new funding to permit the issuance of about 225 new RAP certificates.

■ **Rehabilitation Of State-Assisted Public Housing, SB 2003** - The legislature authorized the issuance of \$36 million in DECD bonding for housing,

of which \$12 million is explicitly earmarked for "health and safety, modernization, and restructuring" of state family and elderly public housing.

■ **Next Steps Supportive Housing Initiative, HB 7000, PA 05-280** - This initiative creates 500 new units of supportive housing.

■ **Desirable Landlord-Tenant Bills - HB 6598, PA 05-56** prohibits heat and utility surcharge clauses in residential leases. HB 6539, PA 05-223 allows towns to require absentee landlords to provide actual residential address, rather than a post office box. This is intended to help in housing code enforcement.

■ **Small Claims Jurisdiction, SB 1142, PA 05-42** — The legislature raised the maximum amount for which a lawsuit can be brought in small claims court from \$3,500 to \$5,000.

■ **Elderly/Disabled Public Housing — (HB 6594, PA 05-206, and HB 6662, PA 05-239)**. Revise the job description of resident service coordinators to focus more on conflict resolution, promote better training of such coordinators, and require linkage to state agencies and community organizations which can provide support services for residents of elderly/disabled housing.

■ **New Funding Sources For Affordable Housing - Housing Trust Fund** - \$100 million—\$20 million annually for five years, was designated through the general bond fund for the development of affordable housing. **(Cont. page 4)**

### HUSKY Parent Coverage Restored!

Parents with children on HUSKY who have family income between 100 - 150% of the federal poverty level, are once again eligible for HUSKY coverage. There may be future costs to parents of \$1 per doctor's visit and a \$25 per

Family size	Your family's yearly income is below
2 people	\$19,245
3 people	\$24,135
4 people	\$29,025
5 people	\$33,915

month premium, but those costs have not yet been approved or implemented. Use this chart to see if you are income eligible and call your family's HUSKY caseworker to enroll!

## July 15<sup>th</sup> Resource Fair

*"Food, Health & Nutrition"*

331 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford,  
CT from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

Join the CT Association for Human Services (CAHS) for a day of fun, education and referrals!

### What's going on?

- ✓ Food stamp pre-screenings and applications
- ✓ Puppet shows
- ✓ Information on diabetes, nutrition, food programs
- ✓ Free vision screenings
- ✓ Free referrals for mammograms and much more!

Some participating agencies are the Hispanic Health Council, End Hunger CT!, American Heart Association and Hartford Hospital. For more information, call CAHS at (860) 951-2212 ext. 241. ❖

## Wrap-Up (Cont. from p. 3)

**Early care and Education** - Funding was increased by about \$24 million for a variety of purposes. Unfortunately, funding for the Care4Kids Child Care Subsidy was cut slightly.

**Refund Anticipation Loans - HB 6830, PA 05-107.** The law limits interest rates on income tax RAL (the costs to consumers of rapid tax refunds) to 60% for first 21 days and 20% thereafter. ❖



To find out which CT Farmers' Markets are WIC certified, go to [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov) and click on "Visit a Connecticut Farmers' Market". There are complete listings by area and WIC certified markets are noted.

## CABHN Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

9:30 - 11:30 am

### Upcoming Meetings:

**Sept. 9th**

Community Renewal Team  
(CRT)

555 Windsor St., Hartford

*Sept. 9th Topics:*

*Summer Recap &*

*Fall Plans*

**See you there!**

**Have a great 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.*

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Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and  
CABHN (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)  
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