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# CABHN FEVER



## **Now Available: 2006-2008 Guide to Programs That Help People in CT**

This updated desk reference is now available. *Programs That Help People in Connecticut* gives an overview of federal, state, and local programs that provide assistance to residents of Connecticut. Agencies and programs listed in the guide fall under the following areas: basic needs; crisis and emergency management; abuse and neglect; health care; disabilities; substance abuse; criminal justice; children, youth and families; elders; veterans; money management; transportation; homeownership; and advocacy and legal assistance. A companion guide for clients, written in English and Spanish, will be available soon.

*Programs That Help People in Connecticut* is a joint project of Connecticut Light & Power, which funds and publishes the guide, and The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), which updates and verifies the information in the guide. To obtain a single copy of the guide, send an e-mail to [info@cahs.org](mailto:info@cahs.org). For bulk shipments, send a snail mail request indicating number of copies needed to: Community Relations, Northeast Utilities System, PO Box 270, Hartford CT 06106-8641. ❖

## **Button Up Connecticut**



Help someone fight the chill of winter by taking part with Channel 3 and Siracusa Moving & Storage in the Button Up Connecticut coat drive. Please donate your new or gently used winter coat to a drop box located at Price Chopper stores in Bristol, Southington, Newington and Vernon. There will also be a drop off point set up on Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highland Park parking lot at Evergreen Walk, 501 Evergreen Way, South Windsor. If your company, school, religious or civic organization would like to participate, please call the Button Up Connecticut hot line at 860-259-0239 or email [ljefferys@siracusamoving.com](mailto:ljefferys@siracusamoving.com). Please help warm the hearts of the men, women and children in our State who would otherwise experience a cold winter. The drive ends on December 2. ❖

## **KIDS COUNT Forum Focuses on Children of Low-Income Working Families**

The Connecticut Association for Human Services will release the 2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book at a policy forum on Monday, November 27, from 1 – 3 p.m., in Room 2E at the Legislative Office Building. The report, “Seeds of Prosperity: Children of Low-Income Working Families” tracks child well-being through specific sets of indicators such as child poverty, parental employment, health care, child care, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The forum will feature two speakers who will comment on the “Seeds of Prosperity” policy recommendations and their implications for Connecticut. Jodie Levin-Epstein is the Deputy Director and Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy. Ron Haskins is Senior Fellow of Economic Studies and Co-Director on

Children and Families at the Brookings Institution.

The public is welcome to this event. For more information, please contact Jude Carroll, CAHS KIDS COUNT Director, at 860-951-2212, ext. 240.

Additional publications available from CAHS:

*Your Family's Money: Simple ways to build a better future*

*A Handbook for Hartford Area Families*

To obtain a copy in English or Spanish, go to [www.CAHS.org](http://www.CAHS.org), email [info@cahs.org](mailto:info@cahs.org) or call (860) 951-2212.

## **Holiday Gift Collection**



The St. Luke’s LifeWorks/Bread & Roses Holiday Gift Collection, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is the only volunteer-driven project of its kind in the Fairfield County/New Haven region dedicated to collecting, wrapping and delivering personalized gifts to thousands of children who may otherwise not receive gifts for the holidays. The children range in age from infants to middle-schoolers and live in Fairfield County and New Haven, areas of the state hit hardest by the AIDS epidemic.

### **How You Can Help:**

Sponsor a child (or children), coordinate a sponsorship drive at your workplace, religious organization or group, hold a general toy drive for the most requested items, plan a fundraiser to support the Holiday Gift Collection or volunteer your time and talent.

There is also a wish list of needed supplies. For more information, please go to [www.stlukeslifeworks.org/HolidayGiftCollection2006.htm](http://www.stlukeslifeworks.org/HolidayGiftCollection2006.htm) or contact Jane Jansen Seymour by calling (203) 388-0122 or email at [jseymour@stlukeslifeworks.org](mailto:jseymour@stlukeslifeworks.org). ❖



## Two Free Educational Workshops/Trainings Offered

### 1 Medicare Part D

Trained facilitators are now available to conduct small educational workshops for staff members and Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

The facilitators will provide:

- Specific information about what Medicare Part D beneficiaries should expect in the coming months
- A detailed timeline for enrollment activity and relevant resources;
- Individualized responses to questions and assistance understanding complicated application or enrollment processes;
- Follow up tasks for both staff and beneficiaries.

**Please note:** These workshops are offered as a free in-service for groups of 8-15 participants.

To arrange a workshop, please contact:

Alicia Woodsby, MSW, NAMI-CT Public Policy Coordinator, 30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Call 860-882-0236 or toll free (800) 215-3021 [publicpolicy@namict.org](mailto:publicpolicy@namict.org) ❖

### Free Credit Report!

Don't forget, you are entitled to obtain one free credit report per year from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

Monitoring and periodically reviewing your credit report is an effective tool in fighting identity theft. Get your copy by calling 1-877-322-8228 or go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) Please be aware that this is the ONLY website you should use to order your free credit report.

### The Gift of Sight

In 1988, LensCrafters created Give the Gift of Sight, a family of charitable vision care programs that provides free eye care  
(See *Sight p.4*)

### 2 HUSKY Training Forums Scheduled

The Department of Social Services, Covering Connecticut's Kids and Families and several local organizations are sponsoring training forums on the HUSKY program in cities around the state, including Bridgeport, Hartford, Manchester, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, Stamford, Waterbury, and Willimantic. The forums, which will take place in November and December, are aimed at both DSS staff and staff from community organizations who want to help families apply for and retain HUSKY coverage.

#### Topics will include:

- New self-declaration verification rules: Regular employment vs. self-employment
- How income is counted for parents who are undocumented compared to parents who are citizens or permanent residents
- Citizenship and identification verification
- HUSKY A to B: issues and resolutions

There will be continued discussion of past forum issues: coverage for 18-year-olds; processing emergency medical for labor and delivery; use of new child support forms and child care deductions

The schedule of forums with RSVP contact information is on the CT Voices for Children Web site:

<http://www.ctkidslink.org/media/announcements/2006huskyforums.pdf> ❖



### Ansonia and Middletown Open Section 8 Voucher Wait Lists

The Ansonia and Middletown Housing Authorities will be accepting completed pre-applications, BY MAIL ONLY, for the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

**Ansonia:** A pre-application will appear for two days only, November 25 and 26, in the Connecticut Post and the New Haven Register. This form may be reproduced.

Pre-applications must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2006 and mailed to:

**Ansonia Housing Authority  
Pre-Application Form  
36 Main Street  
Ansonia, Ct 06401**

On December 15, at 9:00 A.M., a drawing of 1225 pre-applications will be conducted at the Ansonia Housing Authority office. Applicants need not

be present and selected applicants will be notified.

**Middletown:** A pre-application will appear for two days only, December 3 and 4, in the Middletown Press, the Hartford Courant and the Meriden Record. This form may be reproduced. Pre-applications must be postmarked no later than December 6, 2006 and mailed to:

**Middletown Housing Authority  
Section 8 Wait List  
40 Broad Street  
Middletown, CT 06457**

On December 15, 200 pre-applications will be drawn at random and selected applicants will be notified.

**Please note:** Pre-applications for either town *will not* be accepted by fax or hand delivery to the housing authority offices. ❖



## **Primary Care Case Management in the HUSKY Program: A Better Option for Connecticut Medicaid**

About 305,000 children and their parents are enrolled in HUSKY A, the Connecticut family Medicaid program. HUSKY health care is provided through a managed care system administered by HMOs (health maintenance organizations). This year, advocates are proposing that Connecticut develop an alternative system, Primary Care Case Management (PCCM), which could provide coordinated care management and increase access to needed services for HUSKY participants.

### **What is Primary Care Case Management (PCCM)?**

PCCM is a way of running Connecticut's HUSKY program with care management without using HMOs. In PCCM, consumers are linked to a primary care provider, such as a clinic or doctor, who is responsible for managing their care. Providers bill the state directly for the health care services they provide and receive a modest additional fee for providing care coordination and management.

30 other states use PCCM. These states have enjoyed great success with their PCCM programs. According to the Connecticut Health Policy Project,

■ PCCM improves patient outcomes; immunization rates in Virginia are higher for children in PCCM programs than those in HMOs.

■ Given a choice, consumers overwhelmingly choose PCCM plans over HMOs. Consumers in PCCM programs report greater satisfaction with the program than those in HMOs.

■ Providers are more willing to participate in PCCM-based Medicaid programs than in HMOs.

■ PCCM programs save states as much money as full-risk (HMO) plans.

### **Why Should Connecticut Consider PCCM?**

Connecticut's Medicaid program is in trouble. More than one in three HUSKY children do not get check ups each year; those rates are worse than our surrounding states. Less than half of children get any dental care in a year. Only 5.7% of Connecticut physicians participate in Medicaid; this is far lower than in surrounding states.

Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein has raised concerns about the coordinated care delivered by the HMOs. In a July 5, 2006 letter to the Department of Social Services, she noted: "Our investigation involving children with special health care needs has revealed care described as fragmented and poorly-coordinated."

Advocates and providers have been unable to get information to evaluate HMO costs and services. A decision they obtained from the Freedom of Information Commission requiring that Medicaid HMO data about health access problems be made public, under the provisions of the state's Freedom of Information Act, is currently being defended in court by legal services organizations, the State Health Care advocate and others.

For more information on PCCMs, go to the Connecticut Health Policy Project website: [www.cthealthpolicy.org](http://www.cthealthpolicy.org).

### **Shelter List Available**

The Coalition to End Homelessness has compiled a listing of shelters that will be operating this 2006-2007 winter season. View this list by going to [www.cceh.org](http://www.cceh.org) and clicking on the icon for WinterOverflow/NoFreeze Shelters.

If there are additional overflow/no freeze shelters that are not listed here, please contact the Coalition at (860) 721- 7876 or e-mail [info@cceh.org](mailto:info@cceh.org).

## **Elections Change State House and Senate; Gov. Rell Re-Elected**

In the November elections, Governor Jodi M. Rell was elected to a full four-year term, the state Senate retained its split of 24 Democrats and 12 Republicans and the state House of Representatives became more heavily Democratic. There will be at least 105 Democrats in the House and at least 44 Republicans. One race is undecided; a recount is required. These numbers mean that Democrats hold more than 2/3 (66.7%) of the seats in each house - enough votes to override a gubernatorial veto.

However, passing a budget which includes spending over the state spending cap requires that the Governor declare an emergency or extraordinary circumstances AND that 60% of the House and of the Senate agree to the proposed budget.

**State Senate:** Sen. Chris Murphy (D) was elected to the US House of Representatives, replacing US Rep. Nancy Johnson. His seat in the state Senate was taken by Sam Caligiuri of Waterbury, a Republican. Andrew Maynard (D) is replacing Sen. Cathy Cook (R), who retired to run unsuccessfully for Comptroller. Paul Doyle (D), formerly a state Representative, was elected to the Senate from the Wethersfield area, replacing Billy Ciotto (D) and Dan Debicella (R) was elected from the Naugatuck Valley to replace "Doc" Gunther (R). Both Ciotto and Gunther retired.

**State House of Representatives:** There are 18 new House members. In most cases, the new representatives are replacing retiring members of the House. Incumbents who were defeated include: Robert Heagney (Simsbury), Robert Michele (Bristol) Cathy Tymniak (Fairfield), and Don Sherer (Stamford). ❖

## Home Repairs

Do you know of anyone whose home needs help? *AmeriCares HomeFront Volunteers* are ready to repair 180 homes at no cost to qualified low income and disabled homeowners next spring. For more information please call: AmeriCares HomeFront at 1 (800) 887-HOPE.❖



### **Reminder!** **It's Time for Your Flu Shot**

You can find out where flu shot clinics are being offered in your area by:

1. asking your primary care physician,
2. going to this website:  
<http://flucliniclocator.org>, or
3. calling 1-888-NO-TO-FLU (1-888-668-6358) M-F, 9-3PM.❖

## Sight (Cont. from page 2)

and glasses to those in need in our communities and in developing countries around the world. Gift of Sight is sponsored by the Gift of Sight Foundation, Lions Clubs International and local charities across North America. You can learn more about Gift of Sight at [www.givethegiftofsight.org](http://www.givethegiftofsight.org).

If you are a potential recipient needing free eye care from the Gift of Sight program, please contact your local LensCrafter store and ask for the Gift of Sight captain. Don't forget, your old glasses can help others see. Drop off your old glasses at any LensCrafters store. ❖



If you or your organization would like to receive our newsletter by email or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact [dbrown@larcc.org](mailto:dbrown@larcc.org) or call 860-278-5688 x10.

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

**9:30 - 11:30 am**

### **Upcoming Meeting:**

**Friday, December 1**

**Community Renewal Team  
(CRT)**

**555 Windsor St., Hartford**

*Topics:*

*-Review Election Results*

*-Designing An Agenda for Family  
Economic Security for 2007 with  
the CT Association for Human  
Services*

*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)**  
80 Jefferson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106