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CABHN FEVER

Child Poverty Rates Among Connecticut Cities

Recently released data from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) finds that child poverty rates* in four of the five largest Connecticut cities have increased since the Decennial Census in 2000.

- In 2000, Hartford had the second-highest child poverty rate among United States cities. Hartford now ranks 6th highest among US cities. This is not because child poverty declined; Hartford's child poverty rate actually increased slightly from 41.3% in 2000 to 43.4% in 2006. Hartford's relative improvement in ranking stems, instead, from the fact that four other US cities increased their rates of child poverty even more than did Hartford. Hartford consistently ranked in the top ten of US cities with the greatest rates of child poverty, yet it is the capital city of one of the wealthiest states in the country.
- Among Connecticut's four other large cities-Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury-all but New Haven had an increase in the proportion of their children living in poverty.
- Waterbury had the greatest growth in child poverty, with the percentage of poor children increasing to 33.5% in 2006 from 23.9% in 2000. This placed Waterbury among the top 50 US cities with the greatest proportion of children living in poverty, and higher in child poverty than New Haven and Bridgeport.
- New Haven's proportion of children living in poverty dropped from 32.6% in 2000 to 27.6% in 2006.

The increase in child poverty in Connecticut cities can be partially attributed to the fact that the state's economic growth has been skewed in favor of the wealthiest Connecticut residents. In 2006, productivity and profits grew while the wages in all but the highest wage levels declined.

For more information on child poverty rates in Connecticut visit: http://www.ctkidslink.org/pub_detail_371.html

For more information on Connecticut's wages and workforce visit: http://www.ctkidslink.org/pub_detail_370.html

*Although the sample size of the survey enables reliable estimates for cities as small as 65,000 persons, there is a margin of error in any estimate based on sampling. ACS data also may vary slightly. *Submitted by Taby Ali, Policy Fellow - CT Voices' For Children*



New Long-Term Care Website

Governor Rell has announced the launch of a new Long-Term Care Website. Most people will need assistance with activities of daily living at some point in their lives, whether due to aging, injury, illness or disability. Knowing what kind of help is needed and available and how to obtain it is not an easy task. Whether you need help now or are exploring future options for yourself or a loved one, this web site can assist you. To access this information, go to www.ct.gov/longtermcare.

CT Money Conference For Women



Attend this FREE one day conference designed to help you take control and master your finances. Brought to you by the YWCA of the Hartford Region and the Office of State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, this conference features renowned talk show host Dee Lee, workshops, one-on-one counseling, expo, resource materials, and complimentary refreshments.

Saturday, November 3, 2007;
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT; 8:00am-1:30pm.

Pre-register by calling the YWCA, 860-525-1163 or visit <http://www.ctmoneyconferenceforwomen.com/>

Stand Up To Bullying!

Monday, October 22, 2007

On Monday, October 22, 2007 from 8:45 am until 12:30 pm, the Office of the Child Advocate and the CT Commission on Children will be sponsoring a forum entitled, "Stand up to Bullying!" in Room 2-C, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT.

The forum will include: A keynote address by Ken Rigby, Ph.D., an internationally acclaimed expert on bullying prevention. Dr. Rigby, an adjunct research professor and consultant based at the University of South Australia, is the author of, "Bullying in Schools and What to Do About It" a book regarded as a standard text on the subject. He will also be the featured keynote speaker at the November 2007 conference of the International Bullying Prevention Association.

For more information or to register please visit: http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/bully_registration.htm.

Connecticut Community Action Agencies Develop Model Programs to Help Families Move Out of Poverty

The Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA), the statewide network of Community Action Agencies, has adopted a new three-year Strategic Plan which focuses on supporting Connecticut in its effort to reduce child poverty by 50 percent.

A number of agencies are developing local strategies around the 'reducing child poverty' agenda and four of the agencies are experimenting with model programs to work intensively with clients to help them move out of poverty. This article will highlight two of those programs. Next month, we will describe the work of Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD) and Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA).

Community Renewal Team's Steps to Success

Hartford's Community Renewal Team has developed a new approach, based on the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) model, called Steps to Success, to help families make the move from poverty to a secure future. Steps to Success combines:

- 1) a thorough intake and goal-setting process with each client;
- 2) increasing the skill-sets of case managers; and
- 3) moving beyond programmatic silos to address all the needs of client families.

CRT has established Steps to Success Resource Teams, which put case managers in touch with staff from other CRT program areas. This fall, the first of these cross-functioning teams will begin to work with 60-75 families to assist them to access the

resources and support to help them achieve their goals. Lena Rodriguez, President and CEO of CRT, emphasized the importance of this new approach: "Considering the multiple barriers that are facing our clients, we need to take a more holistic and a more proactive approach to help them reach comfort and independence. We think Steps to Success is the best way for us to do this."

New Opportunities' Circles™ Campaign

New Opportunities, Inc., in Waterbury, is one of the first agencies to initiate a local Circles™ initiative as part of a national Circles™ Campaign. The Circles™ Campaign is a new initiative that will engage communities in joining with 1,000 families of low income to find paths out of poverty and to document the challenges and victories of this process. The stories and research from this initiative will be used to inspire and equip national, state, and community leaders to expand their local and national intention and capacity for reducing and eventually eliminating poverty. Based on the results, leaders from across the nation can design a new, coherent and powerful social contract between hard-working, play-by-the-rules families, local communities and government. The new contract can accelerate solutions to reducing and eventually ending poverty in the United States.

A Circle is comprised of a family working to get out of poverty and two to four community allies, people who are willing to befriend the family and support their way out of poverty. Local Circle initiatives have three goals:

- 1) invite the community to join the human service system in helping people out of poverty,

- 2) inspire and equip the community to eradicate poverty, and
- 3) develop genuine and lasting relationships across socioeconomic class lines with an intention of facilitating low-income people moving permanently out of poverty.

New Opportunities will be one of the first agencies to bring together a Guiding Coalition, the community-based governing bodies for Circles™, and work with 12-25 Circles™ in the Waterbury area. Lessons learned in Waterbury and by other Guiding Coalitions around the country will inform the work of the initiative as it expands to 1,000 communities in the next decade.

Treatment Facilities Cannot Ban Clients on the Basis of Behavior

CT has wonderful laws that protect people with disability-related behavior problems from having their medical treatment cut off. The laws say that a "public accommodation," which is any place that is open to the public or receives public funds (such as Medicare or Medicaid) may not discriminate on the basis of mental or physical disability, as well as other protected categories.

Often, people with chronic physical illness also have symptoms that seem like behavior problems: being unpleasant, cursing, not cooperating, becoming impatient while waiting for treatment, and so on. Treatment facilities are required to try to reasonably accommodate such patients, which means they must make some effort to find a way for that person to receive the treatment s/he needs, even though s/he might act out in an unpleasant way.

Some reasonable accommodations might include: having the patient come for treatment at less busy times or arranging for him/her to receive

(See *Treatment p. 4*)

Housing Advocates Seek Restoration Of State Funds For State Public And Non-Profit Housing

State low-income housing advocates, working together with the Public Housing Resident Network and representatives of the state's housing authorities, are trying to get the General Assembly to restore \$3.9 million to two housing programs that help reduce rents in public and non-profit housing.

More than 10,000 units of housing in about 100 developments in 31 towns are affected. The programs were eliminated in the state budget that took effect on July 1.

The programs are:

- (1) Public Housing PILOT Program *and*
- (2) Non-Profit Tax Abatement Program

Under these programs, which were created in 1967, the state pays to the towns all or part of the property taxes that would otherwise be owed by the housing developments, thereby permitting lower rents to be charged to the tenants. Elimination of funding is likely to result in many towns charging the owners of the housing for the property taxes. This cost will likely be passed on to the residents of the housing as higher rents.

The PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) Program pays the property tax obligation of housing authorities that operate state family public housing (known as "Moderate Rental Housing") in 22 towns. Such housing includes Westbrook Village in Hartford, Johnson Farms in Meriden, Oak Park in Stamford, Meadowview in Stratford, Laurel Park in Enfield, and many others, all of it occupied by very low-income renters. If funding is not restored and if the cuts are passed on to the tenants, it will require an average

base rent increase of \$68 per month per apartment to cover the housing authority's higher tax bill, all of it paid by the lowest income tenants in the development.

The Tax Abatement Program affects non-profit housing in 14 towns, including 1,734 units in New Haven, 1,622 units in Hartford, 971 units in Stamford, and 578 units in Waterbury. It will require average rent increases of \$25 per unit per month if this revenue loss is passed on to tenants.

It appears that many legislators who voted for these cuts erroneously believed that the housing involved was tax exempt and would not have to pay local property taxes if the state payments to towns were eliminated. To the contrary, all these properties are subject to local property tax, which the towns are allowed to assess on them if the state does not make the payments.

It is politically difficult, but not impossible, to restore these cuts during the current fiscal year so as to prevent any costs from being passed on to the residents of this housing. You can help by contacting the Governor's Office and your local state legislators and urging them to restore funding for Public Housing PILOT and the Tax Abatement Programs. A list of the towns and developments affected can be found on the LARCC website at www.larcc.org.

48,350 Applications for RAP and Section 8



Recently, the Department of Social Services received 48,350 applications for the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Section 8 Subsidies during a two week period in which the waiting list was opened. 12,000 of these applicants have been added to the Section 8 and RAP waiting lists. All applicants should have received a letter telling them if



Advocacy Trainings Offered

The Keep the Promise Coalition is offering legislative advocacy trainings for mental health advocates, consumers, family members, and other community partners.

The trainings are facilitated by Jan Van Tassel, Esq., Executive Director of CT Legal Rights Project, and Doreen Del Bianco, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals interested in learning more about the legislative process and advocacy, and it's free!

Basic Legislative Advocacy Training: October 24th and 31st

This discusses the "essentials" of the legislative process and how to influence elected officials. The 2 day class will be held in a hearing room at the LOB in Hartford. A tour of the Capitol and the LOB is included along with lunch.

Advanced Legislative Leadership Training: December 5th and 12th

This is for experienced advocates interested in knowing more details about the legislative process & playing a lead role in Keep The Promise advocacy at the LOB or locally. This 2 day class will be held in a hearing room at the LOB in Hartford. Lunch will be provided.

To register, please contact Maura Sheil-Hughes, Assistant Coordinator of Keep the Promise, at 1-800-215-3021 or ktpassistant@namict.org.

they made the waiting list. There were over 3,000 letters returned by the post office. If you know of anyone who didn't get a letter, their contact information (name and address) can be sent to D'Amelia & Associates, 2 Lakewood Rd., Waterbury, CT 06704 and their letters will be re-sent.

Resource for Non-Profit Organizations

International Distribution Systems (IDS) - is an intermediary agency within the non-profit community. IDS is an intermediary to assist non-profit organizations in their search for donated or low cost purchase items. Their goal is to source items that non-profit organizations can utilize in meeting the front line needs of those they are serving or ministering to. Equally as important, the items they source help the non-profit meet those needs as cost effectively as possible. To view the IDS catalog, go to <http://www.idsupdate.com/update/index.html>

Items regularly available through IDS include clothing (infant up to adult), educational materials, hygiene items, disposable medical supplies, toys, vegetable seeds, and much more.

Treatment (Cont. from p.2)

treatment in a private room at the facility. However, the facility cannot simply tell the patient s/he can never come back without first trying to reasonably accommodate him/her.

If you know of people who are experiencing this kind of discrimination, please contact Randi Mezzy at 1-800-413-7797 for advice. People who are discriminated against can also contact the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the state agency that investigates discrimination.

Housing Help

You can register to receive automatic notice of the opening of Housing Choice Voucher waiting lists whenever they occur by going to: http://www.das.state.ct.us/Business_Svs/HCVP/HCVP_Home.asp

CABHN Meetings

Upcoming Meeting

CABHN/FESN Meeting

9:30-11:30 am

Friday October 12

(CRT)

555 Windsor St.

Hartford

Friday, November 9

The Lyceum

555 Windsor St.

Hartford

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

CABHN FEVER

**E-Mail
Supplement**

Public Action Event

Join hundreds of parents, State Legislators and elected officials for an event of celebration, education and action at the Learning Corridor, Theater of the Performing Arts, 395 Washington Ave., Hartford. During this event on Saturday, October 20th from 9:30-12:00PM., CT Parent Power will unveil what State Legislators and elected officials have done on behalf of children and families and ask for their commitment to the Top Parent Issues.

CT Parent Power is a network of parents impacting state policy to put children first. To register to attend, go to www.ctparentpower.org or call (860) 209-1234 or email ann@ctparentpower.org.

DECD Housing Locator

The CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers a FREE housing locator service at www.CTHousingSearch.orr.

Voting Rights!

If you have questions about voting rights, call the Connecticut Voter Rights Project Hotline at 1-888-822-5828.



A Symposium

Migration: A Global Challenge
Tuesday, November 13, 2007
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Saint Joseph College
Crystal Room, Mercy Hall
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

This symposium will include a keynote address "The Wall: If We Build It, Will They Come?" by Gay Moorhead, RSM, currently serving as President of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Rochester, N.Y. She is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and a member of the New York State Bar. For over a decade she represented children in family court proceedings in New York and more recently, immigrants in deportation proceedings in El Paso. She was coordinator of the Mercy Migrant Education Ministry, a mobile school and health and social services ministry, serving primary aged Hispanic migrant children and their families in Florida and Ohio (1993-2001).

Also included in the agenda:
Immigrant Stories
Panel Discussion
Action Steps

Co-Sponsors are the Collaborative Center for Justice; Office of International Studies and Programs Saint Joseph College; Hartford Public Library

The symposium is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Seating is limited so please contact by email: advocacy@ccfj.org or phone 860-692-3066 or fax 860-692-3068

<http://www.ccfj.org/calendar.htm>



AHEC Annual Meeting

Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will have its Annual Meeting on November 13th from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Spa of Norwich Inn.

Special Program: Universal Health Care: What does it really mean? Author James W. Russell will present Western European models of universal health care, followed by a panel discussion representing business, faith, government, and the community. Russell is a Professor of Sociology with Eastern Connecticut State University.

Please RSVP by November 9th to Laura Bachman

healthcare4every1 Campaign Organizer

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