



Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council

From: Sharice Coleman, Homeless & Housing Advocate

Re: October, 2013 Monthly Report

cc: ARC Executive Director & ARC Board of Directors

I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the City Council, Dream Homes Community Center (DHCC) was established at ARC to serve as the Point of Entry for people who are homeless or low-income renters and to facilitate first-time home ownership for people with hard-to-serve backgrounds.

II. Program Updates

Dream Homes Community Center continues to put the “Boots on the Ground” in the efforts to end homelessness. The numbers of people served throughout the city Danbury continue to increase. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served 278 people in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2013.

Point of Entry

As of July 1, 2013, DHCC has provided services to **383** people (58#individuals and 109 couples and families) through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown of people served:

Town	July 2011 - June 2012	July 2012- June 2013	July 2013-October 2013
Danbury	592	590	278
Bethel	26	62	22
Brookfield	33	14	7
New Fairfield	34	22	2
New Milford	77	68	20
Newtown	4	16	0
Redding	7	0	0
Ridgefield	8	5	8

Sherman	2	1	4
Other Towns	45	58	42
Total	828	836	383

III. Outreach Highlights: Dream Homes Staff attended the following meetings and trainings:

- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman (for Individuals) and Heather Ely (for Families) hosted a funders meeting. Different agencies from the community were invited to ARC to discuss what funding services are available and what a proper referral would be to send to these agencies.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended the monthly Continuum of Care meeting. Kristen Granatek from CCEH was the guest speaker. Meeting was centered on the Duty Service Coordinator position for the new Coordinated Access. Committee also discussed when to expect Coordinated Access to be implemented.
- Housing Advocate Heather Ely attended the monthly Danbury Housing Partnership meeting. Committee members discussed updates on the RFP which was posted earlier this month. No submissions for the RFP have been received.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended the Project Homeless Connect meeting. Committee members continued to prepare for the upcoming event which will be held on December 14, 2013. Members continued to update the committee on the status of their assignments. Members discussed and agreed to have next meeting at WCSU for a walk through of the gym to discuss the set up of the event.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely continue to meet once a week at Dorothy Day to perform outreach and to do CT-HMIS data intake on people who spent the night at Dorothy Day Shelter.
- Housing Advocates. Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended bi-weekly case management meetings at Catholic Charities. Case Managers from different organizations in the community came together to discuss client issues, referral issues and process and different ways to continue the efforts of ending homelessness.
- Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the Annual Conference of the CT Housing Coalition. New ideas for housing the homeless, low income housing and moderate income households were presented, along with new ideas of how create better options for the homeless population.

IV. Program Highlights—Story of one family we worked with this month (names changed)

A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story

Carol, a Danbury resident with **Seven** dependents, came into ARC tearful and afraid. She had recently been diagnosed with cancer and while in the hospital had been served with eviction papers from Danbury Housing Authority. According to the court documents she presented to ARC's Housing Advocate, the Marshall was coming to remove her belongings and lock the doors the following day. Carol had one day left to resolve her housing issues and find shelter for her family. ARC's Housing Advocate sat down with Carol to discuss the situation. Carol stated she had been temporarily out of work as a result of her illness and had fallen behind on the rent. She had now returned to her job and had managed to set aside \$500 to pay toward the arrearages; however she was still \$600 short.

Carol was so distressed that the Housing Advocate determined she was unable to advocate for herself and initiated contact with local agencies and resources on Carol's behalf. To begin with, ARC reached out to the Housing Authority to determine the exact amount that Carol owed and to see if they would accept partial payment to stop the eviction process. CACD and City Welfare were contacted as well and asked if they could assist Carol with a back rent payment. The Housing Advocate also spoke with Legal Aid to determine if they could help prevent the eviction. Housing Advocate was informed that if Carol could make a partial payment towards her arrears, the eviction could possibly be postponed. The information was gathered and then presented to Carol.

By this time, Carol had calmed down considerably. She left the ARC office with addresses and phone numbers of the agencies that could help. Within three hours of her unannounced visit to ARC she successfully submitted her partial payment to the management company of her housing complex and her eviction was postponed contingent on her paying the rest of her past due rent in the following week. Carol felt confident that this could be accomplished.