

A letter from Lisa Tepper Bates

Hello friends,

This is a challenging time in Connecticut, as we enter our fourth month without a budget. We at CCEH know that the cuts many of you are weathering, as well as the uncertainty for all of us, is stressful. We continue to work in close collaboration with the Partnership for Strong Communities to coordinate our best approach to advocate for the resources you need to do your work.



In the meantime, however, we continue to move forward - because that is what we do. Connecticut homeless providers are innovators, champions of change, and problem solvers! That is why we are among the first communities in the nation to take up the challenge of developing a "Dynamic Prioritization" approach to enhance the impact of the resources we do have available, as we seek to end homelessness for as many people as we can, every day. Read more about the beginning stages of this work below.

Meantime, we thank each and every one of you for all you do, every day, to serve those most in need.

Sincerely,



Lisa Tepper Bates
Executive Director

Iain De Jong, OrgCode Dynamic Prioritization and Progressive Engagement



Dynamic Prioritization is a homeless response system approach that includes an array of factors to determine a participant's best housing match in real time. This allows for optimal use of available resources - recognizing that

it is unlikely that a system will have all the resources needed at any single point in time to offer to all clients the intervention for which they may be indicated. National level leadership, including our partners at HUD, are increasingly focused on Dynamic Prioritization as the way we will need to organize our systems to maintain momentum in moving people from homeless to housed - and to avoid bottlenecks and gridlock. You can read the initial draft of a Connecticut Framework for Dynamic Prioritization, produced by a Task Force of the Reaching Home CAN Leadership Sub-Group of Reaching Home [here](#).

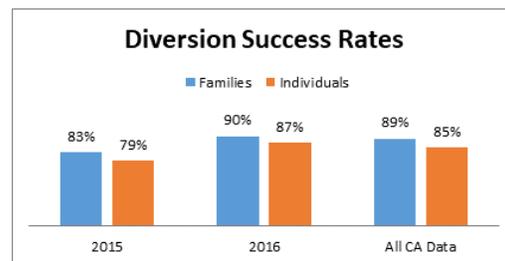
Under this approach, participants are dynamically prioritized (working from most vulnerable) and referred to the best-fit resource currently available within the Coordinated Access Network. Progressive engagement, working with clients to help move them towards more intensive supports if a lighter touch is not adequate, is central to effective Dynamic Prioritization.

More than 200 providers across the state attended Dynamic Prioritization/ Progressive Engagement training with Iain De Jong, of OrgCode, this past week. Iain's focus: it's the job of each of us in the homeless response system (from intake to shelter to PSH) to empower our clients to realize their best plans for housing, moving only to more intensive resources when needed. Iain's approach challenges us to think harder about what we can do to support our clients to end their homelessness quickly, given the resources available.

CAN Early Analysis of CT Shelter Diversion Data Shows Success

Shelter Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness at the front door by helping people identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return

to permanent housing. Shelter Diversion programs can benefit the homelessness response system by reducing the number of families and individuals becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists. Connecticut's initial data reflects increasing success at implementing shelter diversion to meet the needs of clients facing housing crises, and low rates of these clients returning to the homeless system to access shelter (fewer than 2 of every 10).



Read the full report on the [CCEH website](#).

Upcoming Webinar: Disabilities in Shelters

How can you help individuals with disabilities when they approach your shelter? How can you assist individuals with disabilities in your shelters? The

Connecticut Coalition To End Homelessness will be hosting a webinar, "Disabilities in Shelters"

Join us to find out what you need to know about the Fair Housing and Safe Shelter laws and regulations in serving Individuals with Disabilities. This training is for executive directors, supervisors, and direct care staff serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The webinar will cover several topics including: legal obligations, service provision, and safety related to accommodations for clients with disabling conditions.

October 11th, 2017 11:00AM-12:00PM
Register using the following [link](#).

CCEH Executive Director Named to CHFA Board

Governor Dannel Malloy has named CCEH Executive Director Lisa Tepper Bates to the Board of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). The mission of CHFA is to alleviate the shortage of housing for low- and moderate-income families and persons in this state - a mission that underpins efforts to end homelessness. Lisa says of her appointment: "I am honored to be named to the Board of CHFA, and to be part of supporting the vision to ensure that all residents of Connecticut can live in an affordable, safe, quality home. Our work continues until we can realize this vision, and CHFA is a critical partner in getting there."

Joe Sicilia: Changing the landscape of homelessness through lived experiences

Opening Doors Fairfield County Coordinating Council member Joe Sicilia tells in a deeply personal way the story of his journey into homelessness and transitioning from "homeless to housed" as one of the first consumers to be served through the Bridgeport Housing First Collaborative. [Read more of Joe's story here.](#)

Tashmia: CCEH's New Training Coordinator

Tashmia Bryant is a proud native and current resident of Hartford, CT. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Tashmia has taught Career Competency Development training to Hartford's youth, located safe and affordable housing for families at risk of homelessness, and coordinated rental subsidies through the Housing Assistance Fund. Tashmia is proud to join the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness family as the Training Coordinator and looks forward to utilizing her field experience to inform her work and connect with



providers.

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