Connecticut's COVID-19 Homeless Response

April 1, 2020

Agenda

1:00pm	Introductory remarks • Welcome from CCM (Brian O'Connor) and CCEH (Madeline Ravich) • Overview of COVID-19 homelessness response by CCEH (Richard Cho) • DOH Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno • DPH Deputy State Epidemiologist Dr. Lynn Sosa
1:30pm	Town Hall Discussion
2:30pm	Adjourn

# About the CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)

- Founded in 1982 in response to surge in homelessness

- State-wide Hartford-based 501c3

- Coalition of more than 100 members – emergency shelter providers, transitional housing providers, community and business leaders, and strategic partners – who share the goal of ending homelessness

Collective mission is to prevent and end homelessness in Connecticut

Our goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Emergency Shelter Census
(Source: HMIS March 1-16, 2020)

Youth, 48
Seniors, 134
Children, 346
Adult, 1481
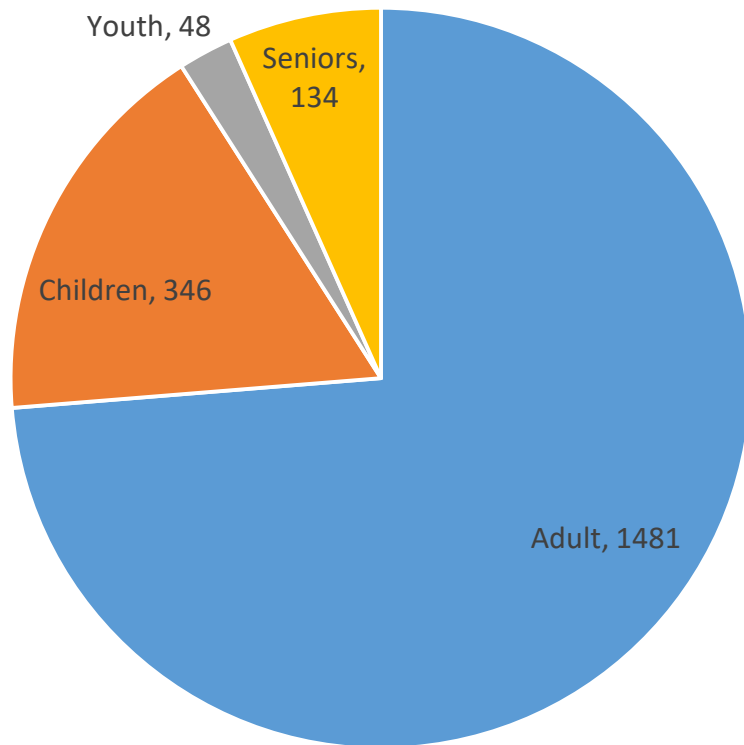
Total Shelters	Total Occupants
63	**2009**
Individuals	Families
1166	**183**

CDC Guidance

- **Confine clients with mild respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection to individual rooms, if possible, and have them avoid common areas.**

- Follow CDC recommendations for how to prevent further spread in your facility.

- If individual rooms for sick clients are not available, consider using a large, well-ventilated room.

- In areas where clients with respiratory illness are staying, keep beds at least 6 feet apart, use temporary barriers between beds (such as curtains), and request that all clients sleep head-to-toe.

- If possible, designate a separate bathroom for sick clients with COVID-19 symptoms.

- Consider reducing cleaning frequency in bedrooms and bathrooms dedicated to ill persons to **as-needed** cleaning (e.g., of soiled items and surfaces) to avoid unnecessary contact with the ill persons.

- Decisions about whether clients with mild illness due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should remain in the shelter or be directed to alternative housing sites should be made in coordination with local health authorities. Similarly, identifying respite care locations for patients with confirmed COVID-19 who have been discharged from the hospital should be made in coordination with local healthcare facilities and your local health department.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html

Goals

To implement basic infectious disease prevention in shelters with the aim of reducing the overall shelter census to comply with CDC social-distancing guidelines and allow for quarantining, isolation, care, and re-housing.

COVID-19 Homeless Response Framework

IMPLEMENT BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICES IN SHELTERS

- Assist shelters to implement basic infectious disease controls (cleaning, personal hygiene)
- Protect high-risk staff by redeployment
- Practice social distancing by reducing in-person services delivery, encouraging 6-foot distance rule

DECOMPRESS SHELTERS TO MAXIMIZE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Identify and focus on congregate shelters that have challenges complying with CDC guidelines due to census and space
- Reduce avoidable new shelter admissions through diversion
- Secure hotels and other non-congregate spaces to decompress crowded, congregate shelters
- Develop and follow protocols for testing, care, isolation, hospitalization, and safe discharge

RE-HOUSE HOMELESS POPULATION INTO PERMANENT HOUSING

- Repurpose and increase flexibility with available rental and financial assistance to move as many people into permanent housing as possible
- Identify rental vacancies in private, public, and subsidized housing

CAN Geography & Contact Info

Central CAN

Berlin, Bristol, New Britain, Plainville, Southington

Fairfield County CAN

Bethel, Bridgeport, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Cos Cob, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, Wilton

Eastern CAN

Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Danielson, Eastford, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Mansfield, Montville, Mystic, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willimantic, Willington, Windham, Woodstock

Greater Hartford CAN

Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rockville, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks

Greater New Haven CAN

Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Derby, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven, Woodbridge

Middlesex Meriden Wallingford CAN

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, Wallingford, Westbrook

Northwest CAN

Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Burlington, Canaan, Cheshire, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, Naugatuck, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Plymouth, Prospect, Salisbury, Sharon, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington, Waterbury, Watertown, Winchester, Winsted, Wolcott, Woodbury
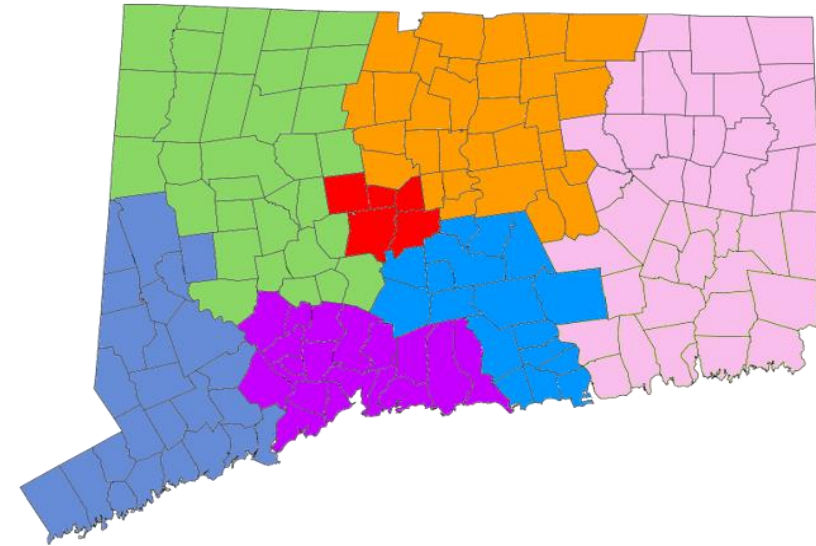
Guide to Commonly Used Acronyms

BNL – By Name List. A registry of people experiencing homelessness, by name.

CAN – Coordinated Access Network(s). The organizing geographies used for coordinated entry system.

CoC – Continuum of Care. The organizing geographies used for service delivery of federal resources.

DMHAS – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. State of Connecticut.

DOH – Department of Housing. State of Connecticut.

ES – Emergency Shelter.

HMIS – Homeless Management Information System. This is our centralized database of client data.

HUD – Housing of Urban Development. Federal government.

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing. A long-term, low-barrier housing assistance resource that includes support services.

RRH – Rapid Re-Housing. A time-limited assistance resource to help people quickly exit homelessness.

VI-SPDAT – Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool. The common assessment tool used to identify level of service need and aid in prioritization for housing resource.

Connecticut's CAN System Flowchart

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit
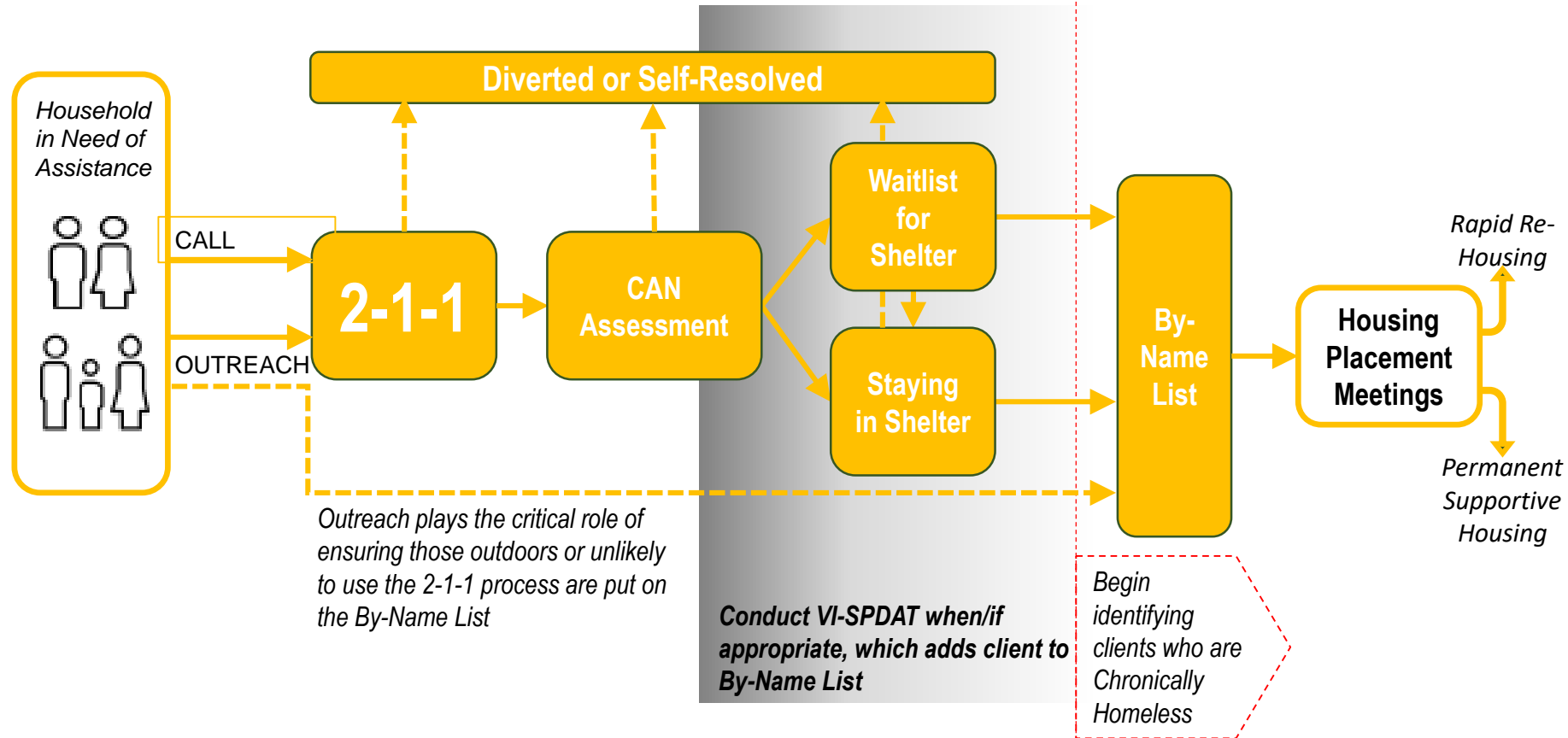
"CAN" refers to Connecticut's Coordinated Access Networks, regional collaboratives that manage the process for their own area if the state.

Coordinated Shelter Decompression Effort

Purpose	To prevent outbreak and rapid spread of COVID-19 in and via homeless shelters through statewide shelter decompression effort
Management Structure	State Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 6 (Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services) Homeless Shelter Workgroup (led by CCEH and DOH), in coordination with ESF-3 (Public Words) and ESF-1 (Transportation)
Financing	Primarily funds, some municipal, FEMA approved reimbursement of 75% of costs
Process/ Logistics	- Workgroup asked CANs to identify shelters needing decompression and identify hotel room needs including: current residents to be relocated, anticipated inflow, isolation rooms, and staff rooms - DAS/DOH to secure hotels to accommodate identified needs - CANs to coordinate with shelters and municipalities on transportation - Shelter and services providers to provide on-site staffing, meals, services, housing connections - Coordination with local health departments and health care partners on developing and following protocols for quarantining, testing, isolation, hospitalization, respite, safe discharge **(IN PROGRESS)**
Timeline	Hotel contracts being executed 4/1 and 4/2 Move-ins to take place between 4/1 and 4/3 Hoteling through end of Governor's emergency declaration

Executive Order No. 7P

Authorization to Provide for Non-Congregant Housing for Persons at Risk. The Commissioner of Public Health, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and commissioners of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Housing are authorized to issue such orders as they deem necessary to provide or arrange non-congregant housing with sufficient physical distancing capacity for people who, from the nature of their existing housing or working environments, are at increased risk of exposure to, infection with, or transmission of COVID-19, and to seek reimbursement for any resulting expenditures from appropriate federal agencies or other sources.

What shelters and CANs need:

1. Supplies (e.g. face masks/gloves, cleaning supplies, food) for shelters and hotels

2. Staffing/volunteers for shelters and hotels, in some locations

3. Funding for flexible financial assistance (security deposits, move-in costs) to assist with re-housing

4. Info on vacant rental apartments

CCEH Covid-19 Resource Guide

http://cceh.org/covid19/

A message to our providers from State Senator and physician Saud Anwar.

Summary of Connecticut Resources

- **Department of Housing Guidance:**
  - Memorandum – Preparing Shelters for COVID-19
  - Memorandum – Changes to CAN Appointments for COVID-19
  - Memorandum – Rapid Re-Housing Prioritization & Paperwork Requirements during State's Declaration of Public Health & Civil Preparedness Emergency
  - Memorandum – Rapid Re-Housing Apartment Search & Inspection Request Protocols – 3.25.20
  - DOH COVID-19 Homeless Response Assessment
    - Online Survey
    - PDF
- **CCEH Guidance:**
  - CCEH Webinar Recording
  - CCEH Webinar Slides
  - Map of Local Health Departments and Districts
  - COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund for Shelter Diversion and Rapid-Exit
- **Coordinated Access Network Guidance:**
  - CAN Health Screener Form and Triage Protocol with Regional Contacts – 3.23.20
- **Sample Preparedness or Service Modification Plans:**
  - Sample Preparation Plans from Shelter and Services Providers:
    - Beth-El Center's COVID-19 Preparation Plan
    - South Park Inn's COVID-19 Preparation Plan
    - New London Homeless Hospitality Center's Infection Control Policy
    - Inspirica's COVID-19 Protocols
  - Sample Notices of Reduced or Modified Services:
    - Beth-El Center's Notice to Soup Kitchen
    - Liberty Community Services' Notice of Reduced Services
- **State of Connecticut General COVID-19 Guidance**
  - FAQ on the State of Connecticut's COVID-19 Response – 3.20.20

If you have specific questions regarding DOH policy or protocol, please contact: Leigh Shields-Church or Kara Capobianco

For general questions, please contact: info@cceh.org

Summary of National Resources

- **HUD Guidance:**
  - Disease Risks and Homelessness Page
  - Infectious Disease Toolkit
  - Infectious Disease and Provider Preparedness (Webinar)
  - Specific Considerations for Public Health Authorities to Limit Infection Risk Among People Experiencing Homelessness
  - Ask A Question (AAQ) Portal
- **CDC Guidance:**
  - General Index
  - For Shelters
  - Interim Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
  - Interim Guidance for Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness – 3.23.20
- **NAEH Guidance:**

Our goal for the day: to learn how we can help you right now!