



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everybody who turned out yesterday for CCEH's first Virtual Annual Meeting. It was an amazing turnout and it meant so much to see all of your faces.

A big welcome to our new board members, Michelle Conderino, Chief Keith Mello, and State's Attorney Brian Preleski, who were elected in during our annual meeting. Their bios are below so please take a moment to read their impressive bios. We are thrilled to welcome further into the fold and excited for the opportunity to increase our coalition's impact through the lenses they bring.

At our annual meeting, we also shared CCEH's new strategic plan and opened it up for comment. We welcome your input and questions and invite you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. Our slides are included below. Please reach out to Madeline Ravich at mravich@cceh.org.

Finally, please take a moment to watch this powerful tribute to our members that we shared at our annual meeting. We can't thank you enough for your dedication and commitment to keeping people experiencing homelessness safe in the midst of troubling times.

Yours truly,

Richard Cho



Welcome to CCEH's Newest Board Members

We are thrilled to introduce you to our new board members!



Michelle Conderino
Open Doors Shelter
Norwalk, Connecticut

Since July 2019, Michelle Conderino, MSW, has served as Executive Director at Open Doors in Norwalk. Prior to her role at Open Doors, Ms. Conderino has worked for nearly two decades in homeless, human services, and mental health services, including as the Regional Director for Northern Fairfield County and Director of Homeless Services at Catholic Charities.



Keith Mello
Chief of Police
Milford, Connecticut

After a nearly forty-year distinguished career in law enforcement, Keith Mello was appointed the 9th Chief of Police of the Milford Police Department in April 2006. In his leadership role, Chief Mello has partnered closely with Beth-El Center, municipal departments, and other community organizations in developing a compassionate and collaborative response to people experiencing homelessness in Milford. He currently serves as the President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

Brian Preleski
State's Attorney
New Britain, CT



Since 2011, Brian Preleski has served as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of New Britain. Mr. Preleski has helped to lead efforts to reduce prosecution and incarceration among people with behavioral health needs including those experiencing homelessness, including launching the Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) initiative in New Britain.

CCEH Strategic Plan

At our annual meeting, we shared CCEH's new draft strategic plan with our membership for feedback. We welcome your feedback and also encourage you to let us know if you'd like to be involved with any of these areas of our work. As our board President Omar Kouatly shared, we have many opportunities to serve on committees and working groups so please reach out if you'd like to play a role in any of the areas of work outlined in these slides:

CCEH's Proposed Strategic Goals 2020-2022

1. Broaden the coalition in support of ending homelessness
2. Improve and enhance the performance of the CAN System to reduce prevalence of homelessness
3. Extend our reach and response to underserved populations and communities
4. Secure system reforms, policy changes, and investments
5. Ensure that CCEH is a thriving organization and a great place to work

Goal 1:
Broaden the coalition in support of ending homelessness

Ending homelessness requires expertise and commitment from a variety of stakeholders representing multiple sectors (non-profit, government, businesses, and philanthropic) and multiple disciplines. We must continue to engage new partners and sectors, and deepening our engagement of homeless services providers.

Priority Initiative(s):

- In partnership with the CT Conference on Municipalities, build a statewide campaign of municipal leaders and governments.

Additional Stakeholders:

- Providers
- People with lived experience
- Private sector
- State associations
- Schools and education
- Legal aid
- Libraries
- Law enforcement
- Healthcare
- Faith-based

Goal 2:
Improve and enhance the performance of the CAN System to reduce prevalence of homelessness

Connecticut's Coordinated Access Network system has proven successful in reducing the prevalence of homelessness in our state. CCEH will work with partners to ensure consistent performance across all regions, while pursuing innovation to increase rates of diversion and re-housing and improve the experiences of people it serves.

Priority Initiative(s):

- Pursue a major initiative to prevent and end homelessness among families with children.
- Enlist people with lived experience to advise on system improvements

Additional Initiatives:

- Youth homelessness demonstration program
- HMIS Data Improvements
- CAN workforce capacity support

Goal 3:
Extend our reach and response to underserved populations and communities

There remain areas, populations, and communities that are not being reached or served by the current system, including people in the criminal justice system, people leaving inpatient settings, minor youth, communities of color, and households at earlier stages of their housing crisis. CCEH will work with a broad set of partners and stakeholders to reach these underserved communities, either by extending the reach of the CAN system or by applying proven approaches and intervention to other sectors.

Priority Initiative(s):

- Developing a coordinated system to identify, engage, and connect unsheltered persons to housing and services.
- Prevent and address homelessness among people involved in the criminal justice system

Additional Initiatives:

- Reduce homelessness among people leaving hospitals, inpatient and institutional settings
- Ensure that non-English speaking and communities of color are aware of, and able to equitably access and obtain housing and homelessness assistance
- Continue developing an approach to identify and engage youth under the age of 18
- Design and implement an "upstream" system of homelessness prevention for households not yet on the verge of homelessness

Goal 4:

Secure system reforms, policy changes, and Investments

Ending homelessness means sustaining and institutionalizing a system that keeps homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Doing so entails enacting policy reforms that reduce the number of households that lose their housing and that reduce barriers to accessing housing.

Priority Initiative(s):

- Secure sustainable funding stream for 211 and CAN system

Additional Initiatives:

- Partnerships with state legislators and leaders
- Make the case for scaling resources for evidence-based housing and services interventions
- Advance policies that prioritize people experiencing homelessness for available housing
- Increase accountability of institutional and inpatient systems to avoid discharges to homelessness
- Increase tenant protections and reduce barriers to housing (e.g., based on criminal records)

Goal 5:

Ensure that CCEH is a thriving organization and a great place to work

In order to best support our coalition, CCEH must be an organization that fairly and equitably compensates its staff, provides staff with opportunities for development and advancement, fosters a culture of teamwork, ensures work-life balance, provides strong administration, uses efficient processes, and employs nimble technology.

Priority Initiative(s):

- Adopt an organizational structure suited to pursuing the strategic goals and objectives

Additional Initiatives:

- Review compensation structure
- Modernizes financial recordkeeping and technology
- Create clear and transparent pathways for staff development and advancement
- Improving teamwork and workflows
- Improving project management practices

Best Practices for Computing

Our friends at Nutmeg have created a best practice sheet to help with issues such as connectivity troubleshooting tips, document management, among many more while working remotely.

Please [click here](#) for more detailed information.

Update on IKEA delivery



Many of you have asked about plans for the IKEA delivery. We are currently working out plans to distribute the merchandise to the CANs and are targeting the week of June 15th for the distribution. Stay tuned for details!

Face Mask Distribution



Thank you to everybody who submitted requests for the cloth face masks donated by United Healthcare and Corporation for Supportive House. If your agency would like to receive a shipment of masks, please let us know by filling out [this form](#). We will be looking at requests and will be in touch next week.

Charity Workout Competition

We are delighted by the interest we have been receiving from gyms and yoga studios interested in signing up to hold benefit charity workouts with us. You can sign up [here](#) to host your own charity workout!

Save the date for City Climb's Virtual Yoga Workout, which will take place on June 7th at 10 am. More details to come next week!

How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you join Connecticut's homeless response.

Webinars & Additional Guidance

With information about COVID rapidly evolving, keeping up-to-date is more important than ever. Stay up-to-date by visiting CCEH's COVID Guidance Page, located at cceh.org/covid19.

Upcoming Webinars:

- [Hotels to Homes: Rapidly Housing from Hotels During the COVID Pandemic](#)

Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [Universal COVID-19 Testing in Shelters: Learning from the Experience of Hartford's The Open Hearth](#)
- [Responding to COVID-19: An Inside Look into Connecticut's Homeless Response](#)

- [Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#)
- [DPH Webinar: COVID-19 Monitoring, Care, and Transmission Reduction Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Shelters and Hotels](#)
- [Responding to Violence in the Home During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Addressing Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Additional Resources:

- [NAEH COVID-19 Online Learning Resources](#)

Please [click here](#) to access our entire webinar catalog.

News Digest

[IKEA dona once toneladas de muebles para personas sin hogar de Connecticut](#)

Identidad Latina | May 2020 (Page 4)



Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness | 257 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106

[Unsubscribe](#) {recipient's email}.

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@cceh.org powered by

