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 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

Goal 1: Broaden the coalition in support of ending homelessness
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- Improve and enhance the performance of the CAN System to reduce prosecution among people with behavioral health needs including those experiencing homelessness.
- Extend our reach and response to underserved populations and communities.
- Secure system reforms, policy changes, and investments.
- Ensure that CCEH is a thriving organization and a great place to work.

Priority Initiatives:
- Work with the CT Conference on Municipalities, build a statewide campaign of municipal leaders and government.
- Additional Stakeholders:
  - Providers
  - People with lived experience
  - Law enforcement
  - State associations
  - Schools and education
  - Faith-based

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

Priority Initiatives:
- Work with the CT Conference on Municipalities, build a statewide campaign of municipal leaders and government.
- Additional Stakeholders:
  - Providers
  - People with lived experience
  - Law enforcement
  - State associations
  - Schools and education
  - Faith-based

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

Priority Initiatives:
- Work with the CT Conference on Municipalities, build a statewide campaign of municipal leaders and government.
- Additional Stakeholders:
  - Providers
  - People with lived experience
  - Law enforcement
  - State associations
  - Schools and education
  - Faith-based

Additional Initiatives:
- Youth homelessness demonstration program
- CAN database improvements
- CAN staff capacity support

CCEH Strategic Plan Draft

Ending homelessness requires expertise and commitment from a variety of stakeholders representing multiple sectors (non-profit, government, business, and philanthropy) and multiple disciplines. We must continue to engage our partners and sectors, and deepen our engagement of homeless services providers.
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 on 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
- DPI 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:
- NAH COVID-19 Online Learning Resources

Please click here to access our entire webinar catalog.

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**News Digest**

IKEA dona once toneladas de muebles para personas sin hogar de Connecticut

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