



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

Guest Blog: A Letter from CCEH's Roy Graham



Dear Friends,

Richard is out of town this week so he asked me to take over this post for the week. It is certainly an honor to have the bully pulpit and I am excited to use it to share some thoughts with you based on some incredible successes we have seen in response to COVID-19 by our youth providers.

My first thought is this: we are certainly in unprecedented times right now in our country. We are in the middle of a pandemic, and are witnessing a racial justice movement. As you know, today is Juneteenth--- Freedom Day--- and I hope that you will join me and my colleagues from CCEH in engaging in activities organized by people of color to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States.

This newsletter and our Facebook page includes some specific ideas for how you can meaningfully engage in acts of protest, learning, or other acts honoring our history and plotting out a course for a better future. I hope that during the day you will reflect on the specific linkages between race and homelessness, and check out some of the resources we have put together. Please continue to engage in this conversation with us and point our team towards resources that we can share with our community.

All that said, I hope that you will take a moment to join me in reflecting on some positive developments that have come out of our coalition's recent work. In light of the pandemic, ensuring that youth and young adult homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring is now more critical than ever. The longer a youth stays on the streets, house-hopping and couch-surfing or in shelter, the more at risk they are of contracting the virus or spreading the virus to others.

Youth providers and agencies have been working harder than ever to find creative ways to still provide services and resources to young people. Youth seeking shelter need help identifying safe and secure residences and that's where our coalitions' providers come in. In fact, staff working with youth have also been able to increase the percentage of youth being diverted back to safe and secure housing from the average of 30 – 35%, to 49%. They are able to do this in part thanks to the generosity of the state and private donors committed to the idea that no youth should have to experience homelessness. As a result of their efforts, they have now decreased the number of average days between the time from when youth "touch" the homeless system and the time when they exit the system into safe, secure, and decent housing from 84 days down to 42 days--- a major reduction. How have they accomplished this?

I have been in awe of the Youth Navigators and Case Managers who have poured their heart and soul into helping young people connect with housing during one of the most difficult times in our lives. Yet, this pandemic has had its silver lining; with the added challenges of COVID-19, Youth Navigators and Case Managers are now conducting remote and mobile assessments with youth to address their needs and risks. Interestingly, connecting with youth remotely has given them more flexibility in meeting with clients, and they have as a result been able to increase the number of youth they have been able to assist from 50 to 65%.

In a similar vein, youth providers have been able to support more young people in identifying safe, stable housing resources, allowing them to avoid having to enter the shelter system. This both reduces crowding in shelters where physical distancing is already a challenge, while also allowing for additional one-on-one time with the clients currently in shelter. The result is that staff have more time to provide referrals to outside community partners.

We still have so far to go, but with so much happening I am delighted to celebrate milestones such as this one. So kudos to all of our youth providers and agencies across the state who continue to work hard during these challenging times, and stay safe and be well!

Roy Graham
Youth Special Projects Coordinator

Juneteenth Celebration

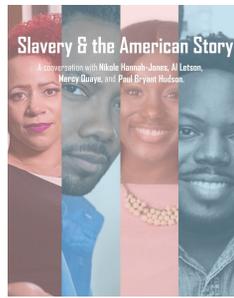
We invite you to join us in celebrating Juneteenth! What is Juneteenth you may wonder? Well, it is Freedom Day - June 19th, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On our social media sites we have been sharing background information on Juneteenth and some ideas for how you too can celebrate it through protest, learning, or other acts of commemoration. Please join us in celebrating this important day! Here are some of the ideas we have already shared on social media. Please visit our [facebook](#) or [twitter](#) to find additional ways for how you can participate.



Attend a [protest in Hartford](#) on June 19th at 2 P.M.



Attend a [protest in New Haven](#) on June 19th at 3 P.M.



Watch this conversation about slavery and liberation by [artidea.org](#)

Join us in being a stronger coalition, fighting for racial justice as we work to end homelessness.

Race Equity During COVID

Racial Disparities in COVID



In Connecticut, Black/African-Americans account for over 30% of people experiencing homelessness, but only represent about 10% of CT's general population.



Black/African-Americans account for around 20% of CT COVID-positive cases and around 15% of COVID-related deaths (ctdata.org/covid19)



Initial data indicates that people of color make up a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population. CCEH seeks to support our coalition in ensuring that skin color is not a barrier to attaining housing resources. As current events have highlighted, words are not enough to make this happen, which is why we are focused on six strategies we view as essential to transforming our system:

1. Recognizing racial disparities exist
2. Analyzing data for racial disparities
3. Develop a Race Equity Framework for our coalition
4. Formally empower people of color from partner agencies to lead
5. Provide trainings targeted to address specific race equity issues
6. Develop strategies for making board and staff fully representative

To learn more about how CCEH is addressing racial disparities during COVID-19 visit our new [Race and Equity during COVID](#) webpage.

Thank you to Two Men and A Truck



Thank you so much to our friends from [TWO MEN AND A TRUCK](#) who are helping us move furniture donated by [IKEA](#) into storage units. Their tagline rings true --- Two Men and a Truck are truly Movers that Care! Thanks as well to Grow Strong CT, Supportive Housing Works, TVCCA, Alpha Community Services, New Reach, United Way of Greater New Haven, and Journey Home for all the work they have done so far coordinating these deliveries, and to all of the volunteers who spent their Sunday prepping for the move. This is a huge team effort!

We are currently working on scheduling the deliveries to New Haven and Hartford regions so stay tuned. Thanks again to all!

Charity Workout Competition



A big thank you to City Climb Gym for hosting the yoga fundraiser last Sunday June 14. Thanks to everyone who donated and participated in this event with us.

Please let us know if your gym would like to host a Charity Workout benefiting the COVID-19 emergency fund.

Thank you, City Climb!

Congratulations Sarah!



Our very own Sarah Fox, Director of Advocacy & Community Impact, is the winner of the Partnership for Strong Communities Reverend Richard Schuster Advocacy Award.

Sarah has been with us since 2012 and has made tremendous contributions in the fight to end homelessness. We are so happy for her to receive this well deserved award.

HMIS Update

All COVID-19 data currently in HMIS is now accessible via a comprehensive, easy to use report. The details for the report, as well as additional COVID-19 related changes, can be found in the [Release Notes](#).

How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you can 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.

Spotlight Webinar

[Evictions During COVID-19](#)

CCEH has partnered with the CT Fair Housing Center, CT Legal Services, and CT Department of Housing to provide you with an "Update on the Status of Evictions in Connecticut During the COVID-19 Crisis." This webinar will be held on Wednesday, June 25th from 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Upcoming Webinars

[Working with Landlords to Rapidly House Successfully: Recruiting, Engaging and Retaining](#)

[Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic](#)

Previously Recorded Webinars

[Hotels to Homes: Rapidly Housing from Hotels During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#)

[Verbal De-Escalation and Crisis Prevention During COVID-19](#)

[Responding to COVID-19: An Inside Look into Connecticut's Homeless Response](#)

[Caring for and Reducing the Transmission of COVID-19 in Shelters and Hotels: A View from the Field](#)

[Shelter to Housing Crash Course: Rapidly Exiting to Permanent Housing](#)

[Responding to Violence in the Home During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

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



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

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