



CCEH Weekly Digest

A Letter From President Omar Kouatly

Dear Friends,

Last week we shared the news that CCEH's CEO, Richard Cho, is departing our organization for a senior position at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Today is Richard's last day with CCEH, and I hope you will all join me in wishing him well.



While we are sad to lose Richard, it seems fitting that he is going on to play a key role in the Biden administration's efforts to combat homelessness. Under his leadership, CCEH has built on the legacies of Carol Walter and Lisa Tepper Bates, establishing Connecticut as a model for other states to emulate by demonstrating how a coordinated response can drive down homelessness by more than a third in a matter of years. The work that Richard has advanced has been remarkable, and has no doubt saved countless lives, especially during the course of the past year. We wish Richard well as he brings his talents to Washington. For my own part, I take comfort in knowing that we have somebody with such a keen understanding of the needs here in Connecticut driving our federal response to homelessness.

With change comes opportunity, and that is why I am thrilled to announce that the CCEH Board of Directors has enlisted the remarkable Evonne Klein to serve as Interim CEO. Many of you probably already are very familiar with Evonne and the pivotal role that she played as the first Commissioner of Housing for the State of CT in over 30 years. Affordable housing is a long running and deep passion of hers. During her tenure the Department had in some phase of construction 24,000 units of housing, of which 22,000 were/are affordable. She is recognized nationally as a leader in housing. In collaboration with CCEH under her administration CT was one of 3 states to effectively end veterans homelessness and significantly reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals as well as reduce the number of homeless families. Beyond her work as Housing Commissioner, Evonne has had a distinguished career fighting for justice, especially for the most vulnerable. As Co-Chair of the Fair Housing Working Group a number of pieces of zoning legislation were proposed such as state-wide inclusionary zoning, changes to the Zoning Enabling Act as well as the expansion of housing authority jurisdictions. She served as the First Selectwoman of Darien from 2003-2009. Some of her accomplishments include working with property and business owners to revitalize Downtown Darien; forming Darien's affordable housing advisory commission, adopting an affordable housing plan and spearheading the adoption and implementation of Darien's Inclusionary Zoning Regulation.

Evonne inherits an exceptional staff who together are committed to carrying

out the strategic plan directives outlined during Richard's tenure and to supporting our community in ensuring that we stay on track to meet our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by the end of Governor Lamont's first term in office. I know that our staff and board are looking forward to working with the many voices that make up our coalition's networks to make good on this bold and audacious goal, and encourage you to reach out to make your voice heard and let us know how we can support you in your efforts.

As always, thanks to all of you for your commitment to CCEH's mission and work. We have shown that an end to homelessness is within reach, and look forward to working with you to get there.

Yours truly,



Omar Kouatly
Board President

2021 Legislative Priorities



HOUSING EQUALS JUSTICE

We believe that housing is a human right and everyone should be guaranteed a safe, stable place to call home. Our legislative agenda calls for policy change to advance housing justice and is rooted in our belief that homelessness is unacceptable and the result of income inequality, broken public systems, and institutional racism.

Click [here](#) to review our 2021 legislative agenda and be on the lookout for ways to join us in making your voice heard this legislative session.

My Town Cares Training Webinar



My Town
CARES



Please help us spread the word! As part of the launch of My Town Cares we are putting together a training webinar to give you information on the strategic actions and how you can get your town involved. The training is this Thursday **February 4th from 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.** Please click [here](#) to register.

For background information on this campaign visit our [website](#). Please encourage municipal employees and other volunteers from your town to register for this training session.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Homeless Shelter Providers

CCEH and our members has helped ensure that the current phase of Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccine distribution include residents and staff of homeless shelters.

Connecticut shelters have begun receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, as part of the Governor's plan to serve congregate settings through Phase 1b. Several shelters have been served with many more scheduled in the coming weeks. CCEH continues to coordinate with DOH to monitor progress in reaching this key population. Please click [here](#) if you want more information on vaccine access for congregate settings.



If you have not yet heard, CCEH encourages you to monitor communications on the State's [website](#). Please also feel free to contact us at info@cceh.org (Subject: COVID-19 vaccines) if you need more information or need any assistance.

Please utilize the following resources from HUD for your organization:

- [How to Build Staff Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Communication and Confidence Checklist](#)
- [Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Meeting Template](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Conversation Tips for Homeless Service Providers](#)

We also encourage shelter providers to check the [CDC's toolkit](#) for additional valuable resources.

HMIS Update

A new column has been added to the "Homeless Episodes" view. This will help with the chronic homeless assessment by limiting the tally to the last 3 years. More information can be found [here](#).

We Are Hiring!

CCEH is hiring! Please spread the word about our search for this available positions:

Director of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

This position leads and manages CCEH's team of professionals that provide technical assistance, training, and program performance improvement to providers within Connecticut's statewide homeless response system. The Director will lead CCEH's effort to improve and ensure the performance, responsiveness, and equitable impact of homeless services; supervise technical assistance and training team members; align efforts with state government, regional entities, homeless services providers, and Connecticut's two Continuums of Care; track and report on the team's deliverables and budget; and serve as part of CCEH's leadership and management team.

Policy Analyst / Senior Policy Analyst

This position is responsible for supporting the Director of Policy in policy analysis, agenda development, and execution of advocacy efforts to advance the mission of the Housing Equals Justice campaign. The Policy Analyst / Senior Policy Analyst examines federal, state and local policy for opportunities to expand the availability of affordable and supportive housing toward the goal of ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

For full descriptions and links to the job postings, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

[Remote Supervision Tips for Homeless System Providers \(HUD\)](#)

[Rapid Rehousing Ramp up \(HUD\)](#)

[Guide to Using the IRS Non-File Tool to Get an Economic Impact Payment \(IRS\)](#)

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.

Upcoming Webinars

[My Town Cares: Local Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness](#)
Thursday, February 4th, 2021
11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Connecticut's municipalities routinely encounter and provide services to the

thousands of individuals who experience homelessness each year. Moreover, data shows that homelessness affects people in every municipality in Connecticut. Join us for an introduction to My Town Cares, an initiative of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, that provides a roadmap of actions to address and prevent homelessness.

This Week's Feature Webinar:



Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [2021 Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\) Training](#)
- [Rights of and Resources for the Most Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Housing Stability for People and their Pets](#)
- [APR Bootcamp](#)
- [Components of an Effective Outreach System](#)
- [How Vulnerable is the Homeless Population to COVID-19? Results from a National Study](#)
- [Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic \(Session 2\)](#)
- [Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic \(Session 1\)](#)

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

CCEH in the News

[Activistas abogan por el cierre de "Northern Correctional"](#)

Identidad Latina | January 2021

[Advocates call for closure of Northern Correctional, reinvestment in community supports](#)

CT Mirror | January 2021

[Fundraising effort adopts Paddington Bear as mascot](#)

Republican American | January 2021

[Report: Youth homelessness, housing instability on the decline in CT](#)

CT Post | January 2021

[Towns, cities called on to help in annual homelessness count](#)

The Day | January 2021

[Connecticut prepares for COVID-safe Point-in-Time Count](#)

Middletown Press | January 2021

[Report Finds Thousands Of Connecticut Youth Experienced Homelessness In 2020](#)

WNPR - Where We Live | January 2021

[Radio Interview with CCEH's Carl Asikainen on Youth Homelessness](#)

WATR - Talk of the Town | January 2021

[For the People Radio Show - Network of Distinction](#)

WPLR 99.1 FM | January 2021

