



## CCEH Weekly Digest

### A Letter From Director of Policy Sarah Fox

Dear Friends,

You may have heard the news that Governor Lamont announced this week that Northern Correctional Institution will be closed by July of this year. This is big news. The closure will save the state \$12.6 million. This is a lot of money, and we are proud to be at the table with ACLU CT, SEIU 1199, and Yale Transitions Clinic advocating for these resources to be reinvested in housing and healthcare supports for people exiting the prison system.



But where will the money go? This is an exciting time because so many members of our coalition are working in close partnership with the state to build a system that sets ex-offenders exiting the prison system on a pathway to success. Having the stability of a home is fundamental to this pathway. After all, how can any of us secure and hold down a job when we are going door to door or sleeping in the streets? Reinvesting the \$12.6 million into rental subsidies for those exiting incarceration paves the way for each ex-offender to re-enter society with the foundation necessary to be a productive contributor to Connecticut communities.

Justice reinvestment is one cornerstone of our legislative advocacy, but is also reflective of a larger picture. Thanks to the work of so many of you, proposed **S.B. No. 194 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO HOUSING** will most likely be heard in a Housing Committee Hearing in the coming weeks. Recognizing the right to adequate housing in Connecticut would establish the goal of the state to take progressive action to respect, protect and fulfill the right to housing for all individuals. When this bill passes the House and is signed by the Governor it will make Connecticut the first state to address housing as a human right.

How can we advocate for any of these ambitious priorities without advocating for the people on the frontlines coming to the table every day to protect and house the state's most vulnerable residents. You, the frontline workers, are putting your lives on the line every day to keep our most vulnerable residents safe, and the State has a duty to protect and honor you by providing you with livable wages, hazard pay, benefits, priority access for PPE, and professional supports and development opportunities to help you grow and thrive in the workforce. I, and the entire CCEH team, will make sure that government officials hear our voices and pass legislation that protects and benefits you all.

If these things matter to you, please join us by visiting our [advocacy page](#) to learn how you can close the deal on ending homelessness in Connecticut, or contact me personally at [sfox@cceh.org](mailto:sfox@cceh.org) to learn how you can get involved. It takes a village, and we are grateful to every one of you for being part of this amazing movement we have started.

Yours truly,



**Sarah Fox**  
Director of Policy

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## 2021 Legislative Priorities

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### Right to Housing Press Conference

On **Wednesday, February 17th at 1:00 P.M.** CCEH is proud to be joining Senators Anwar and Lopes, and Representatives McGee, McCarthy Vahey, and Porter and other advocates to reassert the need for the Right to Housing.

With significant numbers of state residents struggling to keep roofs over their heads, the "Right to Housing" has never been more necessary. The "Right to Housing" establishes that everyone in the state has a right to stable housing, which would implement changes including protection from housing loss, making housing more affordable, ensuring housing meets basic needs and recognizing the circumstances contributing to housing insecurity. By ending exclusionary zoning, funding homelessness response systems, providing counsel to individuals facing eviction or foreclosure and lessening the impact of past history on current housing access, Connecticut could take steps to protect and benefit its population, becoming a leader for the rest of the country.

The press conference will be broadcast live CCEH's [Facebook page](#) at on Wednesday, February 17th at 1:00 P.M.

### The Appropriations Committee Hearings

**Please save these two dates on your calendars to testify!** Be on the lookout for talking points from the [Reaching Home Campaign](#) and further information on how to make your voice heard during these important hearings.

- Department of Housing Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, **February 19th, beginning at 5:00 P.M.**
- Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for **March 2nd beginning at 10:00 A.M.**

If you are interested in testifying at the upcoming Appropriations Committee

Hearings, and have any questions about how to participate in the process, please feel free to email CCEH Director of Policy at [sfox@cceh.org](mailto:sfox@cceh.org).

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

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## Justice Reinvestment Coalition

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Governor Lamont announced this week that the State will be closing Northern C.I. one of the most notorious prisons in Connecticut. As part of our mission to end homelessness CCEH has joined the Justice Reinvestment Coalition to make sure that the \$12.6 million used to operate the facility is reinvested in communities impacted by the justice system.

On Wednesday members of this coalition rallied at the Capitol building to make our voices heard. Director of Policy, Sarah Fox, gave a speech where she called for a Right to Housing and for the State to invest in services for people leaving Northern. To learn more about Justice Reinvestment, please click [here](#).



Sarah Fox speaking at the Capitol.



Justice Reinvestment Coalition members.



Sarah Fox & Barbara Fair from Stop Solitary CT.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Homeless Shelter Providers

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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 began 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.



CCEH encourages you to monitor communications on the State's [website](#). Please also feel free to contact us at [info@cceh.org](mailto: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.

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## CCEH Celebrates Black History Month

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During our last newsletter, CCEH announced that in honor of Black History Month, we will be featuring the contributions that Black leaders make to our field every day in our weekly newsletters during the month of February. This week, we are proud this week to feature Bobbi Riddick of New Opportunities in Meriden.

### Black History Month Spotlight of the Week: Bobbi Riddick of New Opportunities

*A special thanks to Felicity Eles for nominating Bobbi Riddick for recognition for her leadership and service to Connecticut's homeless response system and the people it serves.*



In 2018, Bobbi Riddick began working with persons experiencing homelessness in the Meriden area. She started out as a Housing Navigator for individual women and families at New Beginnings Shelter NOW. In January 2019, she was promoted to Coordinator for the Middlesex-Meriden-Wallingford (MMW) Coordinated Access Network (CAN). From that first moment in that role, she was eager to absorb all that she could about CAN systems-level work. She has emerged as a valued leader in MMW CAN and is a consummate team player. She oversees the entry-side of MMW's work and tirelessly trains and supports CAN assessors. She is flexible, positive, and humble. She regularly completes CAN assessments and Diversion paperwork herself when no other staff is available. She has been instrumental in implementing the Family Stabilization process in MMW as well as the Department of Correction Rapid Re-Housing (DRHAP)

program in midst of COVID. Bobbi is also the lead Exit Manager for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program in MMW. Additionally she has become a CAN and statewide leader in advancing Race Equity. She participated in Cohort 2 of the CT Race Equity Collaborative and led one of workshops in the First Annual Equity in the Field Conference. Bobbi is diplomatic, creative, and committed. She works with great compassion to assist and empower clients to end their homelessness as swiftly as possible. She is truly worthy of recognition of her work to change lives for the better through her expertise, compassion, and action.

**Do you have somebody who deserves recognition during Black History Month? Click [here](#) to read about how you can share your nomination.**

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# Become a CCEH Member

CCEH is a coalition organization, and we could not do the work we do without a strong and varied group of members.

Last year we were honored to provide our members with support in the face of an unprecedented pandemic, including supplies and financial reimbursement. We also established a Members Advocacy Roundtable, to ensure that our members are actively involved as we craft our legislative agenda. Finally, we continue to offer significant discounts to our members on trainings throughout the year.

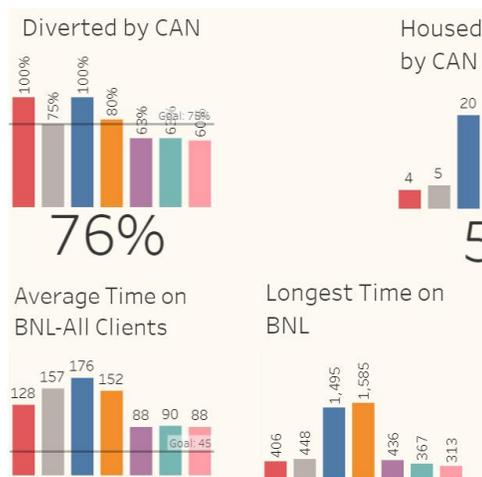
We aim to keep member dues affordable, and the 2021 price will remain **\$225**. We also kindly ask our members to Sponsor the Annual Training Institute for an additional \$100 if possible.

To renew your membership, or become a member for the first time, please click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Beach at [rbeach@cceh.org](mailto:rbeach@cceh.org).

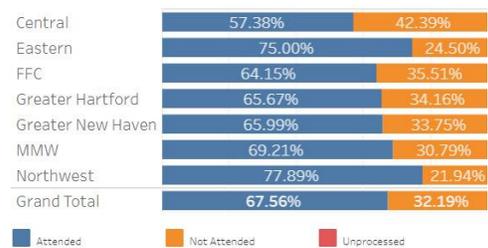
## Feedback Requested on CCEH Dashboards

CCEH is currently reviewing and updating the data dashboards on our [page](#). Check out the updated Family Dashboard and CT Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Dashboard. We are looking to streamline the visualizations and ensure that the dashboards display the most impactful data. Feedback is welcome at [data@cceh.org](mailto:data@cceh.org).

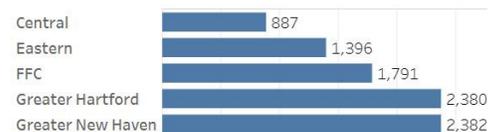


Family Dashboard

### Appointments Outcome



### Referrals into CAN



CAN Dashboard

## My Town Cares Updates

We were thrilled to have so many municipal employees turn out last week to attend the training ***My Town Cares: Local Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness***.



Please note that CCEH will be holding technical assistance office hours for municipalities during the month of February from 1-2 P.M. on Tuesdays for municipal employees and from 2:30-3:30 P.M. on Tuesdays for providers seeking assistance in connecting with municipalities in their regions. We will also be offering trainings leading up to the April 6th

Sustainable CT submissions deadline.

For background information on this campaign please click [here](#).

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## We Are Hiring!

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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](#).

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## Resources for Providers

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

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

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

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## How You Can Help

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

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## Webinars & Additional Guidance

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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](https://cceh.org/covid19).

### Upcoming Trainings:

#### **Working with Youth**

Thursday, February 25th  
**2 P.M. - 4 P.M.**

This training will thoroughly discuss the CAN system and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Additionally, this training will cover a variety of housing strategies and best practices such as shelter diversion, outreach, housing first, trauma informed care, and motivational interviewing. This training is ideal for Youth Navigators, YHDP Rapid Re-Housing case managers, YETIs, and all those that work with youth in the homeless response system. [Register now](#).

#### **Advanced Motivational Interviewing and Case Planning Workshop**

Tuesday, March 16 & Friday, March 19  
**9 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

Join the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and international author, Raymond Chip Tafrate, PhD, for fast-paced, virtual, interactive learning sessions that will focus on cutting-edge applications of Motivational Interviewing. Participants will increase their overall MI proficiency by participating in advanced exercises targeting the core skills of reflecting and summarizing. Participants will fine-tune their ability to recognize, reinforce, and respond to key client verbalizations to set the stage for developing an effective case plan. [Register now](#).

### This Week's Feature Webinar:



**How Vulnerable is the Homeless Population to COVID-19? Results from a National Study**

August 18, 2020



## How Vulnerable is the Homeless Population to COVID-19? Results from a National Study

### Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [My Town Cares](#)
- [PIT 'People Count' Training in the PIT Database](#)
- [Reporting the Unsheltered Homeless Population](#)
- [PIT 2021: Using the new PIT Outreach Program](#)
- [Shelter Diversion 101 Training](#)
- [Cleaning Up Your System Performance Measures](#)
- [Rights of and Resources for the Most Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [2021 Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\) Training](#)

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

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## CCEH in the News

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[Criminal justice advocates push for more policy change after Gov. Lamont announces closure of CT prison](#)

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