



Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee - Board of Representatives

Elaine Mitchell, Chair

Lila Wallace, Vice Chair

Report of Meeting

Date: Tuesday July 22, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room 4th Floor, Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard

The Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Chair Mitchell, Vice Chair Wallace, and Committee Member Reps. Mahoney, McNeil, Moore, and Giordano. Also present were Jerome H. Roberts, Shelter for the Homeless; Jason T. Shaplen, Inspirica; and Matt Kiernan, Stamford Times. .

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. HCD29.17 (Current and Proposed)	REVIEW; Procedures for Social Services Relocation. 05/23/14 – Submitted by Anne Fountain 06/17/14 – Held in Committee	Item held
2. HCD29.07	REVIEW; resources available to Stamford's homeless population and the status of Stamford's homeless shelters 02/03/14 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman 03/10/14 – Placed on Pending Agenda 06/17/14 – Held in Committee	Report Made

SERVICES OFFERED

¹Mr. Shaplen from Inspirica stated:

- Mission is to break the cycle of homelessness by helping people achieve and maintain permanent housing and stability in their lives
 - By not only addressing the physical components of homelessness but the underlining reasons: history of incarceration; mental illness; substance abuse etc.....
- Combine Residential and Support Services of Homelessness
 - In-house Housing agency
 - Vocational Training (designed specifically for extremely low-income residents)
 - In-house job placing agency (Jump Start Career Program)

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:02:20

- Jump Start Vocational Training Program (Culinary Arts program & Social Enterprise which is hands on training in a cafe)
 - Jump Start Education is a 13 week education program designed for extremely low-income residents
 - Building Foundation
 - Getting to work and Staying at work
 - Jump Start employment Agency
 - 191 job placements
 - Average wage was \$11.18 (29% above minimal wage)
 - 85% placed earned over \$9.00
 - 57% placed earned over \$10.00
 - 25% placed earned over \$12.00
 - Working on average 30 plus hours a week
 - After 1 month of employment 87% are still employed
 - After 3 months of employment 83% are still employed
 - After 6 months of employment 81% are still employed
 - Last four years 680 job placements
 - Moved 587 men/women/children into permanent housing
 - Retention rate on permanent housing
 - 1 month 100%
 - 3 months 98%
 - 6 months 94%
- In-house job and housing retention program
- In-house healthcare
- In-house children services program
- Programs are integrated
- Own and operate
 - Emergency shelters
 - Transitional housing
 - Permanent supportive housing
 - Deeply affordable housing
- People who Inspirica Service
 - Single Women
 - People living with HIV/AIDS
 - Families
 - Mental Illness
 - Single Men
- Services available at Franklin Common or Woodland Place
- Emergency Shelter for Women
- Transitional Housing for Mentally Ill
- Transitional Housing/permanent supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Emergency housing for families
- Transitional Housing for families
- Permanent Supportive housing for single men and women
- Deeply affordable housing for families
- Dental Clinics
- Health Clinics

²Mr. Jerome Roberts from Shelter from the Homeless passed out several documents regarding the Shelter for the Homeless (SFH-[Dashboard](#); SFH-[Profile](#); SFH-[Pamphlet](#)):

- Shelter for the Homeless began in 1985 (Pacific House)
- Serves 550 single Men
- Offers meals (continental breakfast/hot dinner)
- 55,000 meals yearly
- Day drop in program (8am - 5:30pm)
- Services – Referral Case Management
 - Vocational-Career Development
 - Bilingual Hispanic
 - Mental Health
 - General Case Management Services
- Shelter Base Recovery Program
 - 12 men who have fell out of the traditional treatment
 - On staff Drug and Alcohol Counselor
 - If a member fails and uses they are not automatically terminated; services are extended
 - 33% success rate for 1 year or more clean

³Mr. Roberts states it has seen an increase in general homelessness and chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is long-term or repeated homelessness often coupled with a disability. Mr. Roberts states during 2013 the Pacific house shelter exceeded its base capacity of 67 individuals almost nine days out of every 10. (Please see attached "[Capacity](#)") Mr. Roberts states they are over extended in all of their services. There is a lack of affordable housing in Stamford. The area's median income is \$100,000 plus. The residents that we help are at 25% or below the area's median income.

⁴Mr. Shaplen states there is a crisis in Stamford. You may not see it on the Streets yet because of what the Shelter for the Homeless and Inspirica are doing. In the last 2 years there has been a 43% increase in homelessness in Stamford compared to a 6% increase state wide. Since 2009 Stamford has seen a 72% increase in Chronic Homelessness compared to a 40% increase state-wide. All of their programs are at 100% capacity year round and in the winter 110% plus capacity. Mr. Shaplen said Stamford needs is more shelters and more affordable housing. Inspirica decided to look at a new market called "deeply affordable housing" which would help families making 25% or below the area median income.

⁵Mr. Roberts talked about the projects they are working on that are geared towards individuals. (please see attached [Light House 1](#)-Single Room occupancies)

Chair Mitchell and the committee agreed that homelessness is a continued

² Video Time Stamp 00:11:00

³ Video Time Stamp 00:46:30

⁴ Video Time Stamp 00:51:00

⁵ Video Time Stamp 00:57:34

problem in Stamford. Both Inspirica and Shelter for the Homeless agreed that Stamford needs more “Deeply Affordable Housing” and additional financial support to continue the successful programs offered.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Elaine Mitchell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).