

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

NEW BRITAIN'S PERMANENT WORK PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

June 2018

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The Vision:

In 2007, Mayor Timothy T. Stewart and community leaders banded together to make a commitment to end chronic homelessness in the City of New Britain. The “Mayor’s 10 year plan to end homelessness” was established. Now approaching its tenth year, with Mayor Erin Stewart at its helm, the Plan met its goal of ending chronic homelessness in our city in December 2016. On that date, Governor Malloy announced that chronic homelessness had been eradicated in all the CANs in our state. This does not mean there is no homelessness in New Britain, but rather that we have established a systematic way to identify and rapidly rehouse those who are chronically homeless. Community leaders and new partners have committed to make the “10 Year Plan” a permanent one to refocus the needs of our homeless population and social providers in town so we can realize our shared vision of New Britain as a place of wide opportunity, with businesses that employ all who are able to work, including youth and individuals who are homeless. To that end, the Mayor and the BHT Executive Committee are now examining ways to best interconnect the Committee and the CCCAN, including possibly merging the two, to best provide for the people we serve.

The Need:

There are approximately 74,000 people in New Britain today. The 2010 US Census data shows that 58% of all households in New Britain are renters and over 30% pay more than one third of their household income for rent. This makes them unstably housed and at risk of homelessness. According to the 2017 Point in Time Count, 156 individuals and families were experiencing homelessness in New Britain on January 24, 2017.

The multiple causes of homelessness are rooted in the realities of today’s rising housing costs, skill driven employment needs, family disasters and the challenges faced by people with limited financial resources when confronting illness, mental health and addiction issues. With a system in place in New Britain to address the needs of the chronically homeless, the focus must now be to rapidly rehouse those who become homeless to make their homeless episode as brief as possible and to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless in the first place.

ACRONYM KEY

AJC: American Job Center

BHT – Building Hope Together

CCCAN – Central Connecticut Coordinated Access Network

CAN – Coordinated Access Network

CWP: Capital Workforce Partners

SOAR – SSI Outreach, Access and Recovery

DMD – Department of Municipal Development

CHFA – CT Housing Finance Authority

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

CMHA – Community Mental Health Affiliates

NIMBY – Not In My Backyard

MEDA – Municipal Economic Development Authority

ESG – Emergency Shelter Grant

RR – Rapid ReHousing

CHR – Community Health Resources

NCRMHB – North Central Regional Mental Health Board

DOH – Department of Housing (State)

CoC – Continuum of Care

DOL – Department of Labor

FSC – Friendship Service Center

HRA – Human Resources Agency of New Britain

CHRO – Commission on Human Right and Opportunities (City)

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Facts:

- **10% of Connecticut residents fall below the poverty line set forth by the federal government**
- **22.9% of residents in New Britain fall below that line**
- **Average Income in NB: \$39,898/year**
- **Average Income in State of CT: \$69,000/year**

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

NEW BRITAIN'S PERMANENT WORK PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Goals focus in 3 areas:

1. Residence Retention

Provide supportive housing, expand access to affordable housing & prevent evictions

2. Employment

Work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the NB Chamber of Commerce, and CMHA, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

3. Mental Health & Wellness

Assess individual need, provide access to care & link community partners

WHO ARE WE?

Executive Committee Members:

Mayor & Co-Chair: Erin E. Stewart

Co-Chairman: Peter Niro

BHT Coordinator: Mary Floyd (YWCA)

Treasurer: Robin Sharp (YWCA)

Zeena Tawfik (NB Community Services)

Ellen Simpson (Friendship Center)

John Kulkulka (NHS)

Kenneth Malinowski (City- DMD)

Alderman Brian Keith Albert (City Council)

Alderwoman Katie Breslin (City Council)

Alderman Robert Smedley (City Council)

Maria Falvo (Am. Savings Foundation)

Shelly Hendrickson

Ray Gorman (CMHA)

Timothy Stewart (Chamber of Commerce)

Bruce Baxter (EMS)

Joeline Wruck

William Carroll (Economic Development)

Joe Vaverchak (CSDNB)

Kara Russell (Family Promise)

Daniel Walsh (Veterans Inc.)

Karolina Wytrykowska (CMHA)

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Co Chair: Justin Dorsey

Co Chair: Peter Niro

Ellen Simpson

Mary Floyd

Michael Tomasso

John Kulkulka

Joeline Wruck

Maria Falvo

Ken Malinowski

Lorraine Gauthier

Manssour Hanne

Sue Murphy

Marzena Bukowski

Barbara Damon

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: William Carroll

Wendi Garcia (CWP)

Donna Bergin (FSC)

**Timothy Stewart (Chamber of
Commerce)**

Kayla Hendrickson

Teresa Husband (AJC)

Gerald Berthiaume (CSDNB)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Chair: Karolina Wytrykowska (CMHA)

Zeena Tawfik (NB Community Services)

Father Kapriel (SAAC)

Desiree Agosto (YMCA)

Marianne Farr (First Lutheran)

Pat Rutkowski (NBPL)

Dr. David Buono (HOCC)

Yvette Highsmith Francis (CHC)

Detective Jennifer Yarsawich (NBPD)

Akintunde Sogunro

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

Okay Industries

American Savings Foundation

Community Foundation

Prudence Crandall

Friendship Service Center

Salvation Army

CMHA

YMCA

Rebuilding Together NB

NB EMS

NB Food Share

NB Chamber of Commerce

CW Resources

Veterans Inc.

CCCAN, State of Connecticut

Capital Workforce Partners

CCSU Community Engagement

North Central Regional Mental Health Board

Landlord Consortium

NHS

Farrell Treatment Center

Housing Authority

YWCA

NB Housing Authority

HOCC Emergency Dept.

NBPD

NB Downtown District

HRA

Community Health Center

FoodShare (Hunger Action Team)

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings of the Executive Committee are held at noon in Room 201 of
City Hall

February 26, 2018

June 18, 2018

October 15, 2018

I. RESIDENCE RETENTION Provide supportive housing, expand access to affordable housing & prevent evictions

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year to Date	2018 Goals
Increase development opportunities for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and affordable housing	<p>CCAN will identify clients who are or who are approaching chronic homeless status.</p> <p>Work with the State of Connecticut DOH to bring additional housing vouchers to the CCCAN for those identified as chronically homeless.</p> <p>Housing Committee, with the City's guidance and support, submitted a successful application to DOH.</p> <p>Housing Committee will submit additional state grants for vouchers particularly those for youth homeless.</p>	<p>City of New Britain CCCAN</p> <p>State of Connecticut DOH, Housing Committee</p>	<p>Chronically homeless in New Britain identified and matched to housing successful DOH application submitted.</p> <p>Groundbreaking held for Howey House May 24.</p> <p>To Date: 77 PSH units 56 affordable units 50 units for family reunification</p>	<p>Howey House will be constructed (11 units of PSH) and affordable housing 10 housing vouchers will be obtained.</p>

I. RESIDENCE RETENTION Provide supportive housing, expand access to affordable housing & prevent evictions

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	2018 Goals
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Homelessness
Prevention
Program

Provide funds paid directly to landlords to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless

Community
Foundation of
Greater New
Britain, YWCA,
Work Plan
Coordinator

Prevented homelessness for 25 households

Prevented homelessness for 289 households

Submit successful application for funding to CFGNB to prevent at least 25 households from becoming homeless

I. RESIDENCE RETENTION Provide supportive housing, expand access to affordable housing & prevent evictions

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	2018 Goals
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Fully utilize the Rapid Re-housing program to shorten lengths of time of homelessness	Committee members will present clients for Rapid Re-housing at weekly CCCAN Housing Committee Meetings	CCCAN, SVDP, CHR	121	55
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I. RESIDENCE RETENTION Provide supportive housing, expand access to affordable housing & prevent evictions

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	2018 Goals
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Provide basic essential for households moving from shelter to promote housing stability	Use Fresh Start Funds	Community Chest, Work Plan Coordinator	27 households 151 Households	submit successful application for funding to Community Chest Assist at least 20 households
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II. EMPLOYMENT: work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the nB Chamber of Commerce and cmha, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	Goals Year 10
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Use experience and expertise of the mainstream resources represented by the employment committee's membership

Work Plan Coordinator will present clients' resumes to the Employment Committee for their review, input and suggestions

Work Plan Coordinator, Employment Committee

10 resumes reviewed

To Date:
28 resumes reviewed

Committee reviews 15 resumes



II. EMPLOYMENT: work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the nB Chamber of Commerce and cmha, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	2018 Goals
Job seekers to utilize American Job Center (AJC)	Work Plan Coordinator links job seekers to AJC	AJC, Work Plan Coordinator	100% of job seekers referred to AJC	100% of job seekers referred to AJC

II. EMPLOYMENT: work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the nB Chamber of Commerce and cmha, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	2018 Goals
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Job seekers to utilize CMHA Vocational Program

Work Plan Coordinator will refer eligible clients to CMHA

CMHA, Work Plan Coordinator

New Goal

100% of eligible clients



II. EMPLOYMENT: work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the nB Chamber of Commerce and cmha, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	Annual Goals
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Provide transportation to work, trainings, job interviews

Bus Pass Project

Community Chest,
Work Plan
Coordinator

63 Clients
received
bus passes

Assist 90 clients

490 assisted

II. EMPLOYMENT: work with mainstream resources like AJC, CWP, the nB Chamber of Commerce and cmha, which have relationships with local employers, to increase employment for those who are homeless or at risk

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementer	Outcome Year To Date	Annual Goals
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Remove impediments to finding and keeping employment	Path to Employment Program	United Way, Work Plan Coordinator	25 clients assisted 179 clients assisted	submit successful application for funding to United Way Assist 20 clients
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III. MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS: Assess individual need, provide access to care & link community partners.

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcome Year to Date	2018 Goals
Maintain Homelessness Prevention Program	Grant applications, Fundraiser, Donations	Grantors, New Britain residents, Liaisons	252 households prevented from becoming homeless	Aid additional 75 households.
Emergency Needs Program	One time bill payment and referral to utility forgiveness and payment plans	FSC	n/a	Assist 75 Individuals
Educating tenants about housing obligations and budgeting	Link client to NHS classes & workshop	NHS	Open Enrollment	Expand workshops to include education for landlords & rapid rehousing.
Referral to resources that can prevent and help households from entering homelessness	Cash assistance, food stamps, behavioral health services and other state and local services as needed	All local providers linked by BHT.	n/a	Continue to be constant, on-going process.

III. MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS: Assess individual need, provide access to care & link community partners.

Strategies	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcome Year to Date	2018 Goals
Assess individual needs	Fill out client assessment Form - Quick Assessment Form Subcommittee will make	BHT Liaison, FSC, CMHA & other local providers . Sidekicks Program, Foodshare & Community Central.	n/a	Advise 200 clients.
Monitor local assistance accessibility	Ensure community partners provide wrap around services as needed	All community providers	n/a	Ongoing
Give police resources to deal with mentally ill & homeless	Implement NBPD Crisis Intervention Team - officer training required	NBPD	n/a	Half of all officer received proper training.
Provide community with education training	Utilize CAP & TIPS programs for residents and business owners	CMHA provides instruction	n/a	Hold quarterly educational sessions on various topics.
Raise funds to support the Plan	Empty Bowl/BHT Soirre	BHT Committee	\$5,000 (Oct. 12)	Have an annual dinner or fundraiser planned.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goals	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcome Year to Date	2018 Goals
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Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in	Connect veterans to housing, clinical care, and social services	Dept. of Labor, Veterans Inc.	✓ Achieved	✓ Achieved
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Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017				Prevent & end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020
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Prevent & end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020	Participate in the Statewide Youth Engagement Team Initiative and follow its recommendations			Set a path to ending all types of homelessness
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Focus on prevention and rapid rehousing

Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COORDINATED ACCESS NETWORK GOALS

Goals	Actions	Partners/ Implementers	Outcome Year to Date	2018 Goals
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End chronic homelessness

End homelessness among Veterans

Connect veterans to housing, clinical care, and social services

✓ Achieved

✓ Achieved

Partner with surrounding towns in the efforts to end homelessness

Bristol Mayor; Bristol Housing Authority; Southington and Plainville Community Services; Berlin; CCCAN

Partner with NB Housing Authority to obtain a preference for chronically homelessness

NB Housing Authority

Connect with land lords who are willing to partner with BHT and its clients

Improve communication and collaboration between BHT Ex. Cmte. And CAN Steering Cmte. (Merge the 2?)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Making a difference starts with YOU!

- **Advocate.**
 - Call your state & federal delegations to advocate for increased mental health funds
- **Volunteer.**
 - Call a local shelter or non profit to offer your help
- **Donate.**
 - Checks can be made payable to “Building Hope Together – YWCA” and mailed to YWCA New Britain, 19 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051