

# opening FAIRFIELD COUNTY doors

## Economic Security Workgroup

The Workplace, 350 Fairfield Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bridgeport  
9:30 – 10:30 am

October 20, 2016

**Attendance:** Anne Carr, Career Resources; Dawn Emerson, New Reach; Karen Mahar, Homes with Hope; Kathy Hunter, Supportive Housing Works; Carl Palmer, Alpha Community Services; Brenda Lobdell, Operation Hope; Samantha Stewart, Supportive Housing Works; Amber Hunter, The Connection; Natasha McKinney, The Connection; Nordia Savage, The WorkPlace; Pam Ralston, ODFC/CCEH; Linda Horbal, ODFC/CCEH – Career Resources/Secure Jobs

1. **Welcome:** Anne

2. **Secure Jobs Monthly Update for August:** Anne

- a. Anne provided overview of Secure Jobs year 1 and a plan for year 2
- b. Anne attended meeting of all the regions last week
  - Concern VI SPDAT assessments are not always accurate
  - Some families have permanent housing voucher
- c. She met with ABCD on their self-sufficiency program; Marcia Fountain will bring a representative to the Secure Jobs Vocational Triage Team [VTT]
- d. How do we get the housing case managers more involved in clients' treatment plans; some organizations' case managers review client's treatment plans every time they meet with them
- e. Year 2 changes: case conferencing will focus on outcomes; review client's needs holistically and not just from perspective of housing; long-term journey for most of our families
- f. Did not spend all of Year 1 money; look at what client's children need and not just focus on head of family; if family needs to move to Florida to join extended family, Secure Jobs can help them with that need
- g. Awarded \$100,000 for new year and carried over \$50,000<sup>+</sup> from Year 1; some discussion about Year 3: if it helps a family reach economic self-sufficiency and if it moves a family forward that's what we need to do
- h. How do we make sure all case managers have information they need about all resources available; bring case managers together with the SJ team
- i. Invite all case managers to the regular Rapid Rehousing Team meeting; second Tuesday in November at 1 pm, Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- j. Contract with TBICO in Danbury to serve local families; providing financial coaching, as well as employment support
- k. Attempting to do subsidized employment; Jim Hedges, new Career Resources job developer, will help with this

- l. Have VTT be more focused on all families and not just specific families; is there a more appropriate case management model
- m. Spent a lot of money in last month on child care, transportation
- n. Heartland Alliance “A Nation That Works” Conference: Anne, Caitlin and Samantha are attending to learn best practices from other parts of the country

3. **Feedback on Child Care Forum and Ideas for “Next Steps”:**

- a. Formerly Connecticut Works/American Jobs Center/One Stop; location in Bridgeport and in Stamford; one office in Derby and a small one in Ansonia; Stamford location is at Inspirica
- b. Anne and Pam will contact Marcie Johnson and Kristina Stevenson
- c. Thank you notes to panelists; Linda will do
- d. Feedback on Child Care Forum was very informative:
  - need for this topic came directly from a survey with potential participants
  - need more clarity on Care for Kids
  - Allison Logan was particularly good and knowledgeable about her topic; maybe participants could benefit from more information about child development
  - be aware of timing; some participants left after “they got what they need,” which was before the interactive portion of program
  - consider moving presenters to different parts of the room to re-engage audience

4. **Secure Jobs Celebration:**

- a. Agreement signed with Beardsley Zoo for Carousel Building
- b. Celebration is on December 8, 2016 from 5 – 7 pm
- c. Carousel will do the decorating in the building
- d. Who is doing the food? David Grant? Jeannette was checking on food vendors; Pam will do a flyer that Carl can use to ask local restaurateurs if they want to participate
- e. Case managers, families with their children, funders and their families
- f. Asked Target for \$2,500 to provide program support
- g. Joyce is recruiting a professional photographer
- h. Kathy, Brenda and Carl will be on a sub-committee to do remainder of planning

5. **Next Meeting:** November 17, 2016