



# QUINCY & WEYMOUTH Board on Homelessness



## MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2009

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- John Yazwinski, Chairperson, welcomed the members and introductions were made.

### 2. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH DISCUSSION

- Leslie Bridson, who works with the unaccompanied youth of Quincy, gave a brief presentation regarding her work in this area. Ms. Bridson said she has been successful in finding and reaching out to this population. Local school guidance councilors assist her. Most of the kids she encounters want to stay in school. They are not aware of services that are available to them. Ms. Bridson's presentation led to the Board asking questions about the rights of teenagers in Massachusetts and related issues. It was suggested that the Board reach out to the Quincy Public Schools on a higher level to implement a supportive parenting program. It was also suggested that the Board invite the Homeless Liaison of Lynn to attend a future Board meeting, to discuss a successful housing program in that city.

### 3. POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2009

- The Board participated in a PIT "trial run" on January 14, 2009. Overall, the trial went well. Mistakes from the trial run have been corrected in time for the official count, which will be held on January 28, 2009. Agencies should use the same PIT counting tools as those used in the trial run. Agencies should send completed counting tools directly to Matt Simmonds' staff via e-mail. Agencies were asked to submit completed PIT tools within twenty-four hours of the count.

### 4. DTA/DHCD UPDATES

- Governor Patrick and Lt. Governor Murray have proposed shifting shelter contracts from DTA over to DHCD, which is the Department of Housing and Community Development. A majority of stakeholders at the state level appear to be on board with this proposal. The Board will be kept up-to-date on this issue.

### 5. MASS. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)

- The Quincy/Weymouth and Plymouth/Brockton Continuums of Care submitted a joint application for funding under the IHC's pilot for housing programs. This combined group, called the South Shore Network Leadership Council, was awarded \$837,913 for this pilot. The funding will be allocated to QCAP, Father Bills & MainSpring, South Shore Community Action, and BAMSI (Brockton Area Multi-Service). The lead agency will be the United Way of Plymouth County, under the direction of Dennis Carmen. About \$600,000 will be used for family housing; \$200,000 will be used for an emergency triage to housing program.

### 6. HOMELESS PREVENTION / RENTAL & HEAT ASSISTANCE

- QCAP is still accepting applications for its fuel assistance program. Those at or below 60% of median income are eligible to apply. Applicants may even be eligible if they pay for heat as part of their rent. QCAP also has "Community Assistance" money available for rental assistance and other eligible uses, which is capped at \$1,000. QCAP also has Lend-a-Hand funds available for similar expenses to those allowed under the Community Assistance program.

### 7. STATE BUDGET CUTS

- The Department of Mental Health has been hit very hard. DMH has lost its vocational program; educational program; and the last 105 case managers hired have been terminated. The Board expects local aid to be cut substantially.

### 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- On February 13, 2009, there will be a "housing conversation" at Quincy City Hall at 9:30 A.M.
- The Quincy/Weymouth Continuum of Care was featured in a recent Quincy Sun article, regarding the 2008 Outstanding HMIS Achievement Award that Matt Simmonds accepted on September 23, 2008. The Board thanked Mr. Simmonds for his assistance with HMIS issues.

**NEXT MEETING:**      **Tuesday, February 24 at 9:30 A.M.**  
**Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington Street.**  
**Falls Blvd., Quincy**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	<b>Bickler</b>	Melissa	South Shore Mental Health
<b>X</b>	<b>Boisson</b>	Karen	Quincy Commission on the Family
	<b>Callanan</b>	Nancy	Quincy Planning Dept.
	<b>Carmer</b>	Jessica	DOVE
	<b>Cole</b>	Sharon	MA Dept. of Mental Health
	<b>Coleman</b>	Richard	Colonial Federal Savings Bank
<b>X</b>	<b>Connelly</b>	Stephen	Quincy Planning Dept.
<b>X</b>	<b>DiSante</b>	Ed	Friends of the Homeless
	<b>Ellison</b>	Belinda	C.H.D., Atlantic House
	<b>Faring</b>	Gail	South Shore Savings Bank
<b>X</b>	<b>Fitzgerald</b>	Nicole	Father Bills & MainSpring
<b>X</b>	<b>Gilmartin</b>	Ginny	Quincy Community Action Programs
<b>X</b>	<b>Glennon</b>	Sean	Quincy Planning Dept.
	<b>Grenier</b>	Normand	Neighborhood Housing Services of. S.S.
	<b>Lauser</b>	Wendy	IMPACT Employment Services/hopeFound
	<b>Lehrer</b>	Jody	Weymouth Planning Dept.
<b>X</b>	<b>MacKinnon</b>	Mona	Quincy Mental Health Center
	<b>MacRitchie</b>	Jay	Quincy Housing Authority
	<b>Newell</b>	Dorothy	Friends of the Homeless
<b>X</b>	<b>Newell</b>	Herb	Friends of the Homeless
	<b>Niles</b>	Barbara	Quincy Housing Authority
	<b>Olmstead</b>	Rose Ann	South Shore Mental Health
	<b>Parnaby</b>	John	Weymouth Planning Dept.
	<b>Quinn</b>	Robert	Quincy Housing Authority
<b>X</b>	<b>Simmonds</b>	Matt	SimTech Solutions
	<b>Spinks</b>	Bill	Bay State Community Services
<b>X</b>	<b>Stepansky</b>	Michael	MA Dept. of Mental Health
	<b>Stevens</b>	Robert	Quincy Planning Dept.
<b>X</b>	<b>Stice</b>	Linda	Quincy Commission on the Family
	<b>Strollo</b>	Beth Ann	Quincy Community Action Programs
	<b>Vecchi</b>	Jacquelyn	MA Dept. of Social Services
<b>X</b>	<b>Ventre</b>	Isabel	Quincy Public Schools
<b>X</b>	<b>Weston</b>	Regina	Atlantic Clubhouse
<b>X</b>	<b>Yazwinski</b>	John	Father Bills & MainSpring

**Alternates/Guests:**

<b>X</b>	<b>Flores</b>	Maureen	DOVE
<b>X</b>	<b>Stash</b>	Pawlowski	Department of Mental Health