



Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council

From: Sharice Coleman, Homeless & Housing Advocate

Re: April, 2014 Monthly Report

cc: ARC Executive Director & ARC Board of Directors

I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the City Council, Dream Homes Community Center (DHCC) was established at ARC to serve as the Point of Entry for people who are homeless or low-income renters and to facilitate first-time home ownership for people with hard-to-serve backgrounds.

II. Program Updates

Dream Homes Community Center continues to put the “Boots on the Ground” in the efforts to end homelessness. The number of people served throughout Danbury continues to increase. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served 553 people in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2013.

Point of Entry

Since July 1, 2013, DHCC has provided services to 878 people through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown by town:

Town	July 2011 – June 2012	July 2012- June 2013	July 2013-April 2014
Danbury	592	590	596
Bethel	26	62	48
Brookfield	33	14	16
New Fairfield	34	22	10
New Milford	77	68	77
Newtown	4	16	24
Redding	7	0	0
Ridgefield	8	5	20
Sherman	2	1	4
Other Towns	45	58	83
Total	828	836	878

III. Outreach Highlights: Dream Homes Staff attended the following meetings and trainings:

- Homeless and Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the Continuum of Care Meeting held at City Hall. Committee members met to vote on the new Coordinate Access Network System that is to be implemented starting July 1, 2014.
- ARC's Executive Director Rev. Phyllis Leopold and Homeless and Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the Danbury Housing Partnership meeting held at City Hall. Francesca Martin invited SOAR (Social Security, Access and Recovery) Program Manager Libby Protzman from Columbus House to speak to the committee on the importance of income in the process of ending chronic homelessness. Libby also discussed the process of SOAR and the alternative to SOAR.
- Homeless and Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the monthly Shelter Plus Care meeting held at Western Connecticut Mental Health Network. Committee members met to discuss current wait list

Continued on Next Page

IV. Program Highlights—Story of one family served by DHCC this month (names changed)

A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story

“John”

John was referred to ARC by the local City Welfare office. He had been living in his car for the past few months after losing his job, and being evicted from his apartment. After several attempts of trying to get back on his feet, John began to seek assistance. He came to ARC requesting assistance finding housing and a Security Deposit.

Housing Advocate met with John to conduct intake and Needs and Assessment. John had been dealing with some health issues and living in his car which was not helping his condition. It was imperative that he find housing as soon as possible. Housing Advocate reviewed John’s income and expenses. John had been receiving unemployment and was bringing in a decent amount of money; however he was paying a lot of money in child support. Housing Advocate advised John to meet with Legal Aid to see if he could reduce his child support payments since he wasn’t working. Housing Advocate also noticed that John was not receiving food stamps and spending a lot of money on food and eating out. Housing Advocate encouraged John to apply for food stamps and in the mean time take advantage of utilizing soup kitchens and food pantries when he could in order to save money.

Housing Advocate continued to work with John in his search for housing. With John cutting back on some of his expenses, and getting his child support payments reduced, Housing Advocate and John were able to establish an affordable rent amount that wouldn’t exceed his budget. Housing Advocate began a housing search for John in the Danbury area that wouldn’t exceed his budget. Housing Advocate also connected John to well known landlords who work with ARC on a regular basis. Within two weeks of coming to ARC, Housing Advocate and John were able to find an apartment that didn’t exceed his budget. Housing Advocate met with the Landlord and conducted the apartment inspection to ensure the apartment met all CT-Habitability requirements. Housing Advocate also met with John and the new landlord to review the lease and tenants rights and responsibilities to ensure John had full understanding of his responsibilities as a tenant. Once John was in full understanding of his lease and his tenant rights and responsibilities he was ready and excited to move in and finally be off the streets. ARC was able to supply John with a security deposit for his new apartment and remains stably housed.