

**MINUTES**  
PROBLEM SOLVING IN FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATE COURT  
NEW HAVEN PILOT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

**INTERAGENCY RESOURCES WORK GROUP**  
NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The Interagency Resources work group met via telephonic conference call connecting from 235 Church Street, New Haven, to 287 Main Street, East Hartford.

Those in attendance: Family Support Magistrate Christopher Oliveira at 235 Church Street, Hearing Room 301, New Haven, and Ms. Dalia Panke and Mr. Joseph Greelish at 287 Main Street, East Hartford.

## **1- Update on Interagency resources Contacts**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Magistrate Oliveira. He reported calling the DHMAS representative but has not received a response. He also contacted the Department of Labor (DOL) representative, Ms. Bernice Zampano. Ms. Zampano shared that apart from the services DOL provides to people walking in, where they meet with a Career Development Specialist to learn how the unemployment and job search processes work, there isn't much more available to them. She spoke to Magistrate Oliveira about the Workforce Investment Force and the Workforce Alliance. The Workforce Alliance is a large program located in New Haven and works with job training and ex-offenders. They contract with DOL. There is no intake tool available at DOL. Ms. Saxton will be asked to follow up on this lead through the Local Resources Work Group.

Mr. Greelish reported on his findings regarding the Department of Correction (DOC), Parole, Court Support Services Division (CSSD), and Department of Social Services (DSS). He stated DOC is on board. Their "Offender Accountability Plan" is sort of an intake tool and categorizes people by risk. Specifically, it shows the extent of the risk and if they are required to attend a certain program. Also, there is a Life Skills Inventory (LSI). The tool does not need to be administered by a professional. DOC employees train one day for it. It is interpreted based on the results of the answers and there is cost associated with this tool every time it is administered. However, depending on the volume of cases in the problem solving court, the cost may be acceptable for this pilot. Ms. Michelle Hayward from DOC is finding out the cost.

Mr. Greelish contacted Mr. Tom O'Connor from Parole. They have halfway house and rehabilitation programs with specific criteria controlled by the funding. People would have to be Court ordered to go back to Parole to be referred into the programs. However, the Problem Solving Court would not have to find the problem prior to sending them to Parole; they would be assessed through Parole. It was also noted that Parole had a failed federal grant opportunity called "Second Chance Dollars" which, in the future, may go through if Judicial is part of it, making the family the main component not just the inmate. Parole will notify Mr. Greelish the next time they will apply. Parole can help the model by connecting with community providers that are not funded. They have the influence in the community since they do a lot of work there. The work group will also have to find service providers who can handle end-of-sentence cases, not just supervised cases.

Mr. Brian Coco is the CSSD contact and the statistics expert there. A referral system can be set up similar to Parole where CSSD controls which programs people go into. Their Probation Officers would sign their clients up for the programs. The advantage of handling it this way is that the person will not have an added burden which may conflict with the purpose Parole has already identified for them. A mechanism needs to be created for

CSSD to report back to us and referral tools need to be developed, bearing in mind that volume may preclude them from providing individual reporting.

A representative from the Department of Social Services (DSS) was also contacted by Mr. Greelish. The DSS representative will find the person most apt to answer the following questions - outside of Fatherhood, what services are available? How can problem solving clients get priority placement?

Mr. Greelish spoke with Ms. Meek, the Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coordinator for the City of New Haven. She stated they do not have a formal intake tool. There is a possibility that the Court could send referrals to her since she has access to Yale Law School interns who can do needs assessment. Magistrate Oliveira mentioned Quinnipiac is also interested in internships. Mr. Greelish has a meeting scheduled with Ms. Meek and will try to get additional information regarding housing and transportation as well. Magistrate Oliveira suggested the work group should keep a close eye on new legislation. It will be funded by the federal government and will create new jobs for the unemployed. The purpose is to lower the need for unemployment benefits.

## **2- Develop Interim Update for Full Implementation Committee**

Mr. Greelish will put together a summary report in bullet form with the caveat that the work is incomplete, but there are promising future leads. He will have this summary available at the next large committee meeting tomorrow.

## **3- Future Assignments**

Mr. Greelish will look into the cost of the LSI and logistics surrounding the administration of it. He will continue to communicate with Parole and CSSD to find out their preferences in referral and reporting mechanisms. Specifically, he will find out through CSSD if there is a computerized way to look at case information. In addition, he will look into the "Release of Information" form DHMAS may already have in place.

## **4- Future Meeting Date**

The next telephonic meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12/10/2009 at 3:30pm. Site location open to the public will be at 235 Church Street, Room 301, New Haven.