

## *Report of the Local Resource Development Workgroup*

The local resource development workgroup has met three times. The workgroup has discussed the key role that local resources play by providing the actual services that parents in the pilot program need to address the barriers that are preventing them from fulfilling their duty to support their children.

The first priority of the workgroup was to develop a plan for introducing the concept of integrating problem solving techniques in child support matters to the local community providers. These "introductory sessions" serve the dual purposes of getting community buy-in to the concept of problem solving and establishing the necessary collaborative relationships between the Branch and the local providers. Two events were identified as opportunities for staff and Magistrate Wihbey to address providers: a meeting of the *New Haven Reentry Roundtable* and a meeting of the providers that comprise the *Male Involvement Network* (a program managed by *New Haven Family Alliance*).

On December 15, 2009 Family Support Magistrate Linda Wihbey and Dalia Panke, Deputy Director, SES presented an overview of the New Haven Problem Solving Pilot to the *New Haven Reentry Roundtable*. The roundtable is comprised of community providers and private citizens interested in the issues surrounding reentry. The presentation, which included a request for interested parties to contact SES regarding possible collaborations, was well received. SES staff will continue to attend the monthly roundtable meetings.

On January 14, 2010, the *Male Involvement Network (MIN)* will be hosting its monthly network meeting. This meeting time has been offered to the Problem Solving Pilot as an opportunity to have an in-depth conversation with local providers who have already committed resources, as part of MIN, to helping parents address the issues that are interfering with their ability to support themselves and their children. The MIN provider network is a group of agencies that have a proven track record of success. This meeting will also allow the SES Problem Solving staff the opportunity to gather specific program information and the necessary contacts with the various provider groups in attendance.

The second priority of the group was to develop a format for collecting information on the various provider groups that are collaborating with the pilot. The format that has been agreed to by the workgroup is in attachment one. Initially, the information will be maintained in a paper format. As the pilot proceeds, SES will allocate resources to create a searchable electronic database for the Problem Solving staff and the Bench.

The workgroup believes that the steps outlined above will produce a reliable baseline of service providers for problem solving referrals by the January 27, 2010 start date.

Beginning in February 2010, SES staff will begin an outreach effort to community resources that primarily work with the Latino population in the Greater New Haven area. As contacts are made, staff from the Male Involvement Network will assist SES

in evaluating programs for collaboration. As programs come aboard, the master list of programs will be updated.

Finally, in Spring 2010, the problem solving personnel (SES and Bench) will evaluate the needs of the pilot to determine if further community outreach and collaboration is necessary. The result of this assessment will determine if the workgroup needs to be reconvened for further activities.

## Attachment One/Format for Program Information

### Program Name:

- Program Address
- Telephone
- Fax
- Website
- Established

### Primary Contact:

- Name
- Telephone
- Email

### Program Description:

### Profile of Population Served:

### General Information About the Agency:

- Regions served
- Languages spoken (other than English)
- Number of Clients Served Annually
- Hours of Operation
- Program Restrictions
- Program Costs

### Services Provided (examples):

- Employment Readiness
- Pre-Employment Services
- Job Placement/Career Planning
- Job Retention/Career Development
- Fatherhood
- In-Patient Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Out-Patient Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Housing Assistance
- Educational Services (GED)
- English as Second Language
- Literacy