

Mission in Motion

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Message from Phil Shea President/CEO

FY-2016 Priorities

The beginning of our fiscal year, July 1st, provides us with the opportunity to assess our progress in pursuing our mission and to establish goals and priorities for the year ahead. As always, what drives our plan is identifying opportunities to better serve our clients. Often this means either adding a new service or strengthening existing services so that we operate a continuum of services designed to respond to the needs of our clients.

This year is no different, as our priorities include adding new services and strengthening existing services. Our FY2016 priorities include the following six initiatives:

1. Writing a successful response to the MBHP's Request for Proposals to operate **Emergency Psychiatric Services** in the communities we serve. The Department of Mental Health currently operates this service. The Commonwealth has elected to contract for these services and we are eager for the opportunity to provide this service.
2. Develop a **Home Health Services** Program emphasizing in-home nursing care to clients with serious mental illness. We believe that we can deliver this service more effectively and efficiently than coordinating care with a dozen or more home health providers, as we do currently.
3. Prepare for an anticipated reprocurement of **CBFS services**. Perhaps the most important way that we can prepare for this reprocurement is by delivering services that lead to improved outcomes for our clients in areas of employment and community tenure.

4. Continue to restore our **CSP services** to all those that are eligible and could benefit from them, following the rollback of MBHPs excessively restrictive access to these important services.
5. Institute supervisory and management approaches that will enable us to continue to be able to effectively deliver **IHT services** to the children and families in our community.
6. Continue to expand the **Rapid Access Project in our Outpatient programs** so that all Outpatient services are available and accessible at a time and place convenient to our customers.

All of these priorities pose particular challenges for us. Nonetheless, I remain confident that with your continued commitment, effort, and creativity, we will meet these challenges and improve client outcomes and strengthen our community.

Fran Bennett Award

Gregory Auger, BPACT nurse, recently accepted the Fran Bennett Award from the Community Association Serving Alcoholics (CASA), Boston, MA for providing excellent nursing services to individuals with addictions.



Congratulations
Greg!



Human Resources

Welcome to New Staff!

CCBC would like to acknowledge and welcome our new hires for the first half of 2015.

JANUARY

Alicia Ann McGovern, IHT
 Kristine Kelly, CBFS-A
 James Mongeau, CBFS-A
 Michael Rosen, CSP
 Vivian Smith-Barnes, CSA
 Courtney Swenson, CSA
 Julie Renz, CBFS-T-DBT

FEBRUARY

Sara Lazzaro, ES
 Elizabeth Alley, CBFS-T
 Talkulu Kulah, CBFS-T
 Andrew Martin, CBFS-T
 Lauren Geer, CBFS-T-DBT
 Josephine Dwuye, CBFS-T-DBT
 Tara Maher, CBFS-T-DBT
 Tracy Greene, CBFS-T
 Joshua Porter, COP

MARCH

Kristine Raveau, HH
 Jaime Devlin, IHT
 Jazmyn Raymond, CBFS-A
 Ashlyn Tuffy, CSP
 Mirline Antoine, CBFS-T-DBT
 Danielle Levesque, CSP
 Cathy Vincuilla, HH
 Liza Harnish, CBFS-T
 Alicia Rollins, CBFS-T
 Nina Scott, CBFS-T
 Tekla Tamulevich, CBFS-T
 Aprile Danielle Giugliano, COP
 Shaina Garro, CBFS-A
 Sonja Reidy, CSP
 Cindy Pinto, HIV

APRIL

Arty D'Angelo, CBFS-A
 Nicole Tajong, CBFS-T
 Stephanie Medeiros, CBFS-A
 Lillian Baptiste, CSP
 Agueda Minor, CSP
 Gregory Stevens, Elder Partial
 Cheyenne Lantz, CSP
 May-Carmelie Beliard, CSP

Ashley Connolly, CSP
 Nicole Laubach, CSP
 Ashley Williams, CSP
 Ryan Fox, B-PACT
 Joseph Parahams, B-PACT

MAY

Bartholomew George, HH
 April Elizabeth Lee, CBFS-T
 Diana Winters, CBFS-T
 Shannon DelPapa, COP
 Megan Haaland, CBFS-T
 Richard Sylvia, CBFS-T
 Emilio Walker, IHT
 Samantha Parkhouse, CSP
 Alexandra Belenger, DAY

JUNE

Sandra Logan, Adm
 Christine Hale, CSP
 Alysa Hall, CSP
 Caitlin Kelly, CSP
 Stacy Melo, CSP
 Barbara Perry, CSA
 Lisa Ahlquist, CBFS-T-DBT
 Allison Rollins, DBT-CBFS-T
 Jeannette Sorace, PACT
 Hazel Walker, IHT
 Rasheedat Ahmed, CBFS-A
 Michaela Andrews-Everette, CBFS-A
 Jerome Hardy, CSP
 Ian Rollins, Adm
 Sara O'Brien, CBFS-T
 Mary Elizabeth Ruggiero, COP
 Richard Hartman, IHT
 Richard Arruda, CBFS-A
 Bruce Palmer, B-PACT

CCBC Board of Directors Approve Wage Increase

I am pleased to let you know that the budget for the Fiscal Year 2016 recently approved by our Board of Directors contains an increase in salaries and wages of 2% for all employees that have at least a year of continuous service as of September 30th, 2015 and a satisfactory performance review. You can expect the increase in the first payment period in October.

Phil Shea
 President/CEO

ACBFS Recognition Awards

By Deb Kaluzny
Program Director, ACBFS

ACBFS staff recently received awards of recognition from CCBC President Phil Shea in an award luncheon held at the Bank Street location in Attleboro. Mr. Shea recognized the efforts of four outstanding George Street team staff, including **Team Leader, Martin Garratt; Assistant Team Leader, Andrew Luc; and RPCs Christin McDermott and Cindy Baker** – for their outstanding dedication and immense efforts at supporting a client who had been on life support in MassGeneral's ICU for weeks with a terminal prognosis. Physicians at MassGeneral credited their intense bedside support as no less than lifesaving, and their constant presence saw him through back to the only home he's known for years. The Department of Mental Health recognized their efforts, and Mr. Shea noted his appreciation in awards for each. CCBC and Attleboro CBFS remains grateful to each of them for their excellent dedication and strength of character.

At the same awards luncheon, CEO Andy Dawley and Mr. Shea recognized ACBFS **Assistant Team Leader Andrea Hubacheck and RPC Deanna Thomas** for their intensive efforts at organizing and facilitating the most well attended NAMI walk that CCBC has ever participated in! Bringing fresh enthusiasm to a long tradition of NAMI walk involvement, Andrea and Deanna planned and executed every detail of the 2015 walk, from shirts and water bottles showcasing our new CCBC logo, to handmade gourmet lunches.

This year we exceeded our donation goals and were thrilled to have over 100 CCBC staff and individuals walk together – making us one of the largest NAMI groups to participate this year. Andrea and Deanna share their appreciation with previous organizers from the Cedar St. site who were happy to advise and collaborate.

The event went off without a hitch and those who experienced walking with such a large enthusiastic group noted that it spoke volumes about the strength of relationships between our CCBC staff and the individuals with whom we work. Looking out at that sea of CCBC shirts made everybody feel great! Phil and Andy expressed their gratitude at the work of Andrea and Deanna - and ensured that next year's plans were already underway!



(Left to right) Christine McDermott, Cindy Baker, Phil Shea, Andrew Luc and Martin Garratt.



Deana Thomas and Andrea Hubacheck display their awards for organizing the 2015 NAMI walk. Phil Shea joins them in this photo.



CCBC NAMI Walk 2015 participants posing for a group photo and sporting team t-shirts with the new CCBC logo. Looking good!

NAMI Walk 2015

May 16, 2015

Thank you so much for all the support at the NAMI Walk 2015. It was a huge success, and the total raised was \$1,251.

Thank you to all our generous donors that helped us reach our goal, and of course, to the staff and clients who turned out to walk with us.

CCBC had a great turn out, with about 100 participants walking, which is twice the amount from past walks!

Andrea Hubacheck
Deana Thomas
CCBC NAMI Walk Captains

The First Annual CBFS Employment Awards Luncheon

By Michelle Pelletier
Employment Coordinator, TCBFS

On May 8th 2015 the first Annual CBFS Employment Awards luncheon was held at the Columbia Cultural Center in the Taunton industrial park. This exciting event featured a guest speaker, awards for working CBFS clients, and also an award for the employment partner of the year. This event was hosted by Jean Corrieri, Craig Curtis and Michelle Pelletier, the Employment Teams of CBFS Attleboro and Taunton and by Vice President, Kevin Medeiros.

The guest speaker was Scott Hamilton, a person with lived experience, who spoke from his heart about his struggles to obtain meaningful employment, while managing his own mental illness. Scott encouraged everyone to seek out help and press on until you reach your goals.

Every CBFS client that achieved their goal of employment was given a framed award certificate. Two special clients were chosen, from Attleboro (Kim D.) and from Taunton (Derek M.) because of their determination to overcome every obstacle between them and their goal of employment. Derek was quoted as saying that **"employment was the essential component of his recovery."**

Another award that was given was an **Employer Partner Award**. This award was given to John Fornara, the HR Manager at the Raynham Lowe's. John has gone above and beyond a normal employer by giving his time to speak at many CCBC employment functions. John has educated our clients on the entire hiring process, from online applications to the interview. Over the past year John has also hired several clients that have been working and thriving at Lowe's.

The luncheon was a great success and was well attended by CCBC executive staff, DMH officials, and CBFS supervisors, staff, peers, and clients from Attleboro and Taunton. The main theme that seemed to resonate throughout the luncheon was the important connection between work, hope, and recovery. The guest speaker started it off when he said, **"Work brings meaning to my life."** Derek the award winner from Taunton summed it up with this comment, **"Work has given me a new confidence in my abilities. I feel more like a man and less like a person with a mental illness."** Both statements are powerful examples of the importance of work in a person's life. The CCBC Employment Team would like to thank each and every one who came and supported this memorable event.



CCBC President/CEO Phil Shea (left) and Kevin Medeiros, Vice President of Community Treatment and Rehabilitation (right) give remarks.



Hosts: (Left to Right) Michelle Pelletier, Jean Corrieri and Craig Curtis.



John Fornara, HR Manager of Raynham Lowe's accepting the Employer Partner Award.



Guest Speaker, Scott Hamilton.



Guest Speaker Scott Hamilton displays his wonderful work with caricatures!



Michelle Pelletier with Client Award Recipient Kim D.



Client Award Recipient Derek M. with his mother and CCBC therapist Dawn Browne.



Taunton CBFS Program Director Lisa Correia with award recipient Derek M.

Employment Awards Luncheon Photo Gallery



CCBC wishes to thank the Employment Teams of CBFS Attleboro and Taunton for working to make this awards luncheon a great success!

The Attleboro CBFS program was featured in the Focus on Employment section of the June "DMH Connections" newsletter.

Focus on Employment



Housing, Benefits, Collaboration, Work!

By Michael Stepansky
DMH Director of Employment

A widely recognized barrier to employment is the fear - real or imagined - that individuals who work will lose their Social Security and healthcare, then lose their job, and then be left with no income at all. Because this fear is so pervasive, Dartmouth College included benefits counseling as one of the eight core principles of its evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment. Community Counseling of Bristol County (CCBC), a CBFS Provider in the Southeast Area, initiated a creative approach to addressing this issue while simultaneously improving its fidelity to IPS, drawing on the dual strengths of collaboration and integration.

Capitalizing on an existing relationship with **MRC's Project Impact**, CCBC collaborated in creating a training focused on work and benefits available to both individuals enrolled in CBFS as well as their staff. Staff who received the training had volunteered to become employment/benefit "specialists" based in each congregate program, acting as "benefit liaisons" for the rest of the team. Through this co-training, CBFS staff were able to expand their expertise alongside persons receiving services, as well as demonstrate their commitment to assisting all individuals who want to work. Because these team members are based in congregate programs, persons receiving services have consistent access to advice and support around going to work, and because of the close connection to Project Impact, a professional benefits specialist is always available for individualized consultation.

"Collaboration with MRC allows us to use the 'knowledge is power' model to empower our staff and individuals. We base our practice on the concept that an individual who truly understands both the financial and emotional benefit of employment will be more likely to engage in activities towards achieving a goal of employment," says Deb Kaluzny, CCBC's Program Director for CBFS in Attleboro.



Second Annual Volunteer Day at Gifts to Give

By Kristina Ciesielski
Program Director, IHT

IHT had its second annual Volunteer Day at Gifts to Give on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Several IHT staff members and their families went out to volunteer for a few hours sorting clothes and cleaning toys for the organization. The IHT program regularly uses Gifts To Give to place orders for our clients in need of clothes, toys, school supplies, and birthday presents.

About Gifts to Give



Gifts To Give is building a community to tackle child poverty - and a new currency for philanthropy. We call it **"Tangible Philanthropy and Big Citizenship."**

At first glance, GiftsToGive is a former golf ball factory turned into a philanthropy factory where thousands of child workers process zillions of pounds of donated children's gear that is then recycled, re-purposed, and gifted to local children in need.

But wait - there's more! The primary mission is to give all SouthCoast young people - the privileged and those in-need - an opportunity to practice Big Citizenship and Tangible Philanthropy through their gifts of time and treasure. Children come to understand, through their "doing" the power of giving and service and that we all have gifts to give.

CPI: Pathway to Prevention

By Tom Loftus, MS, LMHC
Quality Management and Compliance Coordinator

Working Together

As a training team, we realize how staff must make arrangements in order to attend scheduled training and how it would be a huge burden to their schedules if they had to reschedule unexpectedly. We had a unique opportunity presented to us on the morning of Wednesday, February 18, 2015, due to a gas leak at Mill River Plaza.

Part of the CPI training focusses on team work. Jora Ehrlich took it upon herself to get staff trainee phone numbers who were in the parking lot so that they could be updated. Jora also contacted VP Kevin Medeiros to see if we could have access to 59 Broadway in order to conduct the class; obviously a last minute plea. As Jora was making arrangements, Emily Baumgart took over finding trainees.

Kevin and his 59 Broadway staff could not have been more accommodating, while still maintaining regular program operations. This included the on-site leadership provided by Lisa Correia and Barbara Hubacheck, who allowed us access to print much needed substitute materials.

So as to limit the inconvenience for those involved, Emily and Jora taught the first couple of sections at 59 Broadway before moving back to 1 Washington Street. Tom Loftus instructed staff in the same sections at 1 Washington Street so that when all attendees were together at 1 Washington Street, all would be at the same place in the curriculum, creating minimal disruption.

This is a great example of staff from many parts of our agency, working together, in a short period of time, sharing in a common commitment.

CCBC as a Leader

CCBC has been actively researching and implementing various safety measures. A number of these have been ahead of other Human Service Agencies. Our **Safety Committee** has been a source of influence over policy which in turn led to the creation of our *Workplace Violence Prevention Plan*. We were well underway before such a plan became a regulation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Also, CCBC may be the only agency in the Commonwealth that employs the 5-Star system to provide immediate response assistance to staff agency-wide.

The latest example is how selected CPI classes have been conducted lately. We have been going deeper into the first stage of the Crisis Development Model, **Anxiety**. Previously we focused on CPI's definitions and moved to the next stage. Currently we are using CPI's examples, plus our own, and looking at what might be generating anxious behavior in our clients and what we can do to support them, informed by our staff's incredible knowledge. Again, we are leading, rather than trying to catch-up, as you will see below.

CPI recently modified its core instructor curriculum, adding new and enhanced content to its training system, which will be presented for the first time at their annual convention starting July 19, 2015. This in turn will ultimately be used for future instructor certification. As an aside, this will have a roll out period over the next few years. From what limited information has been provided, CCBC is already moving in the direction of CPI's newest developments.

Learning from Each Other

The **Crisis Development Model (Unit I)** is the foundation of CPI's Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. It is the basis of its philosophy of *Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security*. Integrated Experience shows how staff attitudes can affect the interaction and vice versa. Below is a summary of the four stages:

Integrated Experience

| Crisis Development / Behavior Levels | Staff Attitudes / Approaches |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Anxiety | 1. Supportive |
| 2. Defensive | 2. Directive |
| 3. Acting-Out Person | 3. Nonviolent Physical Crisis Intervention |
| 4. Tension Reduction | 4. Therapeutic Rapport |

We are focusing on the first stage. The client behavior and corresponding staff attitude are described below:

Anxiety (Client behavior): A noticeable change or increase in a person's behavior.

Supportive (Staff attitude): Empathy, nonjudgmental approach to help alleviate anxiety.

If staff is unsuccessful at the first stage, by definition, clients begin to lose rationality as they move through higher stages of the Crisis Development Model. That is why this first stage should be viewed as the **redirection zone**. As rationality becomes diminished, safety for all can be compromised quite quickly.

The list of **Anxious Behaviors** provided in CPI's PowerPoint presentation became a starting point. A table was created to go deeper. To better understand what might be driving anxious behavior, we asked staff what might be causing it (**Reasons**).

That knowledge alone might help staff to depersonalize interactions and help them to provide the level of support needed. Taking it to the next level, we asked staff to brainstorm what they might do with this new knowledge (**How to Interact**).

During these exercises we were very impressed by the knowledge our staff have of their clients as well as staffs' creativity. Below is a tabular summary, in no particular order, of reasons and solutions generated by your colleagues from the training sessions where we used this approach. We are very grateful.

Anxiety Stage Responses Combined

| Anxious Behaviors | Reasons | How to Interact |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing • Finger drumming • Wringing of hands • Staring • Leg bounce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cigarettes • Uncomfortable • Skipping doses • Worry • Interpersonal problems • New experience • Angry about something • Uncomfortable in environment • Fear • Not taking medication • Getting some of the arousal state out • Interpersonal crisis • Trauma triggered • Frustrated • Nervous • Feel threatened • Uncomfortable • Feel loss of control • Scared | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage use of coping skills • Don't react, keep calm • Respond, don't react • Encourage conversation (process) • Call attention to it (increase self-awareness) • Tone of voice can help ease situation • Re-direct • Ask what's going on to promote conversation • Distraction • Use movement • Cold drink • Cold oranges • Fidget bucket (tactile) • Deep breathing • Ask them what works |

BONUS QUALITY QUOTE:

"My greatest concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure."

Abraham Lincoln



Taunton Gazette Photo | Mike Gay |

Taunton City Councilor Sherry Costa-Hanlon, left, speaks with Annemarie Matulis, Bristol County Regional Coalition to Prevent Suicide founder, before a conference to discuss the alarming trend of middle-age male suicides in the region. Costa-Hanlon lost her brother-in-law to suicide about 20 years ago.

Coalition highlights 'crisis of despair' causing suicides among middle-age men in Bristol County

JULY 20, 2015, TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE— Suicide among middle-age men has become a critical concern among advocates for mental and behavioral health in Taunton.

Suicide deaths in Bristol County have disproportionately affected men in the region since 2012, accounting for 76 percent of suicide deaths during the past three and half years, according to new data released by a Taunton-based advocacy coalition.

The Bristol County Regional Coalition to Prevent Suicide shared the statistics during a presentation on July 20th to draw attention to the high rate of suicide among middle-age men. Coalition founder Annemarie Matulis said that Bristol County District Attorney Tom Quinn's Office provided the information recently; she and others work to shine light on the troubling trend, which she attributed to the typical reluctance of men to open up about their feelings of failure, sadness or isolation.

"What we have happening in Bristol County is not a bump in the road," Matulis said. "We have a sinkhole happening in this county and it is insinuating itself throughout the county under all 20 communities, and that sinkhole is suicide."

Matulis said the figure that startled her and others occurred in 2014, when 58 suicides took place throughout Bristol County. Of those, 50 were men and eight were women, she said. These figures include all ages. The 50 male suicide deaths in 2014 represent a 72 percent increase in the number of men dying by suicide, jumping from the previous year's figure of 29 men.

"I was so startled by that number I sent it to a national expert, and he said to me, 'Sadly, you're absolutely right, that is frightening,'" Matulis said.

The Bristol County Regional Coalition to Prevent Suicide shared the figures about suicide deaths in Bristol County during a press conference held at the Holiday Inn in Taunton on July 20th. Matulis said her Taunton-based coalition is one of two regional suicide prevention coalitions that received real-time data on suicides from the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. Matulis also said that she and others "sanitized" the data to protect the privacy of families who lost loved ones to suicide.

Matulis said that the figures in Bristol County reflect a national trend. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an examination of suicide statistics from 1999 to 2010 shows that the suicide rate for middle-age men was 27.3 deaths per 100,000, while the rate for middle-age women was 8.1 deaths per 100,000.

So far in 2015, as of July 17, there have been 34 confirmed suicides in Bristol County, including 22 men, Matulis said.

"We are currently on track to match last year's numbers or surpass them, because we are already at a 7 percent increase in the number of men, when you match from (this point) last year," Matulis said. "It's not a good thing."

Matulis said that the average age among middle-age men who committed suicide in Bristol County during the past three years was 50, 51 and 52, respectively. Thus far in Bristol County in 2015, the average age is 55 for middle-age men who commit suicide, she said.

Breaking down the county into smaller regions, based on data from the 34 confirmed Bristol County suicides so far this year, most suicides have affected the Greater Taunton area, with 11, including Berkley, Dighton, Raynham and other nearby communities. Greater Fall River has 10 male suicides so far this year, Greater New Bedford has nine and Greater Attleboro has four.

Matulis said that she and others would "hit the road" to use the statistics to show people across Bristol County about the need for suicide prevention training, screenings and other measures.

Continued on page 10



Taunton Gazette Photo | Mike Gay |

Taunton Mayor Tom Hoyer Jr., left, talks with Philip Shea, president and CEO of Community Counseling of Bristol County, before the press conference.

“That’s really the end of what I want to do for numbers because numbers aren’t telling the story,” Matulis said. “When we are talking about these numbers we need to talk about the fact we are talking about people. We are talking about families. We are talking about human beings.... They are people we have loved, laughed and cried with.”

Matulis said that middle-age men who commit suicide often have children who are left with questions about why this would happen.

“We have to understand the incredible depth of destruction and emotional damage that happens after a suicide,” she said. “They are not just numbers. They are souls that have been lost. We need to come together to stop this crisis of despair and offer hope.”

On Monday, July 27th at the Holy Family Parish Center, 438 Middleboro Ave., the suicide prevention coalition hosted “A Bristol County About Men, Depression, Suicide and Solutions” to continue the discussion, with firsthand accounts from men who have suffered depression, the reasons behind it and what can be done about it.

Matulis said that the danger of suicide affects people across the entire economic spectrum and at every perceived level of success.

“This is equal opportunity,” Matulis said. “It doesn’t matter whether you are low-income with four jobs, or you’re the CEO of a multi-million-dollar agency. ... Although, most of our suicides right now are white, middle-aged men.”

During the press conference, City Councilor Sherry Costa-Hanlon spoke about how she lost her brother-in-law to suicide about 20 years ago, which was a very difficult time for the family. Costa-Hanlon said she supports widespread suicide prevention training.

“I never want to see anyone feel that way,” Costa-Hanlon said.

Community Counseling of Bristol County President Phil Shea told the public that his 1 Washington St. office is open during business hours on weekdays for assessments for those who may be suffering from depression, which would lead to potential treatment.

“My message is end the silence, ask for help and ask how you can help,” Shea said.

Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoyer Jr. said that the suicide issue is “scary,” and he said that it needs more public discussion.

“I’m just here to say, as the mayor of this great city, that we are here to support you, Annemarie, and the great work you are doing, and certainly DA Quinn and the initiatives his office are putting forward, so that it doesn’t have to keep happening,” Hoyer said. “People should not have to suffer alone.”

David Lima, the leader of the Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Coalition, said that when someone dies from suicide, dozens, hundreds and sometimes thousands of people are affected negatively.

“There are a lot of people affected, their friends, family, co-workers and the community – make no mistake,” Lima said.

Lima said there is a lack of resources to help those in need.

“A lot of people do not reach out for help and look for help,” he said. “When they do, the resources are so few that sometimes even for someone in ‘danger,’ it still takes time to get into an appointment, and sometimes that appointment or assistance doesn’t get there in time.”

Lima said he commends Massachusetts for putting some resources into suicide prevention, whereas some states do not. But he said much more needs to be done in the Bay State.

“We are trying to get people to understand there is some help, and we are trying to bridge gaps, and we are trying to just make people aware that there are people that care,” he said.

Taunton agency helps give homeless a leg up as numbers rise.

By Marc Laroquette, Taunton Daily Gazette

FEBRUARY 27, 2015 – After living 30 years on the streets, Taunton resident Stephen Capozzi is now employed and has a roof over his head because he was given the opportunity for stability by a local agency providing transitional services to the homeless.

“All my life, everybody degraded me,” said Stephen Capozzi, who had his first experience with homelessness at age 12 and most recently living under a bridge in Worcester. “I’ve been spit at and hurt. I went through hell. I came here and they gave me the opportunity. They saw more in me than I saw in myself.”

Stephen Capozzi, 54, is now a manager in a 10-unit transitional home for the Taunton-based Community Counseling of Bristol County, after the agency provided him a room at a Somerset Avenue property nearly one year ago.

On Wednesday, Capozzi and more than a dozen volunteers in Taunton, led by CCBC vice president of housing and community initiatives Ellen Bruder-Moore, helped conduct the annual point-in-time homeless count for the city. The effort is required each year to inform the government about the level of need in the area and it is a factor in how much federal funding will be given to agencies like CCBC that are part of the Greater Bristol County Attleboro Taunton Coalition to End Homelessness, to provide permanent and transitional housing projects to end homelessness.

Capozzi said he was glad to help in the count by filling out surveys for homeless men who were provided transitional housing at the Robert Smith House on Somerset Avenue, where he is now the house manager. Capozzi said that he wishes more help and resources were available for the local homeless population and others across the country.

“When someone is down and out like that, you are supposed to help them,” Capozzi said. “The people that want to help the homeless, I tip my hat to them, because you know what, that’s what we need. We need the help. But don’t give us false help.”

Bruder-Moore, who is also the coordinator for the Greater Bristol County Attleboro Taunton Coalition to End Homelessness, said that the count is not a precise calculation of the city’s homeless population, but that the results appear to show an increase in local homelessness. While last year there were 19 homeless people identified through the Taunton count, according to Bruder-Moore, the 2015 tally has already identified at least 30 homeless individuals, based on preliminary figures that must be verified further.

“It seems to me we might be up a little,” Bruder-Moore said.

Bruder-Moore said the team first met with Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoyer Jr. on Wednesday morning, who provided encouragement and discussed homeless issues with the

Stephen Capozzi, 54, manager of CCBC’s Robert Smith House in Taunton, was homeless on and off for 30 years before coming to the Robert Smith house a year ago.



group, before they set out to count homeless at the Good Samaritan homeless shelter, the Matthew 25:40 Mission, the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and suspected homeless camps around the city.

“Primarily, our focus, folks went all over Taunton yesterday, checked every possible site, like the railroad tracks,” Bruder-Moore said Thursday. “Because of the weather, we saw a couple tents, but most people weren’t in them.”

Bruder-Moore said the count is “critical” and required by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, the funding is determined by a number of other factors as well, she said. For the current year, the federal government provided GATCH \$927,000 for permanent and transitional housing, Bruder-Moore said. In addition to CCBC, organizations like New Hope and Catholic Supportive Services receive part of the money to provide transitional housing for the Greater Attleboro Taunton area.

Bruder-Moore said that while GATCH needs more support to meet the need in the area, when homeless individuals do receive transitional services it can change lives forever.

“It can be very exciting to see people moving forward with their lives who have been struggling,” Bruder-Moore said.

Mark Cook, director of the Matthew 25:40 Mission at the First Parish Church, said that during the point-in-time count on Wednesday he was able to connect a 60-year-old homeless man with transitional services from CCBC. The man, who requested not to be identified, said he has been homeless for the last three years “living on the outskirts of Taunton” in a tent with a tarp over it, which is now surrounded by several feet of snow. He will get the chance to live at CCBC’s Bridge House in Taunton for two years, Cook said, “to help him become independent.”

Cook said the situation isn’t typical, as the agency cannot usually take people right off the street.

“He’s a good man and now he’s going to get a chance,” Cook said. “It’s a miracle to him. Sometimes we take these things for granted.”

The spectacled, bearded 60-year-old, who attributed his homelessness to alcohol addiction and hopelessness, said he couldn’t describe how happy and relieved he was to hear the news.

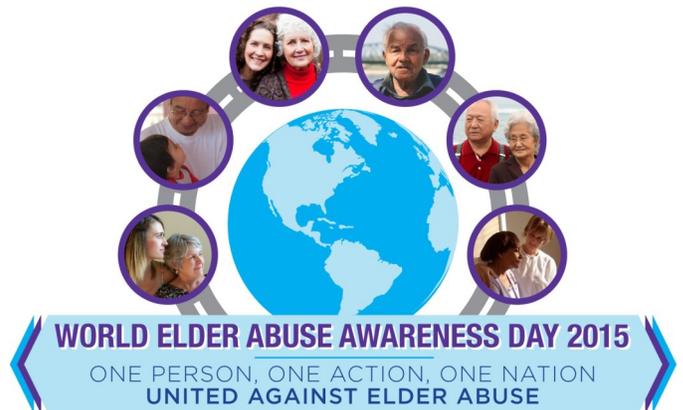
“I’m ready to go back to work and be a normal human being again,” said the man, after eating pot roast at the Matthew 25:40 Mission in the basement of the First Parish Church.

Elder Abuse Prevention Conference

In concert with **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, on Monday, June 15th, 2015 an Elder Abuse Prevention Conference was held at Bristol Community College in Fall River. Sponsored by Bristol Elder Services, Senior Whole Health and District Attorney Thomas Quinn III, the conference's focus was on "Preventing Financial Fraud & Abuse." A breakfast and Resource Fair took place to kick-off the event, with tables set up for providers to answer questions, network and distribute flyers and information about their services.

CCBC was represented by Paula Brown, Director of Elder Partial Hospitalization and Joleen Payeur-Olsen, Elder Peer Bridger for the Elder Mobile Outreach Team.

By *Becky Roberts*
Newsletter Editor



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations.

The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

The day aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders. It also seeks to understand the challenges and opportunities presented by an ageing population, and brings together senior citizens, and their caregivers, national and local government, academics, and the private sector to exchange ideas about how best to reduce incidents of violence towards elders, increase reporting of such abuse, and to develop elder-friendly policies.

Logos, Logos Everywhere



We are moving along on our logo rebranding, although it's been a slow process. For those staff that require business cards, most of you should have them by now. If you have not received your cards, please email me at broberts@comcounseling.org. About a quarter of our staff still need new badges with the new logo. Call me at Ext. 8117 to schedule a time for your picture, or email me a jpeg file with a current work-appropriate photo (head shot). Brochures and forms continue to be a work in process and outdoor signs for MRP, Cedar Street, and Bank Street are in the works.

It would be helpful to let me know if you come across the old logo on any current documentation. I know there are still forms that need to be updated, however I may not have all of them. Please put a copy of the form in my mailbox at MRP, fax or email it to me.

Thanks again!

By *Becky Roberts*
Newsletter Editor



First Annual CBFS Soft Ball Game!

By Malinda Quintal
Team Leader

On Friday, July 10th, CBFS held their first annual soft ball game. Taunton CBFS (red shirts) vs. Attleboro CBFS (gray shirts). It was a team building event. CBFS staff pulled together to coordinate this day. It was filled with laughs, fun trash talking (by me) lol, and energetic, CBFS team spirit. During the 2-1/2 hours spent playing this game I saw both teams fight for bragging rights (Attleboro won). These two teams showed great sportsmanship, played hard and had the best time at this event. The day was a success.

All of us wish to thank Kevin, Lisa and Deb for allowing this day to happen and to the staff who coordinated the whole event.

