



Newsletter

DEFINING HOME

**Connecticut Housing Coalition's Annual Conference
Friday, October 29, 2004**

**8:45 am – 5:00 pm
Sheraton Stamford Hotel**

Issue 3

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Sept. '04

It's time again for the Connecticut Housing Coalition's Annual Conference. Each year we keep growing and because we service the entire state of Connecticut, we're on the move again, this time to Stamford! This conference will feature 26 workshops, more than we've ever done before. And we've also expanded the public housing track to provide a cross section of workshops that will not only appeal to residents, but public housing staff as well.

The largest housing conference in the state of Connecticut, this is definitely one conference you don't want to miss! Our 2003 conference drew a crowd of nearly 650 attendees. And of those attending, nearly 150 were public housing residents and staff. Join us in Stamford on October 29th and help us to top those numbers!

This special edition of the PHRN News contains everything inside that you will need to know to make your attendance at our conference a smooth success. Inside, you'll find detailed descriptions of the public housing track workshops, contact information to register for certain towns, a special registration form with a discounted rate for public housing residents and staff, and much much more.

A Look at What's Inside:

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About the Connecticut Housing Coalition

The Connecticut Housing Coalition represents the broad vibrant network of community-based affordable housing activity across the state. Our more than 250 member organizations include nonprofit developers, human service agencies, resident associations and diverse other housing practitioners and advocates.

Founded in 1981, the Coalition works to expand housing opportunity and to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing in Connecticut through advocacy, education and collaboration. Our activities include conferences, training workshops, technical assistance services, action alerts and newsletters. The Coalition stands as Connecticut's foremost membership organization for affordable housing.

Need Help Finding Funds to Attend Our Workshops/Training?

Are you a public housing resident and want to attend our conference so that you can learn and empower yourself through our various workshops? Need money to pay for this conference but can't afford it? Then ask your housing authority to sponsor residents for this training!

HUD regulations state under 24 CFR 964.140 that it supports residents attending conferences like the Connecticut Housing Coalition's Annual Conference. 24 CFR 964 states:

"(a) Resident training opportunities. HUD encourages a partnership between the residents, the HA and HUD, as well as with the public and nonprofit sectors to provide training opportunities for public housing residents. The categories in which training could occur include, but are not limited to: (1) Community organization and leadership training; (2) Organizational development training for Resident Management Corporations and duly elected Resident Councils; (3) Public housing policies, programs, rights and responsibilities training; and (4) Business entrepreneurial training, planning and job skills. (b) Local training resources. HUD encourages the use of local training resources to ensure the ongoing accessibility and availability of persons to provide training and technical assistance. Possible training resources may include: (1) Resident organizations; (2) Housing authorities; (3) Local community colleges, vocational schools; and (4) HUD and other Federal agencies and other local public, private and non-profit organizations."

PIH 2001-3 instructs PHAs to use funds received for resident participation activities for trainings such as this one. If your housing authority won't pay for this training, then give us or HUD a call today!

Conference Contacts

If you are a public housing resident or staff member attending our 2004 Conference and are from the following towns, please contact the person listed below at your agency to register for the conference:

NEW HAVEN: Edith Rawls, 203-498-8800 ext. 1102

STAMFORD: Max Thaxton, 203-977-1400 ext. 3327

NEW BRITAIN: Dion Greer, 860-225-5838

E. HTFD: Nilsa Marquez-Deleon, 860-290-8306

MERIDEN: Dave Sunshine, 203-235-0157, ext. 238

NORWALK: Carla Conway, 203-838-8471 ext. 176

BRIDGEPORT: Emma Jefferson, 203-337-8935

HARTFORD: Anna Sarraga-Cieri, 860-723-8420

Residents/Staff from all other housing authorities should contact COURTNEY ANDERSON, PHRN COORDINATOR, toll free at: 1-888-415-2564.

Who We Are & What We Do

The Public Housing Resident Network provides a variety of assistance to residents of public housing in Connecticut. The Network informs residents of new and important state and federal policy information and is a source of mutual support for residents.

Founded in the fall of 1996, the Network is an informal organization open to participation from any public housing resident - whether elected leadership or interested resident. We welcome requests for services from residents and public housing authorities. The services we provide are free of charge to the residents and we encourage you to attend our Network meetings.

This newsletter is mailed to those who are on our mailing list. Contact us to be added to our mailing list. All we ask in return is your participation and interest!

◆For more information on our conference, please email us at: PHRN@ct-housing.org or call us toll free at: 1-888-415-2564.

Morning Workshops for Public Housing Residents & Staff:

Building Strong Resident Organizations Part I

Back by popular demand, this hands-on, double-session workshop will provide the tools for residents to build strong resident organizations. Those attending the Building Strong Resident Organizations workshop can expect to move around and get off their feet. Topics covered include: writing effective bylaws; writing a practical Memorandum of Understanding; and tools for effective negotiating between residents and housing authorities. **(This workshop is designed primarily for public housing residents).**

How to Be an Effective Advocate

There are a lot of things going on in Congress and the Connecticut legislature that impact the lives of federal and state public housing residents. Now, more than ever, there is a need for residents to understand how to advocate for their needs. This workshop will provide participatory training for residents in techniques to make their voices heard! **(This workshop is designed for public housing residents and/or advocates).**

Elderly and Disabled Together

For years, senior and disabled residents have been housed in the same public housing developments. There is a growing debate over how to deal with the sometimes conflicting needs of these two populations. Many seniors worry about the disabled residents being placed in developments with no social services. Disabled residents worry that as public pressures increases to convert developments to "senior only," there will be no place for them to live. This workshop will discuss the issues and suggest positive solutions. **(This workshop is designed for housing authority staff, public housing residents and/or advocates).**

Roles of a Resident Services Coordinator

It's often a difficult role to be a resident service advocate or coordinator for a housing authority. Sometimes the demands of a housing authority don't allow synch with the desires of residents. This workshop will be a roundtable discussion among resident service workers on how to cope with the demands of the job. **(This workshop is designed solely for housing authority staff that work directly providing services to residents. This workshop is not intended for residents or PHA management. Pre-registration is required by calling Courtney Anderson, PHRN Coordinator at: 860-563-2943).**

Special Housing Authority Resident/Staff Registration Form

Attendee Name and Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Housing Authority or Resident Group: _____

We are offering a special discounted rate to Housing Authorities sponsoring 10 or more residents and staff members. Please submit one form per person!

FEE (PER PERSON):

_____ \$80 (1 to 9 people) _____ \$70 (10 to 19 people) _____ \$60 (20 or more people).

FOOD SELECTION:

_____ Chicken Marsala _____ Atlantic Salmon _____ Mushroom Ravioli

Make checks payable to: "Connecticut Housing Coalition" and fax this form to us at: (860) 529-5176 and mail payment to: Connecticut Housing Coalition, 30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Other workshops for the day include:

Myths & Realities of Connecticut's Landlord-Tenant Laws; Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies; What's New at Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; Finding the Funding for Supportive Housing; Section 8 at the Crossroads; Regional Affordable Housing Strategies; Housing Information, Research and Resources; and more!

Agenda:

- 8:45 am Registration and Coffee • 9:30 am Welcome and Speaker • 11:15 am Session 1 Workshops
- 12:45 pm Luncheon • 2:30 pm Session 2 Workshops • 4 pm Reception and Networking • 5 pm Adjournment

Directions:

The Sheraton Stamford Hotel is located at 2701 Summer Street in Stamford. Hotel parking is free.
• **Traveling I-95 North (New York):** Exit #8 and turn left onto Atlantic Avenue, which becomes a one way street called Bedford Street. Enter the Hotel on the left from Bedford Street. • **Traveling I-95 South (Hartford):** Exit #7 onto North State Street. Continuing on North State Street, at the second light take a right onto Atlantic Street. Follow Atlantic Street, which becomes a one way street called Bedford Street. Enter Hotel on the left from Bedford Street. • **Traveling Merritt Parkway (Route 15) North (New York):** Exit 34 and turn right onto Long Ridge Road. Follow Long Ridge Road, which becomes Summer Street. Enter Hotel on left from Summer Street. • **Traveling Merritt (Route 15) South (Hartford):** Exit 35 and turn right onto High Ridge Road. Follow High Ridge Road, which becomes Summer Street. Enter Hotel on left from Summer Street. **The hotel's number is: 203-359-1300. Overnight rooms are available at the conference rate of \$119/night by calling 1-888-625-5144.**

◆Does your housing authority have a citywide resident council? If not, consider working with residents to start one. Call PHRN if you need help.

Afternoon Workshops for Public Housing Residents & Staff:

Building Strong Resident Organizations Part II

Back by popular demand, this hands-on, double-session workshop will provide the tools for residents to build strong resident organizations. Those attending the Building Strong Resident Organizations workshop can expect to move around and get off their feet. Topics covered include: writing effective bylaws; writing a practical Memorandum of Understanding; and tools for effective negotiating between residents and housing authorities. **(This workshop is designed primarily for public housing residents).**

Public Housing Faces the Future

Housing authorities are facing challenges on more fronts than ever before: aging housing stock, dwindling federal funding, changes in the Section 8 program, political pressure to alter the face of public housing, residents with many needs and more! Public housing residents are trying to hold onto their housing and work to improve their communities, while dealing with new rules and resources that are harder to come by. The very future of public housing is at a crossroads. This workshop will look at local examples of how residents, housing authorities and the community can forge alliances, navigate change and achieve new housing opportunities. **(This workshop is designed for housing authority staff, public housing residents and/or advocates).**

Transitioning Out of Public Housing

Whether it's through HOPE VI demolition, homeownership, Section 8 or self-sufficiency programs, more and more residents are moving out of public housing. This workshop is designed to get public housing residents to think about the realities and myths of moving from public housing to Section 8, homeownership or market rate rental. Learn tips and the tools to make your transition a success. **(This workshop is primarily designed for public housing residents or those assisting residents with transitioning out of public housing).**

Making a Model Community Service Program

HUD is hammering down on requiring public housing authorities to enforce the community service requirement. Housing authorities say it's too bothersome and residents feel it's discriminatory. This workshop will discuss the rules of the program and create an actual community service program that is innovative and can be used at housing authorities to make residents more likely to comply. **(This workshop is designed for housing authority staff and public housing residents).**

An acclaimed syndicated columnist and thought-provoking speaker, Neal Peirce is the pulse-taker of change in America's communities. Time Magazine calls him "the only national chronicler of grassroots America." He is the author of 12 books including "Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World" and "Breakthroughs: Recreating the American City."

NEIL PEIRCE

Featured Speaker for October 29th Conference:

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Connecticut Housing Coalition
Public Housing Resident Network
30 Jordan Lane
Wethersfield, CT. 06109
phone: 860.563.2943
fax: 860.529.5176
email: PHRN@ct-housing.org
website: [Http://www.phrn.org](http://www.phrn.org)

•PLEASE CHECK OUT THE INSIDE OF THIS EDITION FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 29, 2004!!