

## [ADVOCACY]

### Governor Strickland Endorses the Interagency Council's PSH Policy Framework

Last week the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing received the exciting and encouraging news that Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Council's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Policy Framework. The PSH Policy Framework, written and approved by the Council earlier this year, is the first statewide policy to define permanent supportive housing criteria and target populations. This framework, now with the Governor's support, builds a solid foundation for the Council as it works toward the goal of increasing the availability of supportive housing across the state by 6,000 units in the next five years.

Appointed by Governor Strickland, Michelle Heritage Ward is a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

## [REBUILDING LIVES]

### Federal Strategic Plan highlighted at National Conference

Lianna Barbu, Michelle Heritage Ward and Tiffany Nobles had the opportunity to attend a national homelessness conference in Washington, DC July 12-14. Sponsored and organized by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), the conference included many workshops on topics like the HEARTH Act and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program.

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and NAEH President Nan Roman spoke passionately about the new federal strategic plan to end homelessness, [Opening Doors](#). It was refreshing to hear that HUD's mission is now matching CSB's mission of ending homelessness and that Secretary Donovan is fully embracing the challenge. We are also proud that CSB and Columbus were mentioned throughout the conference as a leader in ending homelessness.

Nan Roman's remarks, excerpted below, lay out a challenge to communities across the country to align their homelessness plans with the new federal strategic plan. We are very pleased that our community's Rebuilding Lives plan is highly congruent with these recommendations.

"The federal goals are ambitious. Ending chronic homelessness in five years means we will need at least 20,000 units of permanent supportive housing each year – we are only adding 6-8,000 a year now. Ending veteran homelessness will mean reducing the number of homeless veterans by 20,000 plus per year – not to Grant and Per Diem programs, but to housing. Ending family homelessness in ten years means not only will we have to massively step up the pace of housing families but that we will have to figure out how to massively reduce the number of families *becoming* homeless. As for youth, we do not even have a baseline number, making it pretty clear that there is a long way to go."

"The Plan really opens the door for links to the mainstream programs. These ambitious goals are a fantastic development and a genuine opportunity. However, while the Plan lays out some of what the federal government is going to do, it certainly does not mean that everyone should just sit back and wait for them to end homelessness. All of the partners have to be in play to move forward."

"So what are our next action items on the route to ending homelessness? To end homelessness, we have to make the homeless system as effective as possible and we have to get our mainstream systems to stop making people homeless and start addressing vulnerable people's housing needs."

"... there are three things that will make an immediate difference in ending homelessness. They are hard things to do, but I challenge you to take them on."

1. First, house the most vulnerable people... We *must* target the most vulnerable people and we *must* ensure that they get into permanent supportive housing. You can find out, or create a registry of, the most vulnerable people – those vulnerable to death, those who have been homeless the longest, those who have been homeless for three years or longer, those who live outside, those who are over 50 – use whatever criteria you want, but set the goal of housing them this year.
2. Second...there is a *tremendous* opportunity coming down the pike with the implementation of health care reform and the expansion of Medicaid. If you have not already done so, an immediate objective should be to create a practical health care collaboration with your state and set some clear goals for this partnership with respect to homelessness. Get everyone in your catchment area signed up for insurance within six months of eligibility.
3. Third, the HEARTH Act lays out our goal: no one should be homeless for longer than 20 days and the recidivism rate should be less than 5 percent per year. This does not mean that people are kicked out of shelter after 20 days; it means that our homeless system is organized to help someone exit shelter for housing within 20 days – the burden is on us.

## Commons at Buckingham

The Commons at Buckingham held its grand opening event on July 22. Michelle Heritage Ward spoke alongside Mayor Coleman, County Commission President John O’Grady, City Council Member Charleta Tavares and many other community leaders and advocates for ending homelessness. The next day a group of excited tenants began the move-in process. By the first week in August, 40 individuals had begun residency in the newest supportive housing facility in the city. National Church Residences anticipates that all 100 units will be filled by the end of September.

## [IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

### Ending Family Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness released a paper on August 3 titled *Ending Family Homelessness: Lessons from Communities*. It gives an overview of family homelessness in the United States and examines key strategies that are critical to any community’s success. Columbus was called out as a pioneering community, and our focus on housing families quickly was spotlighted. “The single biggest shift in serving homeless families has been the growing adoption of Rapid Re-Housing to help families quickly exit shelter and return to housing in the community. Communities such as Hennepin County, Minnesota and **Columbus, Ohio** have found that many families can be quickly rehoused by helping with housing search and landlord negotiation, providing rental assistance, and delivering home-based case management services.”

“Westchester County, New York; Hennepin County, Minnesota; and **Columbus, Ohio** are among the communities that found that providing families with shelter is often far costlier than providing them with temporary rental assistance. Rental assistance also allows families to return to stable housing in the community faster and is a better investment in families and children than shelter.”

Click [here](#) for a link to the report.

### Clintonville Rotary

Michelle Heritage Ward spoke to the Clintonville Rotary Club on August 13. Her presentation focused on facts about poverty in the US and locally, and our community’s plan to end homelessness. About 30 rotary members were in attendance, including Senator Jim Hughes.

## Orientation for Partner Agencies

An orientation session was held on August 12 for new staff in CSB's partner agencies. The purpose was to increase awareness about resources and benefits available to partner agencies and explain partnership expectations of CSB and its funders. Participants included staff from Lutheran Social Services, Maryhaven, National Church Residences and the YMCA.

## Tours

In July we provided a tour for Chris Malinowski of Messer Construction. He toured the YWCA Family Center and Community Housing Network's East Fifth Ave. Apartments. In early August CSB provided a tour for Wendy Bradshaw of the Columbus Blue Jackets. Wendy toured the YWCA Family Center and National Church Residences' Commons at Buckingham.

### Upcoming Meetings

- < **Board2Board Dialogue**  
Monday, October 11, 2010  
9:30 am-1:00 pm  
Nationwide's Heritage Room  
One Nationwide Plaza
- < Check out the interactive calendar at [www.csb.org](http://www.csb.org) under Resources for Our Partners < Meetings.