Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet

OVERVIEW OF THE NEW CABINET

MYRA JONES-TAYLOR, PHD
COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Former Cabinet

DCF
•Safe Sleep
•Safe Baby Court Teams
•Triple P
•DCF Head Start Collaboration
SDE
•PK-3 Alignment
•Kindergarten Entrance Inventory
•ECIS
DDS
•Birth to Three Transition
Office of Early Childhood
DEEP
•Green Bank
DSS
•Triple P
DPH
•SAFER

Our Challenge

- In 2014, there were 1,260 families who were literally homeless in CT, including 2,128 children
- Homeless children
  - More likely to have moderate to severe acute and chronic health problems, and less access to medical and dental care
  - Three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, such as anxiety, depression, sleep problems, withdrawal and aggression
  - 54 percent of homeless preschoolers had a major developmental delay (e.g. language, gross motor, fine motor, social) compared to only 16 percent of their housed peers
- More than 80 percent of mothers with children experiencing homelessness have previously experienced domestic violence, and their children are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems

The Problem

FOCUS ON THE ADULT

Employment and Job Training

Domestic Violence

Housing

Financial Support

Child Care

Real Estate Services
AVAILABLE
3772
cial.com
HOMELESS
PLEASE HELP

Impacts on the Family

Separation

Instability

Impacts on Child's Development and Health

Violence

Stress

UNITED STATES INTERA

Family Ho

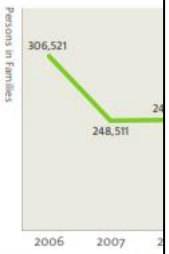
CURRENT TRENDS

According to U.S. Departr
in families experiencing
between 2005 and 200
homelessness in America
released the results of th
prolonged recession betv
rise. The number of Amer
just one year.[2] At the sam

Faced with limited option
overcrowded apartments
households are not captu
schools experienced hom
has been increasing since
the increase.[4]

The average family exper
at least one of whom is u
lessness have previously

Family Homelessness in t
at a Point in Time, 2006–20



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and
www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoC

*NOTES Affordable units have gross
includes rent and tenant-paid utilit
occupied units that the AHS define
rent. Units rented but not yet occup

The Plan

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness sets the goal of ending homelessness for families in ten years. Families need affordable housing, sustainable employment, and community services to help them avoid or quickly exit homelessness. In order to reach this ambitious goal, all partners at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors, must be engaged and focused on proven solutions, especially in these four key areas:

1. Provide Affordable Housing

The Plan seeks to expand affordable housing opportunities through improved targeting of current housing programming that provides rental subsidies as well as an increase in construction of new or rehabilitated housing.

2. Increase Meaningful and Sustainable Employment

Programs designed to connect people to employment must also consider the particular needs of those who are experiencing homelessness rather than creating barriers to access and support. Best practices must be implemented and employment strategies must be coordinated with housing and other interventions to provide workforce training and guidance for job seekers experiencing homelessness.

3. Reduce Financial Vulnerability

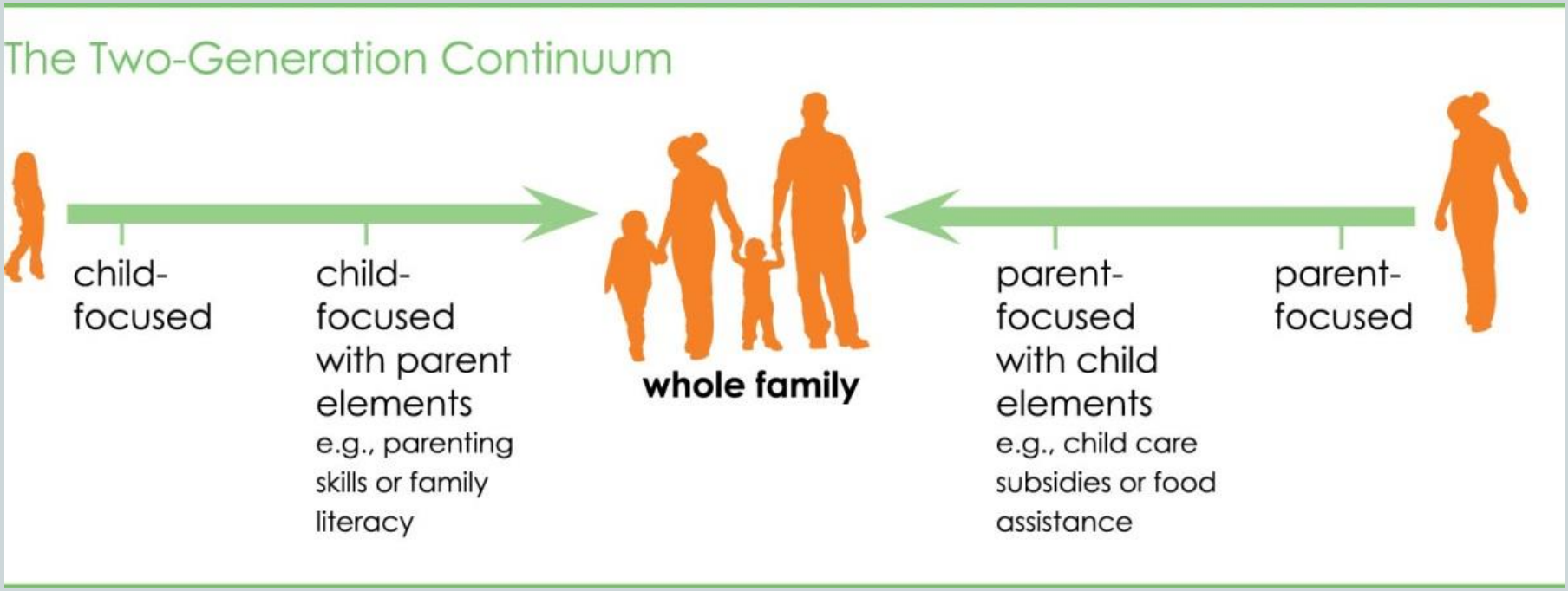
While many families experiencing or most at risk of homelessness are eligible for federal programs providing health care, income support, and work support, surprisingly few people access the full range of programs and services available to them. Enhanced public information and improved access to services are key.

4. Transform the Homeless Crisis Response System

Given the documented success of the Housing First model— an intervention that assists participants to move quickly into permanent housing with support services needed to achieve and maintain housing stability— communities that retool their crisis response systems with a focus on prevention and rapid re-housing will achieve greater success in reducing homelessness among families.

…we see the family.

Two-Generation



Collective Impact Model

Common Agenda

Shared Measurement

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Continuous Communication

Backbone Support

Goals

- Align policies across agencies
- Increase collaboration
- Shared efforts around outreach, training, data, measurement, etc.
- Develop policy and legislative plan by November 2015