



DELAWARE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Minner Creates Interagency Council On Homelessness

In an effort to streamline services, enhance the Continuum of Care, and strengthen Delaware's ability to compete for depleted federal funding, community leaders and DSHA Director Sandy Johnson kicked off the first meeting today of the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness, created via Governor Ruth Ann Minner's Executive Order Number 65.

The purpose of the Council is to create a statewide partnership between service provider agencies, State and local government, housing officials, homeless representatives and the faith community. The duties of the Council will be to develop short and long-term statewide strategies and plans to reduce homelessness, with an emphasis on eliminating chronic homelessness within the next 10 years.

Governor Minner said, "Chronic homelessness is a challenging issue, which requires new and creative strategies to address. The creation of this council will focus our resources in a concentrated effort to eliminate chronic homelessness."

Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) is spearheading the Council. DSHA Director Sandy Johnson said, "A State Council makes good sense. The current Homeless Planning Council has done an extraordinary job in maintaining the network of providers and funders. Studies, including the most recent one conducted in February of this year, have indicated approximately 1,200 people are homeless in Delaware on any given night. The objective of the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness is to develop systemic solutions to prevent homelessness and help those already in this situation to find appropriate housing and supportive services."

Philip F. Mangano is the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). Mr. Mangano was appointed by President Bush to lead the Council in March 2002. The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to end chronic homelessness in the United States through interagency, intergovernmental, and intercommunity collaborations. "In creating a Delaware State Interagency Council on Homelessness Governor Minner is joining a national, non-partisan partnership of 52 Governors, 192 Mayors and County Executives, and 20 federal agencies all committed to ending the homelessness of those who are the most vulnerable and disabled on our streets and long term in our shelters," indicated Mr. Mangano. "In creating the Council the Governor is positioning the state to take advantage of record federal resources targeted to homelessness by creating a results-oriented, performance based planning effort."

Members of the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness are:

MEMBERS APPOINTED MARCH 28, 2005

NAME	ROLE	AGENCY
Saundra R. Johnson	Chair	Director, Delaware State Housing Authority
Catherine D. McKay	Co-Chair and Homeless Planning Council Representative	Connections, CSP, Inc.
Stanley W. Taylor	Corrections Representative	Commissioner, Department of Correction
Valerie A Woodruff {Joanne Miro - designee }	Education Representative	Secretary, Department of Education
Christopher Coons {Marguerite Ashley – designee }	New Castle County Representative	County Executive, New Castle County Department of Community Services
Cari DeSantis {Carlyse Giddins – designee }	DSCYF Representative	Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families
Gregory F. Lavelle {Rodney Brittingham – designee }	Delaware House of Representatives	Delaware House of Representatives Housing & Community Affairs Committee
Vincent P. Meconi {Dennis Savage – designee }	DHSS Representative	Secretary, Department of Health and Social Services
Thomas B. Sharp	Delaware Department of Labor	Secretary, Delaware Department of Labor
David P. Sokola	Delaware Senate	Delaware Senate Community/County Affairs Committee
Stephen R. Speed {Tracey Harvey – designee }	City of Dover Representative	Mayor, City of Dover

James Baker (Rosalind Kotz – designee)	City of Wilmington Representative	Mayor, City of Wilmington
Marian L. Harris	Provider Representative	House of Pride
Sheera M. Lipshitz	Consumer Representative	Brandywine Counseling
Richard Pokorny	Veterans Provider Representative	Home of the Brave

To see the full text of Executive Order 65, please visit the Governor’s website at <http://www.state.de.us/governor>.

For more information, please contact Kim Brockenbrough, Director of Planning & Community Development, at (302) 739-4263.

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