



DELAWARE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR MINNER ACCEPTS PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Governor Minner today announced that she has accepted Delaware's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness as presented by the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness. On any given night, approximately 2,000 people in Delaware are without shelter, with about 300 people being chronically homeless. This means that they are frequently homeless or homeless for long periods of times and may have one or more disabilities. To resolve this issue, Governor Minner issued Executive Order 65, establishing the Council in March 2005. During the past two years the Interagency Council has worked diligently to create a viable plan to end chronic homelessness and reduce long-term homelessness. The Plan recommends creating more than 2,000 units of permanent affordable housing with supportive services to meet the needs of this underserved population.

"Chronic homelessness is a problem across the nation and one that we also must address here in Delaware," said Governor Minner. "We are hoping to combat this

problem by providing permanent housing along with necessary support services for those who are chronically homeless in our state.”

To end chronic homelessness, the Interagency Council offers a multi-pronged approach: Develop new housing for persons who are chronically homeless or at risk for chronic homelessness; remove barriers to accessing existing housing; improve discharge and transition planning; improve supportive services for persons who are homeless enhance; and data collection and use of technology.

The Interagency Council includes broad representation from stakeholders, community leaders, state and federal government agencies, supportive housing developers, homeless service providers and formerly homeless individuals. Sandy Johnson, Director of the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) is the Chair, and Catherine DeVaney McKay, CEO of Connections CSP, Inc. and President of the Homeless Planning Council is the Co-Chair of the Council.

“Our work in this area is two-fold; preserving the affordable housing we have, and creating new units to meet the current need,” said Sandy Johnson.

Cathy McKay adds, “Persons with mental health and other disabling conditions who are dependent on SSI or General Assistance cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment.”

To view the Ten Year Plan and the Executive Summary to the Plan, please visit Delaware State Housing Authority’s website at www.DeStateHousing.com and click on “Publications”.

For more information, contact Kim Brockenbrough, DSHA Director of Planning and Community Development, at (888) 363-8808.

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