

**Will County Center for  
Community Concerns**

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**Committee Meeting Dates**

**Leadership**

Mon. - April 23 - 1:00 p.m.

**Education**

Mon. - April 9 - 2:00 p.m.

**HMIS-Needs Assessment**

Thurs. - April 26 - 10:00 a.m.

**Housing-Discharge Planning**

Wed. - April 4 - 10:00 a.m.

**Plan to End Homelessness**

Tues. - April 18 - 1:30 p.m.

**Support Services**

Tues. - April 10 - 9:30 a.m.

**Events**

**Passport to Your Child's Success**  
April 9, 2007  
Lamb's Fold Women's Center

**Transportation Forum**  
April 24, 2007

**Open Door Day**  
June 4, 2007  
MorningStar Mission

## 2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Will County Continuum of Care was held on January 22, 2007 at Trinity Services Cherry Hill Conference Center in Joliet. Leadership Committee Chairman Ronald Pullman, Will County Land Use/Community Development Division, welcomed 70 Continuum members and guests, including Will County Executive Larry Walsh and Illinois State Senator A.J. Wilhelmi.

The focus of this year's meeting, "Mental Health Resources in Will County", was presented by Dr. Joseph Troiani, Will County Health Department, Mental Health Division and Randall Bultman, also with the Will County Health Department Forensic Program. Since November 2006, Will County Health Department has been the provider of mental health assessments and services at both the Will County Adult Detention Facility and the Illinois Youth Center. The forensic program is

part of a treatment and supervision network that serves individuals referred by the criminal justice system. Participants in the program are treated and supervised as an alternative to incarceration or as a condition of their release from a correctional facility.

Many thanks again to Trinity Services for hosting the meeting at the Cherry Hill Conference Center, as well as to the Leadership Committee for once again providing a wonderful lunch.



Will County Executive Larry Walsh



2007 Leadership Committee

## Continuum Announces 2007 Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

The Continuum wishes to thank the new Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for agreeing to lead your respective Committees for the year 2007!

### *Leadership Committee*

Chair, Ronald Pullman    Vice Chair, Jim Denbow

### *Education Committee*

Chair, David Levek    Co-Chair, Melissa Brown

### *Grants-Funding Committee*

Chair, Bette Reed    Co-Chair, Lorri Nagle

### *HMIS-Needs Assessment Committee*

Chair, Sandi Perzee    Co-Chair, Martha Jarmuz

### *Housing-Discharge Planning Committee*

Chair, Deb Darzinskis    Co-Chair, Kris Toll

### *Plan to End Homelessness Committee*

Chair, Lois Goldman    Co-Chair, Ronald Pullman

### *Ranking Committee*

Chair, Ronald Pullman    Co-Chair, Lois Goldman

### *Support Services Committee*

Chair, Cynthia Ketcham    Co-Chair, Gloria Murtaugh

## 2006 SuperNOFA Awards

In 2006 the Grants-Funding Committee again provided oversight of the SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) application process for homeless assistance through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since 1997 the Will County Continuum of Care has received over \$20 million to provide housing and support services to persons who are experiencing homelessness.

We are pleased to announce that, in the 2006 SuperNOFA competition, the Continuum received \$2.7 million to continue funding its existing projects and one new project. The breakdown of funding is:

Cornerstone Services, Inc. ~ New Project \$49,897  
 CFM Lamb's Fold Women's Center/Trinity ~ Renewal \$250,000  
 Cornerstone Services, Inc. ~ Renewal \$1,412,607  
 Cornerstone Services, Inc. ~ Renewal \$261,836  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet ~ Renewal \$754,500

The 2007 SuperNOFA was released on March 13. HUD will offer a debriefing on last year's NOFA via satellite broadcast on March 27 from 12:30 to 4:00. The broadcast will also talk about the 2007 competition, funds available, changes and application requirements.

## Transportation Forum

The Support Services Committee will host a half-day Transportation Forum from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 in the Drdak Room at the Romeoville Recreation Center, 900 W Romeo Road, Romeoville, IL. A representative from Pace Bus will talk about their Dial-A-Ride Program, Van Pool program and fixed routes in our area.

In addition to information on local transportation options, Will County Legal Assistance Program will offer information on tenant rights when involved in a dispute with a landlord or during eviction proceedings. Registration for the Transportation Forum will be sent to Continuum members in early April.

## Shepherd's House Ministries



Shepherd's House, located in Manhattan, is a shelter for pregnant women in a crisis situation. The director, Donna Balsavich, has done much to create a warm, inviting atmosphere for her guests. Women who are least 18 years of age who are pregnant, homeless and desire to make a life change will find a safe place to learn life skills during their stay at the shelter. Staff and volunteers dedicate themselves to providing resources and services that will allow these women to become self-sufficient and confident in their ability to care for themselves and their children.



Workshops and classes are offered in spiritual enrichment, nutrition, parenting, cooking, time management and conflict resolution. Residents are provided with food and clothing if needed, transportation to appointments, GED preparation, alcohol or narcotic meeting referrals and birthing classes. Shopping, cooking and cleaning of the facility is done by the residents themselves, under the supervision of Donna and another staff member.

The shelter has eight semi-private rooms. A bath is shared by two rooms, and laundry facilities and living areas are communal. Photographs of babies born to former residents, taken by Donna, grace the walls, and make this place feel like home.



Shepherd's House Ministries is located at 22849 S Cedar Road in Manhattan, IL 60442. The office number is 815-485-9515. Emails can be addressed to: [shepherdshouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shepherdshouse@sbcglobal.net)

## Education Committee

### *WILCO Trainings*

Through funding provided by Will County, we were again able to provide trainings through WILCO Area Career Center to local shelter participants. Classes in Food Sanitation and Welding were available to men and women from Daybreak Center, Guardian Angel Community Services, Lamb's Fold Women's Center and MorningStar Mission.

The Education Committee surveys participants to determine if these classes are meeting a need and will follow up with successful candidates in three and six months to see if anyone has been able to find employment as a result of these trainings. A third training is being considered for later in the year.

### *Passport to Your Child's Success*

"Passport to Your Child's Success" is a one-hour presentation designed to help homeless parents establish a better connection to their local school district. The Education Committee offered the presentation at MorningStar Mission on March 12 to program participants as well as neighborhood families. The next program will be offered at Lamb's Fold Women's Center on April 9. The Committee hopes to bring the program to all shelters within Will County again in the fall, as the school year gets underway. In addition to educating parents about their right to keep their children in school while they face the challenge of being homeless or "doubled-up", the Committee also offers information on other resources within the community. Books, donated by the community, are made available to the children to encourage them to continue to read and study even under less than ideal circumstances.



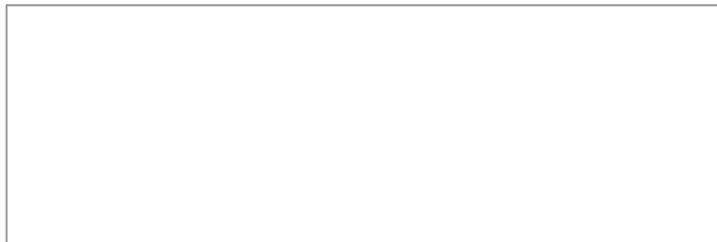
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*Working in  
partnership to  
build a  
comprehensive  
service delivery  
system that leads  
individuals and  
families from  
homelessness to  
self-sufficiency.*



### *Open Door Day*

The Plan to End Homelessness Committee will again host two Open Door Day events in 2007. Events will be held on June 4 and October 1, both at Morning-Star Mission Ministries at 350 E Washington Street, Joliet.

These events act as an outreach to the chronically homeless population within Will County. As this group of people is often reluctant to seek out the services that could improve their circumstances, agencies and services providers in Will County now work together to bring services to them in an informal, welcoming atmosphere.

In addition to providing health screenings, services, assistance obtaining IDs or other vital documents, clothing, and other material items, Open Door Day also provides an opportunity for the homeless population to get a haircut, launder clothing, enjoy lunch and some time off the street.

Together, we can and do make a difference in people's lives!

