

Community Connections

**Project Connect
Community Action Committee
Community Organizing**

Project Connect

- Modeled on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) project, Project Friendship, in British Columbia
- Based on an individual's interests
- Mutual, reciprocal relationship
- Personally-tailored support from project staff, including peer staff
- Advertise widely throughout CMHC and with some residential programs
- Story of a connection
- Can only connect to what is currently available

Community Action Committee

- Working group of the CMHC Citizens Collaborative
- Membership includes CMHC and PRCH staff, people in recovery, residential providers, New Haven residents
- Partnership with West River neighborhood
 - Attend monthly association meetings – consistency of our presence
 - Participate in events – festival, holiday party, cleanups, community garden
 - Invited to plan with them – Community Resilience Team, Wellness Fair
- Advertise events within CMHC and with residential programs in the neighborhood
 - Neighborhood leaders inviting residential programs into garden

Community Organizing

- Including as many perspectives as possible in our planning process
 - Community Action Committee meetings and events
 - Meetings and other communication with community leaders, and community-based organizations
 - Workshop being planned now
- Partnering with community gardens and Land Trust in the Hill
- Organizing with psychosocial rehab clubhouse members
- Representing CMHC and PRCH within coalitions
 - New Haven Food Policy Council and Promise Zone subcommittee, as examples
 - To find out what's happening, and to include the recovery community
- Working with Commissioners Office on Chicago Dinners in New Haven
- Keeping an eye on policy and opportunities to direct it

What we've learned... so far

- Differing amounts of support are important: Project Connect, Info about Community Events, Direct Connections to Neighbors
- Aggregating information about opportunities across themes is essential to meet diverse interests
- Cooperating to increase opportunities, rather than settling for only existing ones
- Supporting communities where people in recovery live, rather than thinking about dealing with “bad neighborhoods” – give and take
- Including as many people as possible has allowed for a broad, diverse approach to our work
 - Helps us understand what's actually going on in a complex community

Thank you!

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