



BHH Designated Provider Agency Work Group

May 6, 2021

10:00am – 11:00am

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Please see page 3 for list of attendees

Notes

1. Financial Literacy Training

Presenters: Dave Hinchey, CT Credit Union League

- a. How to Budget on a Fixed Income
 - Staff should work with clients to write down everything they owe
 - Look into food pantries so clients can spend less on groceries
 - To improve someone's financial situation, they can either decrease their expenses or increase their income
 - Staff should discuss financial goals with clients
 - Staff can start by asking clients of their earliest money memory
 - Clients can use budgeting templates to help track income and expenses
 - Clients can also keep a spending journal to better track where their money goes
 - A helpful tool is Vertex42 <https://www.vertex42.com> which has spreadsheets for just about everything
- b. The Importance of Saving Money
 - There isn't a financial problem that can't be overcome with savings.
 1. 40% of Americans can't come up with \$400 in case of an emergency
 - All clients should be encouraged to save for a rainy day
 - Clients should be encouraged to open a savings account.
 1. Staff need to keep in mind the \$2,000 asset cap set by the Department of Social Security for anyone collecting SSI checks.
 2. Opening a savings account will also provide a place for clients to cash their check other than a check cashing place.
- c. Alternatives to Checking Cashing
 - Credit Unions – this is a good option for those with low or fixed incomes
 1. You can set limits
 2. You can open a savings account only
 3. It is easier to get to know the staff and work with them
- d. Overview of Credit
 - The best way to introduce a client to credit or help them improve their credit is to start with small limits and small purchases.
 - Secure credit cards are a viable option for BHH clients
 - Encourage clients not to carry a balance over into the next month
 - A good tip is to pay 15 days before the due date and then three days before the due date. This will help increase the credit score



- Remind clients it is not free money; it really is a loan or a lending product
- It takes about six months for a new line of credit and payment history to show up on a credit report
- Almost anyone can review our credit score (employer, landlord, credit card, etc.) so our credit score is more important now than ever before.
- Remind clients they can check their credit scores for free using freeannualcreditreport.com



Name	Agency	Duration
Denise Perez	ABH	69
Paul Zakarian	ABH	17
Jeannie Wigglesworth	Beacon	57
Jennifer Gagnon	Beacon	62
Natashia Plaza	BHcare	61
Sheree Taylor	BHcare	6
Leticia Carrillo	BHcare	60
Wiley Rutledge	BHcare	59
Katelyn Remillard	BHcare	39
Patricia Bennett	Bridges	61
Valerie Mallard	Bridges	52
Anjay Cardona	CMHA	57
Karolina Dudzik	CMHC	60
Ellen Severn	CRMHC	65
Susan	CRMHC	55
Mary Germano	CRMHC	59
Lauren Staiger	DMHAS	59
Alicia Reid	InterCommunity	62
Colleen Mastroianni	InterCommunity	62
Dave Hinchey	Presenter, CT Credit Union League	64
Kimberly Whipple	Rushford	62
Elizabeth DeConto	Rushford	59
Tracey Creighton	RVS	61
Jesus Silva	SMHA	42
Marcia Beebe	Sound	61
Katie Fogg	Sound	61
Marissa Hodges	Sound	56
Kim Solomakos	United Services	62
Daily Cruz	United Services	62
Amanda Dondero	United Services	58
18603817154	Unknown	1
Edwardsali	Unknown	6
Alexandra LaBarca	WCMHN	61
Jocelyne M-K	WCMHN	61