



# AIDS HOUSING NEWS

Summer 2004

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## AHC LAUNCHES NEW ADVOCACY & EDUCATION PROJECT AIMED AT INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

AHC is thrilled to announce our new advocacy and education project aimed at increasing access to affordable, supportive housing in Massachusetts and New England. With the generous support of the Melville Charitable Trust, AHC has begun work on a campaign to increase awareness and cooperation among Massachusetts HIV/AIDS housing providers, as well as other special needs/supportive housing providers. The ultimate goal of this project is to

create a strong, cross-disability coalition to advocate for responsible funding levels and public policy initiatives that increase appropriate, supportive housing access for all those in need.

The Melville Charitable Trust has been a leader, both regionally and nationally, in supporting efforts to address chronic homelessness and the affordable, supportive housing crisis facing this

SEE "ADVOCACY", PAGE 3



## CONNECTICUT TRAINING FOCUSES ON HOPWA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

On June 7-10, 2004, AHC presented our "HOPWA 101" training course in two consecutive two-day sessions in Hartford, CT. This training is offered as a part of AHC's HOPWA funded Technical Assistance grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides information on the basics of managing and working with HOPWA funded programs. A main goal of this training is

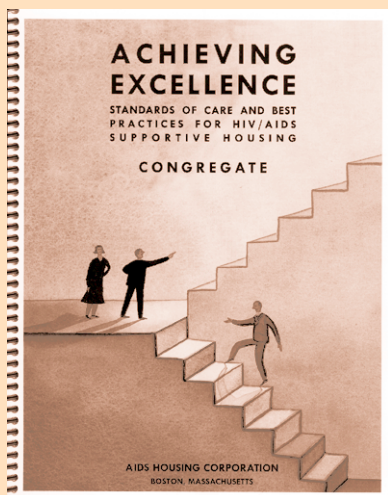
to help HOPWA grantees and sponsors offer high quality, relevant housing services to people living with HIV/AIDS while maintaining compliance with federal regulations.

Connecticut receives HOPWA formula funding through grants to the cities of New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport, and to the State of Connecticut. Bridgeport is a new formula grantee this year.

SEE "HOPWA 101", PAGE 3



**New England HIV/AIDS Housing Program Directory**  
Covers all six New England States



**Achieving Excellence: Standards of Care and Best Practices for HIV/AIDS Supportive Housing**  
Congregate or Scattered Site




**The Program Director's Workbook: Tools for Implementing HIV Supportive Housing**  
A companion to *Achieving Excellence*

## AHC RELEASES FOUR NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR HIV/AIDS HOUSING PROVIDERS

The spring and summer, AHC released four revised publications: a New England HIV/AIDS Housing Program Directory, two editions of *Achieving Excellence: Standards of Care and Best Practices for HIV Supportive Housing*, one for scattered-site and the other for congregate housing programs, and a Program Director's Workbook. *Achieving Excellence* will be available in both Spanish and English.

The housing program directory differs from its previous incarnation in that it includes all six New England states. The directory is intended to provide information to assist people living with HIV/AIDS, case managers, and housing advocates locate housing. Each program page contains a list of the supportive services that are available, amenities for residents, the type of rental subsidies used, and staff contact information. This program directory will be updated online, on our website, [www.ahc.org](http://www.ahc.org). To help us stay current, please notify us of any program changes and we will promptly post them.

*Achieving Excellence* is the revised Standards of Care for HIV supportive housing programs. The goal of the Standards is to establish best practices and offer policy and procedure ideals for creating and improving HIV supportive housing. The two editions, which are tailored to fit congregate scattered site housing program models, have been developed to reflect changes in supportive housing provision and the HIV epidemic since the original Massachusetts Standards of Care were published in 1997. *Achieving Excellence* can also be found and downloaded from our website.


The Program Director's Workbook has also undergone an extensive revision. The PD Workbook, as it is affectionately referred to, is a notebook filled with sample forms, tools, and explanations of how to implement best practices in HIV supportive housing. The PD Workbook is a companion to the HIV housing SOC and when the Standards were revised, the workbook required revising as well. Like the updated SOC, the revised PD workbook reflects the changes in the provision of supportive housing and the HIV epidemic. And, like our other recent publication updates, the PD Workbook will also be available on our website. 

## ADVOCACY *continued from page 1*

country today. AHC is proud to be listed among the many organizations supported by the Melville family that work to address this crisis. We are grateful for the Melville family's support.

As this is a new initiative for both AHC and Massachusetts, one of our initial tasks will be to bring Massachusetts HIV/AIDS housing providers and tenants together to discuss the current state of AIDS housing and challenges/barriers to meeting the housing needs of the HIV/AIDS community. Simultaneously, AHC will reach out to other disability groups to build the relationships necessary to create a strong and effective coalition. AHC will also continue and expand upon our role in national efforts through the National AIDS Housing Coalition and its partners to ensure

preservation of, and increased funding for, supportive housing programs such as the HOPWA program and the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) as well as housing voucher programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

AHC is very excited about the potential of this multi-year initiative and is looking forward to working with our many partners in the affordable, supportive housing community. As this project begins to ramp-up please look for more from us in the coming weeks and months. For more information regarding our new advocacy and education project please contact Alexis Breitenicher at 617-927-0088, ext. 26 or by e-mail at [alexisb@ahc.org](mailto:alexisb@ahc.org). 




## HOPWA 101 *continued from page 1*

In fiscal year 2004, these grants totaled approximately \$3 million. Each grantee contracts with sponsoring agencies throughout their funding region to provide direct housing services. The sponsoring agencies in Connecticut use their HOPWA funding for a wide variety of important, eligible services including tenant and project-based rental assistance, emergency rental assistance, community residences, case management and housing advocacy.

AHC's HOPWA 101 training focuses on HOPWA and other relevant HUD regulations, as well as fiscal standards for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Since many sponsoring agencies use multiple funding sources to create their programs, this training is designed to help them clearly understand the guidelines and requirements attached to the HOPWA portion of their funding. As a part of the training, participants have an opportunity to discuss their ex-

periences and raise questions about managing their HOPWA funding and programs.

AHC held a similar two-day training in February, 2004 in Manchester, New Hampshire, which included the HOPWA grantees and sponsors from Maine and Vermont as well as New Hampshire. While there are no formula funds in these three states, each receives HOPWA funds through the competitive grant process and must therefore adhere to HOPWA regulations and guidelines.

The June 2004 Connecticut training was held at the Lyceum, Hartford's new affordable housing and research center recently created by the Melville Charitable Trust. The Lyceum houses several organizations including the Partnership for Strong Communities. 

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# WHAT'S NEW AT AHC?

## WEB

Thanks to the generous donation of time and services by graphic designers Gregg and Janet Lavine, AHC's website has a great new look. In addition to a complete facelift, the new website has lots of new information and easy to navigate links to many different housing and HIV/AIDS related resources. Come check us out at [www.ahc.org](http://www.ahc.org).

## STAFF

In recent months there have been some big events for AHC staff as well as some changes in roles and titles. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Jonathan Sherwood married Amy Brisebois in Rye, N.H. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Jim Pettinelli and his long time partner Thom Keegan were also married. Matt Girard has moved into the position formally held by Winthrop Booth, and Alexis Breiteneicher has also moved into our new advocacy position. In addition to the staff and titles listed below, AHC will be looking to hire another Project Manager in the next several weeks.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joe Carleo

### DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Jonathan Brisebois Sherwood

### DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Matt Girard

### HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Jim Pettinelli

### TRAINING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

Rachel Kogan

### COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Alexis Breiteneicher