Service Sharing Symposium a Success

The January 10, 2007 Service Sharing in Connecticut symposium was a resounding success! Over 80 municipal leaders, state officials, and legislators attended the symposium at the UConn Greater Hartford Campus. David Osborne (at left in photo) delivered a thought-provoking keynote address on how Budgeting for Outcomes can address the permanent fiscal crisis in government. By focusing on what outcomes matter and funding those adequately, service sharing can serve as a vital tool to create more efficient and effective approaches to these outcomes. Pat Finnigan and James Bennett were also present to discuss service sharing between their two cities in Maine. The Lewiston-Auburn collaboration has been hugely successful in saving money and targeting investments that benefit both communities. They discussed the obstacles they had to overcome and those that still lie ahead. A panel discussion wrapped up the morning with Phil Schenck, Town Manager of Avon; Steve Werbner, Town Manager of Tolland; Hon. Sonny Googins (ret); and State Senator Jonathan Harris present to discuss their reflections on the presentations and where Connecticut can go from here. CRCOG will follow up with additional work on shared services and is pursuing legislative support in the form of incentive grants. In the meantime, please send your service sharing ideas to Jennifer March-Wackers (jwackers@crcog.org).

Web-Based GIS System for Capitol Region

The RFP process is complete and proposals are being evaluated for the new regional multi-layer web based GIS system. CRCOG will be forming a “GIS Users Group” for those communities who intend to use the CRCOG web-based GIS system. This users group will be working directly with the GIS consultant and CRCOG staff to develop the system to fit as many of your needs as possible. Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers.
Capitol Region Purchasing Council Adds Two More Members
CRPC is proud to announce the addition of Norwich and Waterford to the Council. This brings membership up to 64 towns and cities in Connecticut. CRPC is open to any municipality, board of education, government agency, or non-profit. Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers, Municipal Services Coordinator, at jwackers@crcog.org if you know someone who should join.

CRCOG Technical Assistance Bears Fruit
A few years ago, CRCOG undertook a project called Picture It Better Together. In this project we worked with three communities—one rural (Suffield), one suburban (West Hartford), and a Hartford neighborhood (Parkville)—to ask people, through a variety of methods, including both image-based and conventional surveys, what is wanted for our region and its villages, towns, and the city. Part of what we did was help people envision changes that would make places stronger and more livable. Suffield took that vision and made it happen. In the planning process they identified a key parcel that if redeveloped, would set the tone to recreate their town center into the walkable mixed-use place it once was. Thanks to the hard work of staff and commissions, both Planning and Zoning and Economic Development, the town changed policies and actively sought out partners to make this key parcel become a linchpin for the town. The town established new zoning regulations that brings buildings back to the street and allows a better mix of uses, including residential. Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director, worked with the property owner and brought in some town money to assess and market the site to attract a developer who would enact the vision. And just look what they accomplished! In the spring we will show you more before and after pictures. In the meantime, Suffield staff and citizens are working on other great ideas for their town center. Stay tuned.
Before

Vision Simulation (prepared during the Picture It Better Together project)

Now (wow!)
CREPC Training Builds Teams

Training is a key aspect of National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance. The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) training program helps all member towns and organizations fill their training requirements, but our strategy is to attempt to go beyond training individuals to providing opportunities for building understanding and relationships across disciplines, agencies, and jurisdictions, as well as within jurisdictions.

The picture above is from a recent Incident Command System-300 class at Central Connecticut State University shows an exercise debriefing being conducted by a Coast Guard officer. Also present in the class are firefighters, EMTs, police, public health and emergency management personnel. Each group brings a unique and important perspective to learning how to manage large-scale disasters and emergencies. In the learning environment they work together as a team and leave the class with a better understanding of each agency’s culture. Setting up these training programs to bring representatives from each of your town departments provides a unique opportunity to work as a team to learn, address some of your local emergency management/response concerns, and build relationships with other jurisdictions, state and other agencies. For further information about these training opportunities contact Dan Scace, CRCOG Training Coordinator, at 860.522.2217 ext. 23.

CREPC Sponsors Regional Flu Clinic

A seasonal flu clinic was held on January 13th at the Buckland Hills Mall in the Town of Manchester. Flu shots were free of charge at the clinic, which was hosted by the Manchester Health Department and supported by Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) member Health Departments/Districts. In the picture above, people line up to register and receive their flu shots.
CRCOG 2007 Meeting Calendar

With the New Year here, the following Committees/Boards have put together their meeting schedules for 2007.

The **CRCOG Policy Board** will meet on the following dates at noon at the CRRA Recycling Center and Trash Museum at 211 Murphy Road in Hartford: January 31, (fifth Wednesday), February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, September 26, November 14, and December 12.

The **CRCOG Executive Committee** will meet at the CRCOG Offices, 241 Main Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, on the following dates at noon: January 10, March 14, May 9, August 8, and October 10.

The **CRCOG Transportation Committee** will meet at the CRRA Recycling Center on the following dates at noon: January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, September 24, November 5, and December 10.

The **CRCOG Community Development Committee** will meet at the South Congregational Church, Hartford, on the following dates at noon: February 15, April 19, June 21, September 20, and November 15.

The **CRCOG Municipal Services Committee** will meet on January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18 at noon at CRRA.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee** will meet on March 13, June 12, September 11, and December 11. All meetings are held at noon at CRRA Recycling Center and Trash Museum at 211 Murphy Road in Hartford.

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

- **Community Development Committee**, Thursday, February 15, Noon, Church
- **JobsAccess**, Thursday, February 15, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
- **Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, February 20, Noon, CRRA
- **CREPC**, Thursday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. Church
- **Transportation Committee**, Monday, February 26, Noon, CRRA
- **CRCOG Policy Board**, Wednesday, February 28, Noon, CRRA
- **Regional Planning Commission**, March 15, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
- **Public Safety Council**, Thursday, March 8, Noon, Church
- **Executive Committee**, Wednesday, March 14, Noon, CRCOG

The 2006 Officers of the CRCOG Policy Board are: David K. Kilbon, Chair, First Selectman of East Granby, Eddie Perez, Vice Chair, Mayor of Hartford, Linda Roberts, Vice Chair, First Selectman of East Windsor, Mary Tomolonius, Treasurer, First Selectman of Canton, Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.