

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Dept. of Social Services Budget

February 27, 2015

Deb Oliver - CTFSA

PLEASE RESTORE SAFETY NET SERVICES

Client 1:

Nicky first came to the EPS program as a referral to the Employment Success Program. She was referred to get assistance with overcoming barriers to employment. While in the program she met with me on a weekly basis, enrolled and completed in a CNA training program, created a resume and job searched. In the midst of doing all this, Nicky was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Because of this diagnosis she would have qualified for a medical exemption, however being the determined, motivated young woman she is, she continued to job search and eventually was hired as a Certified Nurse Assistant.

The Empowering People for Success program works diligently to assist welfare recipients to take responsibility for the course of their lives and become their own agents for change in their circumstances and Nicky is a prime example of just that!

Client 2:

Denisha had a long work history before getting laid off and forced to rely on state assistance. Once her cash ended, she was referred to the Safety Net program. Denisha, already having work experience and a resume was determined to get back into the workforce. However the stress of not being able to pay her monthly utilities bills was interfering with her job search. While in the Safety Net program, Denisha participated in home visits with her case manager, completed Family Developments Plan and obtain assistance with utilities bills. Since SN was assisting Denisha with her bills, she was able to focus more on job searching. Soon after she was hired by the US Post Office earning \$15.00 an hour as a mail carrier.

Without the assistance of the Safety Net program, Denisha may not have been able to aggressively job search due to worrying about her bills. Also because Denisha receives Section 8, she was in jeopardy of losing her voucher had her utilities been shut off. The assistance provided by the Safety Net program enabled Denisha to become self-sufficient.

①

SP

Success Stories

2 parent family > Goal - Employment, transportation
4 children - Low income housing

Matos

Steps taken: job search, skill search, daycare set up, transport
Supports by EPS - food vouchers, daycare referrals, job exploration,
bus passes, resume support

Outcome: wife - part-time employment, husband - full-time
employment & certification in CPR etc. for Home Service position
purchased car with income tax 1 yr. of SN service

② ESP

single mom - 2 children 5 - 2 yrs. > Goal
Employment

Latanya

Steps taken: job search, support with career choice
daycare set up

Outcome: EPS took client career choice of roofing seriously.
Client took OSHA classes, set up daycare & was hired
full time in a Union job - she was given pink boots
& hard hat on the job. She began working full-time on
a roof for a newly built school in Watubury
6 mo. of service by EPS

③

S/W

Christy

Single Hispanic mom 3 kids 11, 6, 2

Homeless from P.R. > Goal - Housing, employment, financial
security, daycare, phone

Steps taken: Apartment search, phone application, daycare
set up, job application, furniture

3 Continued -

Supports by EPS - 6 mo. apartment payments, partial electric payment, Employment, phone, furniture, daycare referral, bus pass

Outcome: Client successfully employed in full-time job where she is an over achiever.

Has daycare & after school care, Supports from New Opportunities and on low-income apartment lists. Uses government phone wisely

Child in medical services for ADHD due to migraines. 7 mos of EPS VIN services

4 ESP Single mother of 2 - 16 yr. 5 yr.

Low-income housing > Goal - diagnosed with multi mental health issues including social anxiety. in need of counseling services
High school Ed
Car

Supports by EPS > got into counseling, Advocated with JFES, sustained w/ dr. note

afraid to go to JFES

Outcome > supported and received SSI 6 mo. service

5 Single dad 1 son 9 Autistic - > goal help for son employment, car
Larger apartment

Alfred Supports by EPS > IICAP in home & school job search, budgeting, apartment search

Outcome > child more social, larger affordable apartment, part-time job as driver for cab, SSI for son