



Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.

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Legislators, Community Partners Speak at Opening of TVCCA’s Family Bridge Program

NORWICH—On April 8th the Norwich Inn hosted Thames Valley Council for Community Action’s official launch of Family Bridge Eastern CT, an initiative supporting families during the critical period following the birth of a child. Community partners and supporters included guest speakers Dina Sears-Graves, President of United Way of Southeastern CT, Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, Sen. Cathy Osten, and Sen. Martha Marx. TVCCA’s CEO Josh Kelly welcomed the group of over 50 attendees and thanked them for their support as the program took shape.

Commissioner Bye emphasized the importance of programs like Family Bridge, which connect new parents with vital services. Currently the program is open to residents of Norwich, Windham, Montville, Griswold, Lisbon and the Mashantucket and Mohegan tribal nations. Senator Cathy Osten noted the program’s impact across the towns she represents, and expressed excitement for the second phase of the program, which will include additional towns. Senator Martha Marx reflected on her experience as a nurse and how early support benefits both maternal and infant health long-term.

“The program wouldn’t have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the people in this room,” noted Regina Brady, Director of the Family Bridge program. “This really is a testament to the importance of promoting health outcomes for moms and babies—and their families—in the first weeks after birth.”

Dina Sears-Graves, President of United Way of Southeastern CT and a funding partner, also stressed the program’s significant benefits, as well as both agencies’ commitment to strengthening family well-being.

During a Q&A session, one of the first mothers to participate in Family Bridge shared her powerful story—how she came to TVCCA seeking help with housing and found so much more: compassionate support for herself and her newborn.

To learn more about Family Bridge Eastern CT, or to apply for the program, visit tvcca.org/family-bridge.

Photos: Commissioner Beth Bye, Sen. Cathy Osten and Sen. Martha Marx., Dina Sears-Graves