

A report on local/state legislative action

South County: Example of house meeting with Senator Sosnowski and Representative Shanley on May 21 went very well, including her comment that “there were more people than I expected.” Conversation was invigorating and interesting to the participants and little question but that both representatives were working on behalf of our values and expectations. Pat Shanley did most of the talking since House Finance and the budget crisis became the center of the discussion. The meeting was a strong validation of the approach! Except there were only 11 persons in attendance. The room looked crowded but there were 15 chairs in reserve that were out of sight. I expected 20 to 30 attendees. Virtually all participants followed up, as did a few who could not attend. The summary was encouragement and further structural development necessary to create a context where we can be successful. – *John Glasheen*

OneRI 2007 Legislative Wrap-Up

The One RI Steering Committee thanks everyone who took the time and engaged in advocacy efforts to help low-income Rhode Islanders meet their basic needs.

2007 Legislative Platform highlights:

Secured \$100,000 in the budget for the Food Stamp Outreach to ensure that eligible Rhode Islanders are enrolled.

"Do No Harm" Outcomes.

Family Independence Program: Restored the \$50 child support pass through for the 3,100 families on cash assistance.

Youth in DCYF Care: Maintained youth in DCYF care to the age of 21.

Seniors and people with disabilities will be required to pay \$1 co-pays for generic prescriptions and \$3 for non-generic.

Childcare: The General Assembly restored part of the Governor's proposed cuts to child care.

Child Care Cuts: Eligibility limits for child care assistance were rolled back from 225% FPL to 180% FPL rather than the governor's proposal to 150% impacting 2100 kids

Increases child care co-pays for families by 1%

Restructures the before and after school rates on providers

Delays the market rate increase for providers – remains at 2002 market survey

Reduces the age of eligibility from age 16 to 13 impacting 300 youth

Although the general assembly restored \$5.1 million for child care overall state funding was cut in half, from \$39 million to \$20 million. These cuts will severely weaken the child care infrastructure that has taken years to build and impact the entire R.I. workforce who need stable child care resources to be able to work.

We will need your help in monitoring the impact that these cuts will have on low to moderate income Rhode Islanders. – *John Glasheen*