



SMOC assists in the search for recovery

By Laura Krantz/Daily News staff
Jun 01, 2013

FRAMINGHAM — Every morning they gather around the conference table with a list.

It's a list of everyone who came to the South Middlesex Opportunity Council the prior day seeking services.

SMOC staff discuss options for those people on everything from housing to medical treatment to classes. Their front desk is a one-stop shop for housing, GED classes, healthcare and food stamps that sees about 10 people daily.

Though the list only contains first names and last initials, the staff recognizes many of the names. For every success story there is another person who is has cycled in and out of programs.

The staff numbers each application it receives and is now in the 3000s. One person on the list last week had a two-digit case number, meaning she has come through the system many times.

This time, though, the person with the two-digit number had told staff she is ready for long-term treatment, a first for her.

“It's actually a nice thing,” said Brian Calnan, component director at Common Ground Resource Center, who sometimes leads the meetings.

“We'll never stop working with someone,” Calnan said.

Even someone who stays in housing temporarily but relapses is a step in the right direction.

He said a lot of people fear shelters, because they think they could be forced to attend other services such as mental health services.

“You can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink,” he said.