

## **February 12, 2018 Network Planning Session Summary Notes**

*Attendees: Maribel Acevedo, DCF, Luis Arzola, Center for Human Development, Jim Ayres, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Beth Barbra, Veterans Inc., Shelly Benoit, Behavioral Health Network, Ashley Brehm, Way Finders, Dave Christopolis, Three County CoC, Ben Cluff, DPH, Hilary Cronin, HUD-VASH, Sam Cunningham, ServiceNet/Northampton Cot Shelter, Anthia Elliott, Safe Passage, Doreen Fadus, Mercy Medical Center, Rosemary Fiedler, Thrive Center HCC, Holly Florek, Center for Human Development, Lisa Goldsmith, DIAL/SELF, Brad Gordon, Berkshire Regional Housing Authority, Sharon Hall-Smith, Gandara Center, Clare Higgins, Community Action, John Hornik, Town of Amherst, Steve Huntley, Valley Opportunity Council, Peg Keller, City of Northampton, Jennifer Kinsman, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Charlie Knight, former consumer, Lisa Lapierre, Franklin Hampshire Career Center, Fran Lemay, Servicenet/Greenfield Family Inn, Ann Lentini, Domus, Inc., Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jane Lindfors, DTA/DV unit, Luz Marciano, VA, Heather Marshall, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Yeisie Mateo, DCF, Terry Maxey, Open Pantry, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield, Michelle Michaelian, Behavioral Health Network, Dave Modzelewski, housing advocate, Andrew Morehouse, Food Bank of Western MA, Sue Moorman, VA HUD-VASH, Rebecca Muller, Grant Works, Donna Nadeau, DHCD, Katherine Person, Veterans, Inc., Steve Plummer, Springfield Partners for Community Action, Jenni Pothier, Tenancy Preservation Project, Magda Rodriguez, Springfield Housing Authority, Jean Rogers, CHD, Konrad Rogowski, FutureWorks, Carmen Roman, DCF, Christina Royal, Holyoke Community College, Jolanta Rumierz, DCF, George Ryan, Hampden County Regional Employment Board, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Tonya Sparks, WomanShelter, Kate Sweetster-Owens, VA HUD-VASH, Janna Teatrault, Community Action, Jennifer Utley, DCF, Lauren Voyer, Way Finders, Jennifer Wands, Springfield Public Schools, Lynn White, Viability, Alison Wilson-Pierce, VA HUD-VASH, Chris Zabik, DMH*

### **Summary points:**

Nearly 60 attendees, representing a broad range of entities and perspectives  
Pamela Schwartz framed the meeting purpose; Joyce Tavon, the planning consultant, presented interview findings and recommendations  
Attendees then divided into seven discussion groups to give input on three questions

### **Key takeaways:**

While people had many varied suggestions, consistent themes pointed to these recommendations:

- Continue the Network as a loose affiliation of stakeholders that is committee-driven
- Have the committees define the goals, priorities, regional events, and any advocacy projects
- Find opportunities to balance macro (big picture) vs. micro (frontline) perspectives and representation
- Focus Network resources on two activities: regional events and committees

### **Question 1 - Priorities**

#### **Events:**

Resource fairs

Visibility events with legislators, community leaders, consumers, and others - review data, big picture issues, and outcomes

#### **Committees:**

See below

### **Question 2 - Making committees more efficient**

Workgroups to focus on cross-committee issues (ex, CORIs)

Possibly combine individuals & veterans committees

Reduce duplication with CoC meetings - focus Network on what CoC is not doing

Continue the current five but revisit goals, priorities, meeting frequency, etc. within each committee

Info on affordable housing production progress and general focus on housing

Provide inter-committee communication and updates

Consider video conferencing

### **Question 3 - Steering Committee composition**

CoC representatives

homeless shelter/service providers

all three counties

committee representatives

consumers

a few tables also proposed sensitivity to race/ethnicity/gender diversity,

federal/state/local government, other community leaders

### **Next Steps:**

- The Leadership Council meets on February 28th. The consultant will present streamlined recommendations that factor in the interview findings and Feb 12th Network meeting input
- Consultant recommendations will balance Network aspirations with the reality of limited financial resources for staff time
- The LC will decide on: (1) priority next steps based on the recommendations and (2) the representatives for the 10-member steering committee

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