

3 County Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/14/20

In attendance: Keith Benoit, City of Northampton, Michelle DeWolf, Craig's Doors, Shaundell Diaz, Stavros, Alison Dane, ServiceNet, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, John Fisher, Way Finders, Hwei-Ling Greeney, John Hornik, Amherst Housing Task Force, Laura Hudson, Positive Place, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Michele LaFleur, 3 County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jenifer Lucca, Samaratin Inn, Brooke Murphy, 3 County CoC, Kevin Noonan, Mary Beth Ogulewicz, Town of Amherst, Craig's Doors, Chris Zabik, DMH

Coordinated Entry Update:

Additions to by-names list:

July 20-31: 9 (7 individuals, 2 families)

August: 15, 12 (9 individuals, 3 families)

Sept to date: 3 (2 individuals, 1 family)

Housing openings:

CHD has one remaining unit open out of 48 beds - great progress in filling units
ServiceNet working with shelter plus care vouchers had 4 openings for a long time - 2 people conducting housing search right now; 2 more people being processed;
DIAL/SELF - 2 PSH openings at DIAL/SELF

Move-ins:

Louison House - 1

CHD - 3 indivs in Millers Falls;

Barton's Crossing PSH - 2 (Pittsfield)

Section 811 vouchers (for non-elderly, disabled and experiencing homelessness) - vouchers held by Northampton, Amherst, Greenfield, Franklin County housing authorities. Met recently with the CoC - working on setting up a release of information to enable communication between the CoC and HAs. Those authorities that have pulled names as of now have found a very low response rate (challenges of COVID among other factors). The CoC is working to provide support through this process.

FYI: Eliot Services is bringing on a new CSPECH worker for Hampshire County - will offer housing stabilization and related housing search.

Shelter Updates:

ServiceNet: all 3 counties' shelters are full

20 beds in Greenfield

10 beds in Pittsfield

20-25 beds in Northampton

Active wait lists - if bed is needed, call shelter to get on wait list

Regarding winter needs: ServiceNet is in talks with all 3 communities, working together to find locations and building partnerships.

Craig's Doors: preparing to open 20 hotel rooms 11/1 for congregate shelter; looking for new church space (Baptist Church is not offering shelter space this season due to limited space but is supporting its resource center). Resource Center is open weekdays Mon Tues Thurs and Fri, 12 pm - 3 pm.

Samaratin Inn- bringing in about 4 new individuals a week, up to 10 people now and will have 30 max. Need a negative test. Doing phone intakes.

Update on Western MA COVID-19 Task Force for Housing First: Pamela reported out on this Network convening of area legislators, local municipal leaders and shelter and housing providers to inform and coordinate around shelter needs as winter approaches. All local leaders reported spikes in street homelessness and encampments. Advocacy continues for the state to seek expanded FEMA authorization to pay for hotel costs for people living on the street. This practice is in place in VT, CT and across the country. Additional meetings with DHCD and others are in the works.

Update on Amherst CPA funds (\$250,00) for rental assistance: administered through Community Action - adjusting program and outreach to obtain more eligible applications (previously among 104 applications, 18 were approved, 44 ineligible). Working to reduce barriers.

Update on Amherst Studio Apartments - 28 affordable housing units in Amherst being developed by Valley CDC. Advocacy is ongoing and going well as the proposal is in front of the Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals. It's a slow process but so far going relatively smoothly.

Announcements:

Three County Annual Meeting, September 29, 2- 4 pm, go [here](#) to register.

Fair Housing Conference - Oct. 1-2, Learn more and [register here](#).

Next meeting date: Monday, 10/19 (one week later than usual due to holiday)