

Hampden County Individual Services Meeting Minutes - 2/16/21

In attendance: Grechar Aquino, Friends of the Homeless, Janice Humason, Friends of the Homeless, John Fisher, Way Finders, Mark Jachym, Friends of the Homeless, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Ayala Livny, Jo Consulting, Jennifer Lucca, Samaritan Inn, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield, Jeff Olivet, Jo Consulting, Lizzy Ortiz, City of Springfield, Denise Rivera-Nunez, Friends of the Homeless, Keith Rhone, Friends of the Homeless, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield Police, Kathy West, Eliot Services, Josh Wren, Eliot Services, Chris Zabik, DMH

Point in Time Count Update for Hampden County:

Preliminary total number for INDIVIDUALS (without children) experiencing homelessness is 363. That will go up a little (possibly by as many as 25), as still waiting for numbers from the YWCA and waiting to connect to faith-based organization in Chicopee that the news reported had put some people in hotels that week. Out of the 363, 27 were unsheltered, majority from Springfield but other towns included (more detailed breakdown to come).

In 2020, the total number of individuals was 434, and 104 of those were unsheltered. This significant drop in unsheltered is at least in part a result of the addition of the hotel option (run by Catholic Charities and CHD), allowing for more shelter options for individuals with more complex challenges and allowing for more direct engagement by service providers such as Eliot Services.

Trauma informed care training:

The Hampden County CoC has obtained grant funding to support a 3 part training on Trauma Informed Care, led by consultants Ayala Livny and Jeff Olivet. Ayala provided a presentation on the series.

3 part training, 2 hours each, over 1-1/2 months - dates will be released soon

- Trauma 101 - reviewing the neuro-biology, how brain processes trauma
- Trauma and Homelessness - how does trauma show up for people as they are doing housing search and follow-up; what does it mean to provide trauma informed care
- Vicarious trauma and self care - what are the tools staff need to do this work

The training will also look at how to embed training in the organizations; this is considered foundational, allowing for continued application.

Built for Zero sessions on case-conferencing:

Stay tuned for more info on this opportunity to learn more tools on effective case-conferencing. Will be taking place in March.

Racial Equity Planning: Work is continuing on the Hampden County plan; first began with focus on youth and young adult population; now looking at the entire system, beginning with a more extensive data analysis. More information to come.

State Budget and Policy Updates: Pamela referred people to recent blog posts on the [Covid Eviction Legal Help Project](#) - please distribute this info on this critical resource! - and the [Governor's budget](#). The Network is now planning meetings with our Western MA legislative delegation to discuss our FY22 priorities (to be determined by the Network Steering Committee in partnership with statewide advocacy groups). [Sign up for the Network blog](#) to stay connected to updates and action alerts.

Next meeting date: Tues., March 16, 1-2 pm