

Family Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 3/9/21

In attendance: Catherine Baum, Community Legal Aid, Ellen Broadhurst, West Springfield Public Schools, Lynneanne Brown, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Sophie Chambers, Community Legal Aid, Sarah Cloutier, Way Finders, Hillary Cronin, HUD VASH, Lynn Guertin, Ware Family Resource Center, Anthia Elliott, BHN Domestic Violence, Brenda Garcia, Behavioral Health Network, Jill Fijal, Chicopee Public Schools, Jessica King, Valley Opportunity Council, Fran Lemay, Greenfield Family Inn, ServiceNet, Jane Lindfors, DTA-DV Unit, Ayana Livny, Trainer, Gerry McCafferty, Hampden County CoC, Angelica Merino Monge, Community Legal Aid, Donna Nadeau, DHCD, Theresa Nicholson, CHD, Brett Rogers, Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Heather Roy, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Persis Ticknor-Swanson, Community Legal Aid, Morayma Vazquez, New England Farm Workers Council, Melissa White, Valley Opportunity Council

Trauma-Informed Care Training Series: Please join and spread the word!

[Click here](#) or see attached for this great opportunity that is sponsored by the City of Springfield Office of Housing but is available to ALL in the four counties of Western MA.

In summary: "Through this highly interactive and dynamic training, homeless services providers will leave with a deeper understanding of trauma and its impact on the brain and body, an exploration of the ways that trauma and homelessness interact to shape client behaviors and experiences, an understanding of trauma recovery and resiliency, and deep connections to others providers. This training is appropriate for both experienced and newer staff and will provide information for multiple levels of experience and expertise. Participants will leave understanding what it means and what it takes to become a Trauma Resilience Champion and to build a trauma-informed community of care."

There will be 3 cohorts (participants are expected to attend all 3 dates in each cohort):

Cohort 1: Tuesdays 2:30 - 4:30 pm: March 30, April 27, May 25

Cohort 2: Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm: March 30, April 27, May 25

Cohort 3: Wednesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: March 31, April 28, May 26

[Register here.](#)

Housing search discussion: We discussed the persistent challenge of housing search - i.e., lack of housing options - for families facing eviction (with rental assistance to assist but no housing available to move into). Community Legal Aid case managers, assisting clients in obtaining rental assistance, are experiencing this gap acutely; Pamela will follow up with them to explore additional connections to local housing search resources.

FY22 Budget and Legislative Policy Update: Pamela provided updates on the [Network's FY22 Budget Priorities](#) and [Legislative Priorities](#). The Network is convening meetings with state legislators by county this week to discuss these priorities. Please be sure to subscribe to the [Network blog](#) to stay connected on this advocacy and more.

Eviction update: Since the state eviction moratorium was lifted in October, 2020, the number of eviction filings for non-payment are as follows:

Hampden County: 1,204; Springfield: 771

Hampshire County: 117

Franklin County: 72

Berkshire County: 190

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 13, 11 am