

## Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes - 3/25/21

*In attendance: Daniel Bahls, Community Legal Aid, Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Craig Deraway, Soldier On, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Mike Hagmaier, Soldier On, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Kate Sweetster-Owens, VA, Sue White, VA*

### **Three County CoC:**

- Veterans case-conferencing is in full steam, meeting every 2 weeks, roughly 11 different providers attending, and it's making a difference. Great work, everyone!
- Currently 9 veterans remaining in hotels through SSVF funding, mostly waiting for GPD beds (veterans required to engage and work towards a housing plan in order to receive extension of SSVF funds - all but 2 opted for engagement)

### **Hampden CoC:**

- Also working with veterans in hotels with SSVF funding.
- About 20 veterans on by-name list

**HUD-VASH rules changing for non-VA eligible individuals:** Great news on expanding HUD-VASH eligibility to include people who are not VA-eligible - this could impact as much as 20% of the GPD population at Soldier On and could make the difference in bringing Hampden CoC down to functional zero for veterans. (still not eligible if dishonorable discharge or no active duty or only national guard duty or not long enough duty)

**Landlord outreach:** agreement to create an information session for landlords to cultivate housing options for veterans. Dan Bahls and Steve Connor will continue the conversation together (along with Scott McAllister). We'll all stay tuned for additional updates on this.

**CSPECH service expanding:** Jay announced that they have hired an additional person to work under CSPECH funding (support services for chronically homeless individuals) - room to expand to include 2-3 more veterans. Contact Jay with any referrals - [jlevy@eliotchs.org](mailto:jlevy@eliotchs.org).

**Network federal policy update:** Pamela provided a brief update on the federal funding coming to our state and local communities via the American Federal Rescue Plan Act (see [this Network blog post](#) for more detail). The Network is participating in statewide and regional conversations about how to make the most of this opportunity to build housing solutions to our homelessness crisis.

**Network's annual gathering: Save the Date for June 4, 10 am.** Read about it [here](#) or see the attached flyer. And register [here](#)!