

Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes - 4/22/21

In Attendance: Craig Deraway, Soldier On, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Mike Hagmaier, Soldier On, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Kate Sweetster-Owens, GPD VA, Rebecca Twining, Central Hampshire Veterans Services, Sue White, HUD-VASH VA

Coordinated Entry:

3 County CoC: under 10 people are on the by-name list (excluding those in GPD beds or other beds at Soldier On because they would not qualify for PSH due to the other available veterans' resources); the by-name list now also includes non-VA eligible veterans. The case-conferencing may go to monthly meetings due to limited numbers.

Hampden CoC - status quo on numbers (low, about 10?). Those few veterans who are in hotel shelter either have a housing plan or are awaiting going into GPD.

Built for Zero won a McArthur Grant for \$100 million over 5 years to help end homelessness in communities across the country. Hampden CoC is one of them! First planning meeting with BFZ is next week. Will keep folks posted.

Hotel policies SSVF issues are resolved. Veterans are staying with SSVF funding so long as they have a housing plan and are about to get re-housed. Re: DHCD hotel policy: DHCD clarified that while they are ramping down the use of hotels, no one should be discharged to the streets and if there is any emergency shelter need and the person is unable to stay in congregate shelter, the provider should call DHCD for approval to use a hotel.

Regional conversations around federal housing/homelessness monies: Gerry McCafferty of the Hampden CoC and Keleigh Pereira of the Three County CoC are organizing conversations with housing authorities and developers and shelter/support service providers to begin to plan for the federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act and potentially more coming down the pike and to take stock of hotel and other possible building conversions in the region. If you are interested in participating in these conversations, for Hampden County, contact Gerry at gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com; for Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire Counties, contact Keleigh at kpereira@communityaction.us.

FY22 House Ways and Means Budget: Pamela shared the Network's priorities in relation to the House Ways and Means Budget released last week ([see a comparison here](#)). She also shared the Network's [priority amendments](#) that are being considered by legislators this week for cosponsorship. House debate on the budget begins next week. Please [call your Reps](#) to ask for their support of the Network amendments.

Network's Annual Gathering - June 4 - Please join! [See the flyer and registration link here.](#)

Next meeting date: June 3, 2 pm