

## **Three County Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 6/14/21**

*In attendance: Farida Bature, Mercy Medical, Keith Benoit, City of Northampton, Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Rose Facto, ServiceNet (Greenfield), Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, Jen Glover, Life Path, Jakob Harrison, ServiceNet, John Hornik, Amherst Housing Trust, Laura Hudson, A Positive Place, Cooley-Dickinson, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jenifer Lucca, Samaritan Inn, Brooke Murphy, Three County CoC, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Kate Shapiro, DMH, John Wills, CHD, Chris Zabik, DMH*

**Monthly Data Review:** Michele shared with us the first round of numbers in our evolving data template. From May 10-June 9:

- on by-names list - 150 people
- since 5/10 - 25 additions to by-names list
- # of people newly housed - exits from emergency shelter and transitional housing - 16
- 254 people in emergency shelter and transitional housing
- 176 clients in emergency shelter

These latter 2 numbers include the Soldier On count.  
Craig's Doors numbers are not included.

We agreed on next steps:

- Soldier On numbers would be separated out
- Craig's Doors' numbers must be included (follow-up is underway to gain their participation in reporting)
- data will be put into a template reporting form for visual viewing
- eventually would be great to add in tracking institutional discharges (e.g., prisons, hospitals)

Discussion of uses of data:

- identification of trends over time - where there are gaps, successes, etc., can assist in allocation of resources
- are we meeting our goals - which goes to the question of the creation of goals on a system level. Pamela raised the resource provided by Built for Zero to support the thinking on this; will follow-up with Brooke and Keleigh about the CoC's involvement in this nationwide initiative.

### **Shelter Updates:**

- Greenfield: Wells St has 30 beds, usually full - will maintain at 30; open 24/7
- Pittsfield - St. Joe's shelter capacity at 50, averaging 25-30 people - closed during the day; also cooling center in Pittsfield - will continue to operate as a resource center

- Northampton - operating Grove St at 15 person shelter - full now; First Churches closing at end of June, moving into the Interfaith Shelter (also resource center) in July, room for 10 - census is below 10 now at First Churches. Resource Center will open soon 5 days/week.
- Amherst - A committee has been established that is charged to look for another congregate site (it will not be the UU) - UU closing mid-July; one Hadley hotel closing 6/17; the other Amherst hotel open until June, 2022.
- Samaratin Inn - 6 female beds are full - male beds are 22-30 - people are getting housed, finding roommate situations

### **Emergency Housing Vouchers:**

New federal vouchers have been awarded to the region. Northampton HA awarded 17 vouchers; Franklin Regional 15. Pittsfield declined the vouchers. Will be working with DHCD to get some state awarded vouchers to Berkshire County. All vouchers must be distributed via the CoC's coordinated entry system. CoCs are working with HAs to create a plan. There are 4 eligible categories - homeless, at-risk of homeless, fleeing domestic violence and "move on" (to exit permanent supportive housing). The vouchers include funds for related costs - moving, furniture, first, last, security - and for landlord incentives (both NHA and Franklin will offer LL incentives). In discussions with Eliot Services CSO, NELCWIT, Safe Passage around supportive services.

The first step for a referral is to get connected to a Coordinated Entry assessor. Any questions? contact Brooke at [bmurphy@communityaction.us](mailto:bmurphy@communityaction.us).

Referrals will hopefully start by 7/1.

Discussion re: advocacy for small area Fair Market Rent (FMR) - HAs must request this - this would provide a broader range of housing options. Pamela will follow-up about this.

**Network Annual Gathering on June 4** - it was a great success! 225 people attended! Great energy, profound sharing by our own Network leaders Rose Webster-Smith and Earl Miller. A true call to action! And you can catch it all [here](#).

**Eviction protections advocacy:** With the state of emergency lifting on June 15, there is intense advocacy to extend Chapter 257 eviction protections. The Senate passed a bill that includes these extensions and now it's on to the House this week. Stay connected to the Network blog for action steps.

FY22 Conference Committee Budget: The House and Senate Conference Committee are convening now to resolve differences between the chambers' budgets. [Stay tuned on the Network blog](#) for next steps.