

Three County Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 10/18/21

In attendance: Sami Cunningham, Resilience Hub/Community Action Pioneer Valley, Keith Benoit, Northampton, John Hornik, Amherst Housing Trust Fund, Laura Hudson, A Positive Place, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Jen Lucca, Samaratin Inn, Brooke Murphy, Kevin Noonan, Craig's Doors, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Three County CoC, Rachel Weiss, Craig's Doors, Chris Zabik, DMH

Coordinated Entry Update:

- Since last meeting, 2 more move-ins to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- On Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV): referrals have been made for all but 3 vouchers (Franklin County's 15 vouchers - 11 referred, 2 others allotted; Northampton HA - 9 referrals made, 7 allotted). Will next focus on referrals for DHCD's allocation of 15 vouchers for Berkshire County. Next stage is finding apartments in the face of this extreme housing shortage. Will stay posted.

Safe Havens legislative briefing: Rep. Sabadosa and Senator Comerford are co-sponsoring a legislative briefing on the Safe Havens program to build legislative support to maintain and expand the program. Save the date: Monday, 11/8, 10 am. More info coming.

HUD CoC Application Update: The application deadline for renewal and new projects passed on 10/15. Now under review. The completed application is due 11/16.

Shelter Updates:

- Samaratin Inn - staying full, 24 men, 6 women.
- Craig's Doors: final arrangements underway for new congregate shelter, hopefully to open by Nov. 1. Stay tuned on final announcement. Shelter continues at University Motor Lodge.
- ServiceNet (not in attendance but based on previous meeting); all sites in Northampton, Greenfield and Pittsfield are full - continuing to look for additional congregate site in Northampton

Northampton SRO Project Update: Dr. Jessica Bossie is leading the charge on converting a prior rest home into 16 units of housing for chronically homeless, medically compromised individuals. Applied for CPA and CoC funding. Holding a community meeting on 10/27; a specific meeting on this is happening on 10/19 where the group will discuss how best to support this project.

Legislative Advocacy Update: The State Legislature is scheduling hearings on many Network priority bills and the Network is submitting testimony - from Right to Counsel in Evictions to Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act to Real Estate Transfer Fee - stay tuned on the blog for future hearing announcements and ways to participate.

Next meeting date: Monday, November 8, 2 pm - 3 pm