

Three County Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 2/7/22

In attendance: Lee Anderson, Manna, Denise Barberet, Craig's Doors, Farida Bature, Trinity Health, Jeremiah Blankenbaker, Craig's Doors, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaratin Inn, Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Sami Cunningham, Community Action, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, John Fisher, Way Finders, Jen Glover, Life Path, Laura Hudson, A Positive Place, Courtney Kimball, Construct, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Michele La Fleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jen Lucca, Samaratin Inn, Luis Martinez, CHD, Tim McCarthy, Craig's Doors, Deb McLaughlin, Franklin County Opioid Task Force, Jeff McLeod, Eliot Services, Theresa Nicholson, CHD, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield Police Dept., Susan White, Life Path, Chris Zabik, DMH

Data review: Thanks to Michele for providing a first look at data from the new HMIS system. See [here](#) for the presentation. Please note this is a first stab at pulling data from this new system - Michele welcomes any and all feedback about what would be most useful - please contact at mlafleur@communityaction.us. Comments at the meeting included:

- it's important to clarify that certain supportive housing doesn't require a disability (as opposed to Permanent Supportive Housing)
- most helpful to get a sense of the rate of people coming into the system as compared to the number exiting to housing ("inflow vs outflow")
- also would be very helpful to be able to track # of people seeking shelter who are turned away due to lack of capacity - this is difficult to track in the database but we will discuss more in a smaller group about if/how we can find a way to track it
- Michele is continuing to work on creating a trend analysis (comparing month to month) so we can analyze trends

Hotel earmark updates:

- Hampshire County funds (\$25K) have been expended. Some Franklin County funds will be transferred to support Hampshire County (per approval by DHCD)
- Franklin County's comparatively limited use of funds (served 8 people thus far for total of 85 hotel days) is complicated – not for lack of need but other factors, including a "no admit" list from the Greenfield hotel - as a result of prior behavior issues/property damage (but only 2 have sought shelter who are on that list and 1 was admitted). Theresa emphasized that Days Inn in Greenfield has been a terrific partner and their "bans" are above all a reflection of the need for more supported shelter arrangements, i.e., case management staffing, which this money does not provide. This situation underscores the need for more Safe Havens beds and low-threshold supportive housing that provide sufficient staff support.

Shelter updates:

- Craig's Doors is seeking to use its remaining FEMA reimbursement dollars to open up additional congregate space at the UU Meeting House - would create 14 additional

women's beds, freeing up more space at the Lutheran Church. Hopefully will be resolved in the next 10 days.

- Holyoke opened up a pop-up shelter for the 3rd time this past weekend - served 25 people - 9 new faces - and the conversation is underway to make such a shelter permanent with the support of Providence Ministries (in collaboration with CHD and under the leadership of the City of Holyoke). This is very hopeful news.

Point in Time Count: It's taking place on Feb. 23 - the Three County CoC will count all people who are homeless (a more expansive definition than HUD - counting couch surfers and doubled up, e.g.) and will then separate out for HUD the numbers that meet the HUD definition. Please contact Michele at mlafleur@communityaction.us to get more info and get connected. Let's shoot for as comprehensive a count as possible.

Coordinated Entry Updates:

- 3 move-ins since last month
- # of participants currently on by-names list - 211 (29 "no contacts"; 19 tentative to housing exits)
- Total # of exits from BNL - 34 (including the 19 tentative exits to housing) - 9 removed off list due to contact over 6 months; 2 into CoC funded housing, 11 into non-CoC housing; 5 moved in with family; 3 moved out of service area, 1 moved out with EHV; 3 left shelter/unknown
- all 64 Emergency Housing vouchers have been allocated

FY23 Budget and Legislative Updates:

- The Governor released his FY23 budget (starts 7/1) - see overview [here](#). Individual homelessness received a \$26 million increase (anticipating procurement of shelter system and integration of more non-congregate shelter post pandemic)
- The Legislature's deadline to report out bills on 2/2 resulted in new dispositions on the Network priority bills. See here for the breakdown on current status.
- Stay connected on the Network blog for additional budget and policy updates: subscribe [here](#).

REGISTER FOR NETWORK ANNUAL EVENT: Friday, May 6, 9 am. Go [here](#) for the flyer and [HERE](#) to register!

Next meeting date: Monday, March 14, 2 pm - 3 pm