

### **Three County Individual Services Committee - 3/14/22**

*In attendance: Jeremiah Blankenbaker, Craig's Doors, Dr. Jessica Bossie, Health Care for the Homeless, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaratin Inn, Sami Cunningham, Community Action Pioneer Valley, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Sean Donovan, City of Northampton Dept. of Community Care, Molly Driscoll, Craig's Doors, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, John Hornik, Amherst Affordable Housing Trust, Laura Hudson, Positive Place, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Michele La Fleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Luis Martinez, CHD, Deb McLaughlin, Franklin County Opioid Task Force, Jeff McCleod, Eliot Services, Lizbeth Santos, CHD, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Susan White, Life Path, Chris Zabik, DMH*

**Individual Homelessness Data Review - [see here](#)** (note: while the document states "the past 6 weeks" – this is not the time frame for each of the datasets; the current enrollments are as of 3/14 and the New Enrollments and New Exits are both for the month of February).

A big thanks to Michele LaFleur, the 3 County CoC data analyst, for producing this informative analysis. Michele noted that this is an evolving process as the new HMIS system gets up and running and the transition to the new vulnerability assessment tool happens (there is currently an "old by-names list" based on the old tool and a "new by-names list" based on the new tool - transitions underway).

We agreed that it would be helpful to have a smaller meeting prior to our next month's meeting to discuss the best use of this data - what are our goals, what do we want to look at and why. Pamela will follow-up with the volunteers for that group: Erin Forbush, Jay Levy, Susan White and Michele.

#### **Coordinated Entry**

Shaundell provided an update over the past month:

11 move-ins

on old by-names list: 181 people - 14 tentative housing exits

19 additions to new by-names list

**Emergency Housing Vouchers update:** All vouchers have been referred out to housing authorities, many still in application process, 15 vouchers issued; 1 moved in.

As part of our data discussion, we will also look at whether there are themes - analyses on successes or challenges - to pull out from these updates for discussion purposes.

#### **Shelter Updates**

**ServiceNet:**

**Pittsfield:** at capacity (50) - exceeded this past weekend by 4 or 5 - at St. Joe's High School until 6/15 - then must relocate.

**Greenfield:** at capacity at Wells Street (30) - overflow numbers have declined over the past week.

**Northampton:** at First Churches until 4/30 - full at 25 (1-4 people in overflow). Will continue to operate out of Grove Street (15 beds as of now)

**Craig's Doors - Amherst -**

Lutheran Church - 24/7 - through 4/30 - full with 23 people - agreed to stay open 24/7 - have not yet been asked whether would extend past 4/30

University Motor Lodge (UML) - 35 people - through June 30 and waiting to hear if extended  
Reopened at Unitarian Meeting House - primarily for women - 12 people - unlikely to extend past 4/30

Discussion about the loss of at least 45 beds and possibly 65 beds (if Lutheran closes) as of 4/30. Acknowledged the issue is one of space, not money (DHCD is prepared to extend to 6/30 and possibly beyond). Acknowledged the lack of space options in Northampton as of now and the reality that we are facing a discharge on 4/30 into woods and the "best case scenario" is "mapping" where people are so services can continue to be delivered. Acknowledged this needs to change. Raised the idea of a task force to find sites. Pamela noted that Northampton and Amherst providers and city/town people are meeting on 3/17 to discuss this situation further. Will keep the group posted.

**Network Budget Priorities:** The Network held a legislative briefing for Western MA legislators on 3/10 - [see the priorities here](#) (includes individual homelessness and Safe Havens asks). Stay tuned on the blog for action steps. [Subscribe here!](#)

**Next meeting date: April 11, 2 pm**