

Hampden County Individual Services Committee - 4/19/22

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Grechar Aquino, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Farida Bature, Mercy Medical, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaratin Inn, Tiana Green, Catholic Charities, Kim Fontaine, Eliot Services, Janice Humason, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Charlie Knight, Rainville, Jenifer Lucca, Samaratin Inn, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield/Hampden CoC, Bill Miller, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Kevin Noonan, Craig's Doors, Stephen Plummer, Greater Springfield Senior Services, Anna Smith, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield Police Dept. Kathy West, Eliot Services, Susan White, Life Path, Kenyetta Wilson, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Chris Zabik, DMH

The Individual Homelessness System Procurement: It got released TODAY. See [HERE](#) for the bid and see critical dates below:

Virtual Bidders' Conference	06/01/2022 at 10:00am and 06/02/2022 at 10:00am
Deadline for Written Questions	06/03/2022 at 5:00pm
Publication of Answers to questions	06/10/2022
Response Deadline	07/01/2022 at 5:00pm
Estimated date of award announcement	09/15/2022
Estimated start of contracts	04/01/2023

Discussion: Gerry noted that this procurement takes a broad approach, well beyond shelter and includes outreach and case management and support services and housing, etc. Bill noted that this is due to the advocacy of shelter providers, urging DHCD to incorporate the multiple components of the current work. Gerry also noted that this procurement, alongside other funding sources - HOME ARP and local ARPA dollars and more - is a great opportunity to take stock of gaps and needs in our system. She will reach out individually and in small groups to invite people to talk more and share their thoughts.

Other CoC Announcements:

- HUD has not yet announced its ESG awards which is why there has been no announcement by the CoC - hoping this happens soon.
- New HUD CoC funding includes a collaborative project to support DV survivors. Working with Alianza, YWCA and Valley Opportunity Council as joint grantees for this work. They are now entering planning sessions with consultant support from the Safe Housing Alliance (supported by the Western MA Network to End Homelessness). This is an exciting opportunity!
- Racial equity work continues - just completed a training series and next up is a strategic planning process to develop next steps. Working with Racial Equity Partners as consultants. A 3-part planning session is on the calendar - 4/26, 5/12, and 5/23, 3 pm -

4:30 pm. All are welcome. Please contact Gerry if interested (if able to attend all 3 sessions): gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com

- HMIS capacity building grant - the CoC is now focusing on updating policies and procedures for their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - key focus will be privacy/information sharing issues. Meeting on this on 4/27 - all welcome. Please let Gerry know if you would like to attend - gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com.
- Built for Zero Learning Session is taking place in Chicago from 5/11-5/12 - up to 6 people can attend. Must commit to do the follow-up work. Again, please let Gerry know if interested - gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com

FY23 State Budget Update: The House Ways and Means Committee released its budget last week - [see this blog post](#) for more on the budget (a lot of positive investment for housing/homelessness - and there is more to be done). This week is the time to advocate for legislators' co-sponsorship of amendments ([see this post for the action alert](#)). The House Budget will be debated and voted upon next week. Please stay connected via the blog!

Don't forget to register for the Network annual event on May 6. [Go here!](#)