

## **Three County Individual Services Committee Meeting - April 11, 2022**

*In attendance: Keith Benoit, City of Northampton, Jeremiah Blankenbaker, Carig's Doors, Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Sean Donovan, City of Northampton Department of Community Care, Molly Driscoll, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, John Hornik, Amherst Affordable Housing Trust, Laura Hudson, Positive Place, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaratin Inn, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Deb McLaughlin, Opioid Task Force, Kevin Noonan, Craig's Doors, Wendy Penner, Lizbeth Santos, CHD, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Dan Sontag, DMH, Chris Zabik, DMH*

**Individual Homelessness Data Review:** See [here](#) and [here](#) for Michele's update (thank you, Michele!). Point in Time Count data is still in the process of being finalized - will be available by the end of the month. A small group met earlier this month to discuss the goals around data sharing at this meeting. We will continue to clarify and share with the larger group at our next meeting.

### **Shelter Updates**

**ServiceNet:** First Churches in Northampton closing on 4/29 - emergency shelter will be moved to the interfaith cot shelter - during pandemic times the capacity was at 10 but the good news is that capacity can be increased to 14 (subject to condo assoc approval); also at Grove Street shelter, capacity can be increased by 4 beds from 14 to 19 beds total. This means there will be a drop in 7 beds as compared to First Churches. This is good news relative to the loss that was feared. Meanwhile, housing placement work continues to prevent people from having to return to unsheltered living.

Greenfield is staying steady with 30 beds at Wells Street shelter. Mostly always full.

Pittsfield continues to use St. Joe's High School with a capacity of 50 beds - frequently full.

### **Craig's Doors:**

Agreement underway with Knights Inn in Hadley for 21 rooms (42 beds). Unfortunately, the hotel will not be made available until June 1. As of now the two church sites - Immanuel Lutheran Church (23 beds) and the UU (14 beds) are slated to close 4/30 (conversations underway to see if one month extension is possible). This will leave a month long gap for these individuals.

**Community Foundation Funds:** Providers are continuing to coordinate around purchasing of tents and other camping supplies (thanks to Theresa Nicholson of CHD for coordinating) for individuals who are opting to live outdoors.

### **Coordinated Entry update** (with thanks to Shaundell):

Since Last meeting on 03/14/2022:

o Move ins:

- ♣ We have had 02 move-ins since last month.
- This includes TH, PSH, RRH and Joint Component

- o # of participants currently on the OLD BNL:
  - ♣ 144
  - 21 No contacts
- o # of new additions to the BNL:
  - ♣ 12 to current BNL
  - ♣ 12 into Clarity (04/01 deadline)
- o # of Exits:
  - ♣ 19+ Exits
  - 11 – were removed off the list due to no contact over 6 months
  - 2- COC
  - 1- Non-CoC Housing
  - 2- Moved out of Service Area
  - 3- Moved out w/EHV
  - 1- Deceased
  - 7- Added to the new BNL

**Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) update (with thanks to Shaundell):**

- ♣ DHCD
  - Wayfinders:
    - o 3 Openings (1 DV Specific)
    - o 14 referred
  - o 6 still in application process
  - o 8 Vouchers Issued
  - Berkshire:
    - o 19 Referred
    - o 7 Vouchers Issued
    - o 12 are still in application process
    - o 2 Leased up
- ♣ NHA
  - 1 opening
  - 17 Referred
  - 6 Leased up
  - 8 Vouchers Issued
  - 2 application process
- ♣ Franklin
  - 1 opening
  - 15 Referred
  - 2 Moved in
  - 11 Vouchers issued
  - 1 Application process

The continuing challenge of affordable housing search was noted, e.g., some people have had vouchers since Sept. and have not found places to rent.

**Other Network news:**

- The House Ways and Means budget will be released tomorrow. For context, here are the Network's [FY23 budget priorities](#). We need to be prepared to advocate for amendments - please stay tuned via blog updates ([subscribe here](#)).
- BE SURE TO REGISTER for the Network's Annual Event - [go here](#) to learn more!
- Congrats on the Network's award from the Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) - [go here](#) for more details.

**Next meeting date: Monday, May 16, 2 pm** - NOTE CHANGE to THIRD MONDAY of the month due to conflict on 2nd Tuesday