

3 County Individual Services Committee Minutes - 5/17/22

In attendance: Keith Benoit, City of Northampton, Jeremiah Blankenbaker, Craig's Doors, Dr. Jessica Bossie, Sami Cunningham, CAPV, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, Jen Glover, Life Path, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Jeff McLeod, Eliot Services, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Kevin Noonan, Craig's Doors, Steve Plummer, Greater Springfield Senior Services, Alison Proctor, Franklin County and North Quabbin Opioid Task Force, Kim Puffer, Domus, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Chris Zabik, DMH

Data Update

Thanks to Michele for sharing [this data report](#) on individual shelter and re-housing in the 3 county region. We discussed the complexity of distinguishing between "enrollments" and nightly bed counts and the need to get clear on what we are seeing in order to know what we are learning...Pamela will convene the small data work group to further discuss this and we'll report back in the next couple of meetings.

Shelter Updates

Northampton: 19 beds at Grove; 14 beds at Interfaith shelter; everyone who was still at First Churches when it closed got a bed (a few left prior to the church closing).

Pittsfield: still at St Joe's, averaging 40-44 people there

Greenfield: Wells Street continues with 30 people - full

Amherst: using Knights Inn now for people who had to be moved out of the church (18 people there now in 10 rooms); as of June 1, will have 19 rooms open through March 2023.

Isolation and Recovery space: there is currently a 25 bed I&R being run out of Boston Health care for the Homeless. To use that site, call 857-654-1000. Transportation should be provided.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

Shaundell shared with us an update on the distribution of EHV vouchers (68 total for the 3 county region; thus far very few leased up). The challenge of leasing up is consistent across the state - there is an affordable housing crisis everywhere! People involved with the distribution and leasing up met earlier this week and shared their frustrations on the barriers. HUD is talking about "recapturing" vouchers that are not allocated which is concerning. Hopefully more guidance will be issued to expand the length of time to do housing search. This will be a containing topic of conversation and feedback for HUD.

Senate budget update:

The State Senate Ways and Means Committee released its proposed FY23 budget. Good investments in housing and homelessness but we have key amendments on the table. Now is the time to push for senate co-sponsorship. See the [Network blog post HERE](#) for more details and action steps.

Next meeting date: Monday, June 13, 2 pm