

Hampden Individual Services Committee Meeting Notes - 5/24/22

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, CSO/FOH, Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, Catholic Charities, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaritan Inn, Lynn Conway, Eliot Services, Kim FontaineJancie Humason, CSO-Friends of the Homeless, Mark Jachym, Springfield CTC, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jeffrey McLeod, Eliot Services, Gerry McCafferty, Hampden CoC, Bill Miller, CSO-FOH, Kim Puffer, Domus, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Anna Smith, CSO-FOH, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield PD, Kathy West, Eliot Services, Chris Zabik, DMH

Built for Zero Update

Learning session last month with hundreds from CoCs across the country to focus on goals and innovation re: planning efforts on ending homelessness. Hampden CoC Team included: Janice Humason, CSO/FOH Farida Bature, Mercy Medical; Billy Glidden of Holyoke homelessness task force, Kate Sweetster-Owens, VA

The Hampden CoC set the following goal: in the next 6 months, by end of November, to reduce the number of people on the chronic by-name list by 20%. The number now is roughly 170-175. It's the highest it has ever been (due to covid and other factors) with more resources than ever before.

Identified 3 focus areas:

- (1) Holyoke. With this past winter's set-up of pop-up shelters, new individuals were identified. Working with the Mayor and staff and other city partners. Will create its own by-name list (which will later be merged with the whole CoC list).
- (2) in-flow pilot project to work with hospitals to address the in-and out-flow from hospitals and implement problem-solving protocols for housing placements
- (3) make better use of vouchers that are out there - currently 70 people with vouchers that are moving too slowly for lack of available housing - will better utilize the incentive dollars that are available

Discussion of shelter alternatives:

The group had a big conversation - thanks to Mark Jachym for bringing the shelter/housing challenges he is experiencing to the group. A big brainstorm on how to respond to individuals who are homeless but refusing to go to shelter for various reasons. Discussed hotel option with Catholic Charities. Will continue this conversation - tracking the need and responses when we meet next.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 1 pm