

Hampden Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/20/22

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, Friends of the Homeless (FOH)/CSO, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaritan Inn, John Fisher, Way Finders, Kim Fontaine, Eliot Services, Monique Gondek-Ashe, BHN, Janice Humason, FOH/CSO, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jennifer Lucca, Samaritan Inn, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield/CoC, Bill Miller, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Lizzy Ortiz, C3, Jessica Salvias, Eliot Services, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield PD, Edgar Vaskanyan, FOH/CSO

Shelter/Housing Updates

Friends of the Homeless: shelter capacity was high in August, dipped a bit in Sept, now going back up. Up to contracted capacity of 173 - and then into overflow

Housing: DPH low-threshold housing has housed 95 individuals - successful with 2 and 3 bedrooms and roommate situations

Emergency Housing Vouchers - struggles getting vouchered individuals housed - e.g., tenants do not have enough of a credit history; landlords requiring 3x income; especially challenges with young adults b/c of lack of rental and credit history due to age

Samaritan Inn - still full, shelters 24 men, 6 women

Center for Human Development (CHD): Motel 6 in Holyoke, 46 units, full or very fast turnover if unit becomes available; opening 42 units of low-threshold housing, hopefully by 11/1 - this will allow for movement out of hotel into housing, creating more room for emergency shelter and more overall flow through the system

Eliot Services: expanding outreach to Springfield with Jess coming on board; seeing some new encampments in Westfield; many unsheltered in Holyoke; working very closely with Tapestry.

Hotels update: in Springfield, currently 30 individuals in a hotel (managed by Catholic Charities); efforts underway to identify additional funds to sustain the hotel beyond September - right now about 30 people in the hotel, working diligently on rehousing folks and it's happening, just will not have all rehoused by 9/30 so need funds to extend. Pamela is reaching out to Kathryn Buckley-Brawner to discuss the possibility of managing Community Foundation funds (and potentially accessing some resources there)

Springfield-Hampden CoC Updates

- HUD's unsheltered homelessness RFP - applications are due today, staying tuned for applicants (2 so far); regular application for the CoC is due on 9/30; no new applicants for that application so all renewal applications going on - but the CoC will put in for increased funds for HMIS to obtain additional staff support for HMIS.
- The City of Springfield is putting out an RFP tomorrow for Home ARP funds for development of affordable housing for homeless individuals or families - allocating \$4.5 million.
- In 2 weeks, 2 more RFPs, one for development of non-congregate shelter units (\$1 m); \$500,000 for services for people experiencing homelessness - will have a longer time line

for this; Chicopee/Holyoke/Westfield also have HOME ARP funds and they'll be putting out RFPs for housing development

Network News

- Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget (to close out FY22) includes major investments in low-threshold housing and community-based housing for discharges from hospitals - see [HERE](#) for more details.
- The Network has endorsed the [Fair Share Amendment](#) (Question 1 on the ballot). The Network will hold a training on voter registration and what's on the Nov. 8 ballot in the next couple of weeks - stay tuned for confirmation
- Network Assistant job posting still out - see [HERE](#) for posting

Announcement: Stephanie Tonelli is leaving her position at the Springfield Police Department and taking a new job at Tapestry. Huge thanks to Stephanie for her time with the Network and congratulations to her for her new job!

[Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 18, 1 pm](#)