

Three County Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/12/22

In attendance: Keleigh BenEzra, Three County CoC, Sami Cunningham, Northampton Resilience Hub, Erin Forbush, ServiceNet, Kate Glynn, Northampton Resilience Hub, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Jay Levy, Eliot CHS-Homeless Services, Tim McCarthy, Craig's Doors, Gilad Meron, Northampton Resilience Hub, Theresa Nicholson, CHD, Lizzy Ortiz, Community Care Cooperate, ACO, Health Care for the Homeless, Liz Plouffe, City of Easthampton, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Dan Sontag, DMH-Safe Havens

Shelter Updates

Craig's Doors: just hired new Director of Operations; 11/1 transitioning Knight's Inn to Lutheran Church for congregate shelter on 11/1 - will stay open year round. At capacity at both sites. Craig's Doors responding to RFP posted by Amherst CRESS department to hire clinical director for oversight to case management team (max up to \$250,000, funding timeline of October to April); continuing outreach effort to encampments

ServiceNet: Greenfield, at capacity (30, with wait list); Northampton, operating at Grove Street with 19 individuals; interfaith with 16. At capacity. Pittsfield - at 45 individuals, capacity is 50 - at full capacity for male beds; female beds intermittently available. Seeing higher than usual numbers right now. Successfully rehousing people as well. Using some rapid rehousing dollars to rehouse.

Center for Human Development: motel shelter is almost full, spaces quickly fill. Guest who is medically fragile has finally agreed to come into the hotel. Another person who has been living in a box on the street is new to recovery and has agreed to come in. Seeing a lot more medically fragile. Getting nursing staff to come to hotel. Approx. 1/3 of the people they see are medically complex.

Low-threshold housing development - 46 units - getting closer to completion, pushing hard - hoping for November opening.

City of Easthampton: exploring opening a 10 bed shelter, working with a church, seeking a provider; will keep us posted.

Safe Havens (Greenfield, via Dan Sontag, DMH): going well, 7 individuals there are invested in the program; when openings it can be a challenge to ensure the units are reserved for the target population - having DMH eligibility can be a barrier. Please contact Dan Sontag with any questions - dan.sontag@mass.gov

Community Foundation funds:

\$5,000 currently remaining

Discussion re: the ask for this winter: all agreed the biggest challenge was having a staff person on call to take emergency outreach 24/7 - this must be a paid position for it to work (and not unduly burden existing staff - THANK YOU THERESA for this past season! Keleigh will reach out to CAPV resource department to discuss any possibilities there. We will keep talking to ensure we get to utilize this resource.

State budget news:

Good news on additional investment in Safe Havens - \$2 million statewide; and good news on Governor's supplemental budget - \$20 million. Read more [here](#).

Voter registration/Fair Share Amendment: The Network has endorsed the [Fair Share Amendment](#). We discussed engaging shelter providers with voter registration - the Network will consider holding a training on this. Stay tuned.

Next meeting date: due to usual 2nd Monday being a holiday, we will meet next on Monday, October 17, 2 pm.