

Youth and Young Adult Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/14

In attendance: Olivia Bernstein, Mental Health Association, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Pam Fitzpatrick, CHD, Jamie Gaston, North Adams Public Schools, Nelson Lopez, HCC, Stacy Parsons, Yeisie, Mateo, DCF, Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Tasia Williams, STCC, Kat Wong, Springfield-Hampden County CoC

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Updates

Three County Coc:

Some data from the state dollars re: FY22 impact:

Some Data from FY 2022 (region one)

- YYA Served 255
- YYA Receiving Referrals to additional services 204
- YYA receiving Emergency Shelter Supports 41
- YYA benefiting from EOHHS Flex Funds 64
- YYA at intake experiencing homelessness 95
- YYA at intake “at-risk” of homelessness 60
- 2022 Preliminary Youth Count Responses 124
- 2022 Preliminary YC Without Housing 72

Franklin County YAB update

- the group revamped its group expectations in August by creating a list of values and expectations
- working on picking a new youth-led project for the fall, considering ideas such as compiling resources and making flyers, hosting a workshop on adultism, or documenting/addressing anti-homeless architecture

revamped its group's expectations, continuing to meet with CoC and sharing with, working with picking new projects, hosting workshops, working at Stone Soup Cafe

Hampden County YHDP update:

- 305 YYA served in FY22
- 114 YYA residing in YHDP housing
- 20% of young adults identified as LGBTQ (higher than the 13% that was recorded for Hampden Youth Count)
- 62% YYA who exited from housing projects exited to positive housing outcomes
- last quarter saw an increase in numbers experiencing homelessness - possible factors were loss of winter beds; or increased outreach)
- flex funds are largely used to support transportation expenses
- HCC-Westfield housing pilot project saw 2 YYA graduates this past Spring

Ongoing challenges:

- making HUD's quarterly requirement of "continuous quality improvement" reporting meaningful - too short a time to have data analysis mean anything, e.g., the impact of 1 youth's outcomes disproportionately impacts the total outcome
- working to align all housing programs with Housing First - some programs were "grandfathered" in and are not accustomed to the Housing First model
- lack of affordable housing units

Successes:

- in the last month enrolled 6 YYA in rapid rehousing programs - which goes to moving youth into permanent housing and making new units available
- YAB hosted guest speaker N2N about how politics affects daily lives

Budget and Policy Updates

- Governor's FY22 Supplemental Budget proposes major investments in low-threshold housing, immigrant and refugee housing and housing for discharge from mental health hospitals. All of this would make a huge impact. Stay tuned for how we can advance it to passage.
- [The Fair Share Amendment](#): the Network has endorsed this ballot question - Question 1 on the Nov 8 ballot - that will impose a 4% tax on an individual's income over \$1 million and allocate the over \$2 billion in revenue that will be raised to public education and transportation. The Network is organizing around this question because the additional investment in education and transportation will have a significant impact on housing stability. The Network will offer a training on voter registration and Fair Share in October - Pamela is also happy to do a mini-training within organizations for staff or clients. Please let her know. in having her do a mini-training for your organization.

Other announcements:

- My First Place - for DCF-linked youth ages 18-22 - is now open. See [HERE](#) for the brochure.
- The Network is advertising for a Network Assistant position - 10-15 hours/week. Please see [here](#) for the job posting.

Next quarterly meeting date: Wed., 12/14, 11 am