

Three County Individual Services Meeting Minutes -01/17/2023

In Attendance: *Farida Bature, WMNEH, Keleigh BenEzra, FOH/CSO, Shaundell Diaz, Three County COC, Rick Hart, FOH/Hampshire County, Laura Hudson, A positive place, Michele LaFleure, CAPV, Jay Levy, Elliot Services, Timothy McCarthy, Craig's Doors, Dan Sontag, DMH, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Jei Staples, Craig's Doors,*

Shelter updates

Amherst (Craig's Doors):

PVTA is in partnership with Craig's Doors to support individuals living in the two shelter sites. Shelter guests have access to weekly bus passes with access to all routes for the next six months.

CSO/FOH Greenfield and Northampton planning for next year:

Service Net has made the transition easy and CSO is hoping some staff with the Greenfield shelter will apply to work with their team. Positions have been posted on the CSO website and interviews will start soon.

Northampton: CSO is looking to merge the 2 shelter sites into one larger site as is April 1. Currently exploring options to transition to have all the services in one location.

CSO was awarded more low threshold funds as they are exploring option for an office space for Greenfield and Northampton since all the caseworkers were initially based in Springfield. CSO will hire about 14 more individuals for case management to work for that program.

Reimagining Shelter Framework: The 3 County COC is heading up the reimagining shelter project which includes people with lived experience, and changing the experiences inside the shelter. This will take the negative connotation away from shelter. It will create the term interim housing. The team is working with their technical assistants consultant to create a timeline and The COC is advocating for Craig's Doors to be the pilot for this program.

Community Foundation Funds: They awarded CHD \$50,000 and it is being used for emergency motel needs for individuals.

The group agreed it would be useful to hold a joint CoC meeting (with Hampden) to discuss the criteria for low threshold housing and aim for a coordinated approach. Pamela will reach out to Gerry.

Point-in-Time Count: The PIT count will take place on January 25, 2023. Thanks to Michele LaFleur for her coordinating efforts. Contact Michele with any questions: mlafleur@communityaction.us.

Winter Walk: The [Winter Walk](#) to raise awareness and funds to end homelessness is happening on Sunday, February 5, at 9:00am – 11am in Court Square, Springfield. It is open to all and covers all 4 counties. You do not need to donate to participate. All can register [HERE](#).

Legislative Session: The next Legislative Session begins on Jan. 20. Stay tuned for Network priorities – e.g., right to counsel in evictions, eviction record sealing, transfer fee for affordable housing – and let's get ready to be in touch with our legislators to co-sponsor and lead on our priority bills.

Next meeting date: Monday, February 13 at 2pm