

Western MA Task First for Housing First – 2/21/23

Condensed Meeting Notes

Note: Due to a technology glitch, we lost the record of who attended and real-time minutes. Below are the recalled items discussed or shared at this meeting:

Homelessness Point in Time Count: Gerry McCafferty reviewed the preliminary 2023 Point in Time count numbers for the region. See [slides here](#).

Shelter updates: all shelters in the region are full to capacity. The Community Foundation's \$50,000 emergency shelter grant was fully spent down after the last cold snap.

Western MA Housing Coalition: Keith Fairey shared a brief overview of the Coalition and its goals to increase housing production in the region (and ancillary supports for housing stability). The Coalition presented its agenda before the region's legislators on Feb. 10. [Go here](#) for the presentation.

Legislative Update: The Joint Housing Committee was announced: Senator Lydia Edwards and Rep. Jim Arciero are the chairs for this Legislative Session. Also great news that we have two Western MA members (first ever): Senator John Velis and Rep. Shirley Arriaga.

MA Supportive Housing Pool Program – Thanks to Joyce Tavon of MHSA for providing an overview of this important bill, which is a Network priority. See the factsheet [here](#). The Network's complete list of legislative priorities can be found [here](#).

The Network will be meeting with its Legislative Delegation (by county) on Feb. 27.

Reminder of the Network's Annual Gathering – Friday, May 12, 10:30 am – 12 noon – mark your calendars now! [See the Save the Date here](#).

Next Task Force meeting: Thursday, March 23, 9 am