

Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes - 3/15/23

In attendance: Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Gumersindo Gomez, Bilingual Veterans Center, Mike Hagmaier, Soldier On, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Uri Strauss, CLA, Kate Sweetster-Owen, VA, Sue White, VA

Veteran Program Updates

- **VERY FLEXIBLE STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS!!** Especially important: veterans with income up to 80% Area Median Income are eligible for SSVF. See more here: [SSVF Poster](#); [SSVF brochure](#)
- **Health Care for Homeless Veterans** is newly staffed and resourced - Michelle Lague is the point person - Michelle.Lague2@va.gov - will provide an umbrella for support services and outreach. Exciting new development.
- **Bilingual Veterans Center:** 6 unit openings in transitional housing at 52 Maple Court, Springfield - sober housing; also openings in PSH - contact Gumersindo Gomez at 413-731-0194; also FYI on fundraiser for veterans: "Cigar Night - 149 Exchange Street, Chicopee. Call Gumersindo at number below for tickets.

Veteran Point in Time Count Updates

- **3 County Veterans Data:** [Go HERE](#) (note increase as compared to last year; discussion of contributing factors include end of hotel funds and end of eviction moratorium)
- **Hampden County Veterans Data:** [Go HERE](#) (number steady as compared to last year)

Legislative and Budget Updates

- The Network convened legislative meetings across the region on Feb. 27 to share its legislative and budget priorities. [Go HERE](#) to see the powerpoint presentations.
- To see the Network's priority bills, [go HERE](#).
- To see the Network's FY24 budget priorities, [go HERE](#).

The Network will continue to meet with legislators one-on-one to advocate for these priorities.

SAVE THE DATE: Network's 7th Annual Gathering - Friday, May 12, 10:30 am - 12 noon. Please mark your calendars!

Next quarterly meeting date: Thursday, June 8, 11 am - 12 noon