

Youth and Young Adult Services Committee - 3/13/25

Tanja Alessi, CSO, Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Keith Hedlund, CHD, Chelsea Isom, City of Springfield Vega Johnson, Three County CoC, Hayley Nelson, Hampden COC, Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Mio Rivas, Hampden Youth Action Board, Emely Rosario, Westover Job Corps, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Cinnamon Smith, Westover Job Corps, Mark Watkins, Gandara

Hampden County YYA update:

- By-names list: 157 youth, 61% female, 36% male, less than 1% non-binary, trans; 61% hispanic, 35% Black, 17% identified as white only
- 13 reported to be sleeping outdoors, 35% Black; 17% identified as white only
- Point in Time Count data: 53 parenting youth (increase of 2 families from last year); 42 unaccompanied youth (24 male, 24 female, 1 trans), up 16 from last year; 13 unsheltered, up from last year
- since January: preventing homelessness for 4 YYA; housed 14 YYA out of homelessness. Great work!

Three County YYA update:

- Point in Time Count: 28 YYA in shelter; 1 parenting youth; 3 unsheltered youth; of the total 107 sheltered individuals, 3 identified as YYA
- EOHHS data: since January: 62 YYA supported through providers - 35 women, 24 men, others identified as non-binary; 13 pregnant/parenting youth
- working with YYA who are camping outdoors
- noted a slow-down in distribution of Section 8 mobile vouchers

Network updates:

See this [Network blog post](#) for the summary of the Network's legislative/partners meeting across the four counties and the [FY26 budget priorities](#) and [2025-2026 legislative priorities](#) we discussed. The work for this session has just begun and Pamela urged everyone to stay as connected as possible via the Network blog - [subscribe here](#).

MA Coalition for the Homeless Advocacy Day (which includes youth priorities) is April 7. Learn more here: <https://www.mahomeless.org/legislative-action-day>

Next meeting date: Wed., June 11, 11 am