

## **Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 4/22/25**

*In attendance: approximately 30 providers and community partners*

### **Shelter and Housing Updates**

#### **CSO:**

- a new Safe Havens program (2 year transitional housing, 7 beds for long-term chronically homeless individuals) is opening in Pittsfield in late June/July. We welcomed Jason Godfrey as the new director. This is a DMH internal referral program. This is now the 3rd Safe Havens program in Western MA - Westfield (MHA), Greenfield (CSO) and now Pittsfield.
- Groundbreaking took place last week for CSO's new housing and shelter in Springfield - 36 units of PSH, 40 additional shelter beds. Congratulations!
- Work continues in Greenfield on its housing development that will also add 36 units of PSH and 40 shelter beds.
- Shelters in Northampton and Greenfield continue to be full, but there is more movement in and out (warmer weather based)
- Medical Respite Program - for people being discharged from the hospital and facing homelessness - has increased from 10 to 14 beds. There are 3 beds available right now.

#### **Craig's Doors:**

- Winter beds at the Econo-Lodge are no longer available. Case managers supported exists so that the exits were smooth - either shelter beds were located or survival gear provided, and housed one person. The outreach team built important relationships so engagement will continue over the summer.
- Hotel stay program has also ended for the season, along with shelter overflow space.
- Currently flow at congregate and Econo-Lodge site but also seeing more movement
- Now staffed with a full case management team; working on a pilot program for workforce development, including transit service to employers; currently working on supporting 4-5 people in employment
- Received funding under the opioid settlement grants (via the RISE foundation) to partner with Tapestry in a harm reduction grant; will be enhancing their outreach and case management support - read more about it [here](#). A next round of funding is available - go [here](#) for more information

#### **CHD:**

- Under new rapid housing program (funded by City of Springfield), they have housed 13 people who were previously living on the streets
- Winding down temporary low threshold housing program (due to end of funding) - 11 people remaining and engaged in rehousing efforts
- Motel 6 shelter is full
- Triage/outreach team still has some hotel funds available; staff is currently embedded in Greenfield and Pittsfield and looking to create more drop-in capacity in Hampden County

### **Louison House (northern Berkshire County):**

- Some winter shelter funding still remains which is very useful because they are seeing a big increase in need
- opening a youth PSH program with 6 beds - some contractor delays but hopes to open by next month

### **Franklin County Opioid Task Force (HUB Project)**

- Seeing more people on the river front, seeing more debris - working together in the HUB Project to brainstorm responses
- still available funds to do emergency hotel stays
- working with Greenfield Police to coordinate outreach re: available resources

### **CoC Updates**

#### **Springfield/Hampden CoC**

- Shout out to CHD's rapid rehousing program - long-term unhoused people are getting housed!
- Holyoke Housing Authority has allocated an additional 10 Section 8 vouchers (Moving to Work vouchers) to house individuals who are unsheltered or residing at Motel 6 - exciting progress
- Springfield's multi-disciplinary outreach team is working well - identifying high need people and also discovering the limits of PSH for severely mentally ill individuals, a level of psychosis that creates a barrier to staying inside
- 20 new units of PSH are opening in August, a collaboration between Home City Development and MHA (which will have onsite staffing) - this could offer a hopeful intervention for the severely mentally ill homeless population
- HUD Technical Assistance is support the CoC's work to redesign its coordinated entry system. An upcoming all-CoC meeting on May 9 will offer more of an update on this project. End of June there will be a 3 day workshop to advance this effort further. The goal is to create a high quality response system.

#### **Three County CoC**

- Hiring for a full-time DV/EMERG Coordinator
- Will be conducting a summer Point in Time Count to get a more complete picture
- Upcoming trainings include: [Community Legal Aid Info Session](#); [Commercial Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\) Training](#);
- Requesting feedback on interest in trainings - please [reply here](#)
- 2nd Annual Community Forum on 6/9 at GCC - stay tuned for more info!

### **Network Budget and Policy Updates**

- The House budget was released, amendments filed, and it will be voted on next week. Now is the time to urge our legislators to co-sponsor our priority amendments. See [Action Alert here](#).
- Check out recent [advocacy at the State House for rent stabilization here](#).
- Older Adult Homelessness Conference is coming up on May 13 - read more and [register here](#)

**Network Annual Gathering - May 30, HCC, 9:30 am - [Please register here!](#)**

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, May 20, 1 pm**