

Individual Services Committee Minutes - 5/20/25

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, CSO, Keleigh BenEzra, CSO, Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Natalie Burtzos, 3 County CoC, Kianna Clarke, CSO, Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Will Dávila, CHD, Kim Fontaine, Eliot Services, Jason Godfrey, CSO, Janice Humason, CoC, Vega Johnson, 3 County CoC, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Rich Krzanowski, CSO, Michelle Lague, VA, Michele LaFleur, 3 County CoC, Josh Levin, DMH, Gerry McCafferty, Hampden CoC, Deb McLaughlin, Franklin County Opioid Task Force, Christy O'Brien, CHD, Lizzy Ortiz, C3 Care Cooperative, Lori Pastrany-Heady, CHD, Christina Ruest, CSO, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH

CoC Updates:

- CoC Grant Agreements: HUD imposed new grant conditions on CoC funding that are restrictive around immigration, LGBTQ, choice and equity policies. US District Court issued a temporary restraining order preventing HUD from imposing these conditions. Today there was a hearing on a preliminary injunction (extending the order). Waiting to hear outcome. Boston joined 7 other cities in filing this lawsuit. One possible complication is that the court finding could only apply to the cities who sued (i.e., our two CoC's would not be covered). Waiting for more clarity around that.
- Hampden CoC's grants will all renew on 7/1 and it is assumed full steam ahead (hopefully without that language). The Three County CoC has received all but 2 of its grants (planning and DV grant) - still waiting on those.
- Preliminary Point in Time counts for both CoCs are now available (to be finalized in June). See [Hampden CoC numbers here](#) and [Three County CoC numbers here](#) and Hampden CoC numbers here.
- The Hampden CoC is in the process of revisiting and revising its coordinated entry system. The goal is to remove barriers and increase access. Convening as a CoC with consultants for intensive work on this from 6/24-6/26.
- 3 County CoC is also reviewing its coordinated entry system with support from Dr. Lamont Green.
- Many trainings coming up! [See here](#) for the listing.
- **3 County CoC Stronger Together Forum** - June 9, GCC - [read more here](#) and please join!

Network Budget and Policy Updates:

- The Senate budget is being debated now. [See this blog post](#) for a summary of budget amendments and action alert.
- The Network testified on the Older Adult bridge subsidy program on May 12, joining forces with the City of Northampton and City of Easthampton. [Go here to see the testimony.](#)

Please join the Network Annual Event by Zoom (in-person is full) on Friday, May 30, 10 am: [register here.](#)

Next meeting: merged with the monthly Task Force meeting on **Tuesday, June 17, 9 am**