

Youth and Young Adult Services Quarterly Committee Meeting Minutes - 6/11/25

Attending: Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Chelsea Isom, City of Springfield, Vega Johnson, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Three County CoC, Hayley Nelson, Youth Programs, Hampden Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Mio Rivas, Springfield YAB, Jean Rogers, CHD, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Herlinda Tuesca, Community Action, Mark Watkins, Gandara Center, Tasia Williams, STCC

Three County CoC YYA Data Update:

- 79 YYA are on the by-names list, 29 identify as LGBTQ+
- 12 YYA assessed since the start of April, 4 identify as LGBTQ+
- 37 enrolled in shelter this quarter, 24 unaccompanied YYA and 13 people in YYA families
- 5 YYA entered shelter or TH for the first time this quarter
- 7 YYA in shelter are experiencing chronic homelessness
- 8 exits from shelter or TH for YYA this quarter, only 1 to permanent housing

Other Three County CoC Program Updates:

- DIAL/SELF will be housing 3 YYA in families in their project-based housing shortly
- A new youth Permanent Supportive Housing project is opening in North Adams in July through Louison House - 6 units, one family, one ADA
- Community Action Youth and Workforce Development Programs will be taking over from MHA the rapid rehousing program and Making Opportunities Count (MOC) will be taking over the MHA PSH program (as of Oct. 1)

Hampden CoC YYA Data Update:

- 150 YYA on by-names list, 62 male, 82 female, 2 non-binary, 4 trans; 85 Hispanic; 52 Black, 22 white; 28 in transitional housing, 14 reported sleeping outdoors, 5 in "other locations"; 46 are parenting
- Since January, housed 28 YYA
- 21 FYI (Fostering Youth to Independence) vouchers are being processed (for young adults who were in care of DCF at age 16 or older)
- new rapid rehousing funding will be available on July 1, braiding funds with state funds, getting ready to deploy this resource!

Program updates/observations:

- Identifying available housing units continues to be a great challenge and is only getting harder; landlords are less willing to engage; raising rents - difficult!

Training: both CoCs are joining together to offer Critical Time Intervention Training series for rapid rehousing providers

Federal budget re: youth programs:

- funding for the federal runaway youth homeless youth program is uncertain; all applications were returned to eliminate any DEI language.
- Westover Job Corps is facing the threat of elimination. Currently in the courts.

Federal budget big picture update and actions:

The Trump Administration threatens massive cuts through multiple budget processes (the reconciliation bill and the FY26 budget). [See this recent action alert](#) from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and this [organizational sign-on letter](#) from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

FY26 State Budget update:

Work on the final FY26 budget is now in the Conference Committee where differences between the House and Senate budgets are being resolved. [Go here](#) to take action and learn more about the Network's budget requests.

The Network Annual Gathering revisited: Make sure you catch up to the powerful words of our tenant speakers, Bennita Watford and Nancy Dorian, and other speakers as well - [see the video and more here](#) (you'll find Bennita at minute 37 and Nancy at minute 54).

Next Quarterly Meeting date: Wednesday, October 15, 11 am (moving the quarterly interval back in order to match up with the data reporting for state youth funds so we can share timely information when we meet)