

Family Services Committee Meeting - 4/14/26

In attendance: Sellou Coly, Catholic Charities, Mayra, DeJesus, Shriners, Jennifer Dieringer, CLA, Vilma Duran, Catholic Charities, Anthia Elliott, BHN, Wanda Garcia, Catholic Charities, Darcy Gauthier, BHN, Joscelyn Gonzalez, NNCC, Christy O'Brien, CHD, Victoria, Martin, FCRHRA, Aida Rivera, Holyoke Public Schools, Johanna Santiago, Alianza, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Amanda Watson, FCRHRA, Janette Vigo, Way Finders, Melissa White, VOC

EA Family Shelters:

- reprocurement applications are in - news on funding likely in May
- EA providers got news of potential policy changes in the making, e.g., increasing shelter time limit from 6 month to 9 month; changing poverty threshold from 115 to 120% (with stated goal to align with MassHealth criteria of 130%); when units are full, will start temporary shelter offering (rapid rehousing track) for 120 days. This is good news, but timing (and finality) are not clear. We'll all stay tuned.

RAFT:

Way Finders: continuing to see roughly 750 applications each week

Franklin County: seeing more utility requests with end of moratorium; demand continues to be high

Other updates:

- Catholic Charities is preparing in July to administer rehousing fund (via the CoC) - we'll stay tuned on that.
- CHD outreach and triage program is continuing to see many individuals; some staffing transitions have occurred

Network State Budget and Policy Updates

- The House Ways and Means Committee Budget will be released any day. [See these quick budget actions](#) to be counted in the push for housing/homelessness funds.
- HUD is proposing devastating regulatory changes that will severely impact public and subsidized housing tenants. [Read more and take action here.](#)

Network Annual Gathering - Friday, May 29, 9:30 am, Holyoke Community College - See [the flyer](#) and [register here!](#) The space is filling up so please don't delay.

Next meeting - Tuesday, June 9, 11 am (note: we are skipping May this month due to the Annual Gathering - come there instead!)