

Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 4/28/26

In attendance: roughly 30 individual service and community providers

CoC Updates:

HUD NOFO update: The litigation regarding HUD's FY25 NOFO is still ongoing, but as a practical matter less relevant because it has run out of time to launch a new competition for this year (2nd quarter awards have been announced).

However, HUD also announced this past week its schedule for FY26 awards: the NOFO will be released on May 29; CoC applications due end of August and decisions made in December for the following year.

It is assumed that HUD will impose similar restrictions on the amount of funding that can be spent on permanent housing (including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing). The last proposal (that was subject to litigation) limited that amount to no more than 30% of total funding. Our CoCs (like virtually all CoCs) spend significantly more (upwards of 80%). This will have a significant impact on how CoC funds are allocated. Conversations are underway now in anticipation of this shift. Conversely, this shift will create new opportunities for transitional housing. More to learn as this process unfolds.

The Three County CoC is holding trainings to learn more about the CoC and its housing projects. May 11 and May 12 at 12 noon. [Register here](#) for May 11. For May 12, contact Shaundell Diaz at sdiaz@communityaction.us

Coordinated Access/Entry Updates

Hampden County CoC: getting ever closer to launching its new coordinated entry structure which will include 5 primary sites - Way Finders, Catholic Charities, Open Door, CHD, Friends of the Homeless - for primary intake and assessment. They will be launching a branding and marketing campaign soon. Currently, these orgs are meeting weekly to finalize the system, and agency trainings, e.g., on trauma informed care, are underway. There will also be secondary sites for referrals, up to 10. Stay tuned for launch announcement.

Three County CoC: Coordinated entry evaluation is underway with TAC support. Currently conducting one-on-ones with CoC partners and TAC to assess further. Stay tuned for additional updates.

Shaundell stressed the importance of utilizing coordinated entry and ensuring all people are assessed and identified on its by names list. To get trained as an assessor or attend Case Conferencing meetings, please reach out to Vega Johnson, the CoC CE Specialist at VJohnson@communityaction.us and for DV specific connect with Emma Coles, the DV/EMERG Coordinator ecoles@communityaction.us

In regard to CoC-Funded and non-CoC funded housing opportunities I cannot stress enough the importance of making sure that folks are being assessed and identified on our BNL and in case conferencing. If you need to become a trained assessor or access Case Conferencing please reach out to Vega Johnson the CoC CE

Specialist VJohnson@communityaction.us and DV specific connect with Emma Coles our DV/EMERG Coordinator ecoled@communityaction.us

Statewide Youth Count: Online survey hacked. Needing to adjust how it's being distributed and the assessment of the data.

Three County CoC Summer Point in Time Count: Accounting for impact of new NOFO timing and this effort. People with Lived Experience Committee is working on its summer cooling kits for residents in need.

Three County June Gathering - June 18, 11 am - 2 pm at Greenfield Community College

Program Updates

CSO Medical Respite: currently 1 female bed open at Medical Respite; tomorrow or Thursday a male bed will open; Friday another female bed. Contact Mark Jachym at mark.jachym@csoinc.org with questions or with referrals.

FYI on mass overdoses in neighboring areas - Maine, Providence - containing the opioid nitazine - Narcan can revive. Psychlorofine also found in drug supply, primarily in TN and KY. Heads-up to all on this potential threat in our own area.

Craig's Doors - shelter is full, resource center is seeing a lot of demand

CSO - Northampton and Greenfield, as of May 1, end of overflow winter contract, reducing beds and day center operation (open for clients serving in shelter); having good success in rehousing; Springfield similarly doing attrition

Greenfield: 36 new PSH units

Springfield: 36 new PSH units

Both locations due to come on line in August. Both are working closely with their CoC's coordinated entry programs to ensure best match of need to housing.

CHD: Status quo with full shelter, having some good rehousing success. Just hired a new program manager.

Network updates

Opposing HUD's work and time limit requirements

Pamela provided an update on HUD's proposed rule to allow housing authorities to impose work requirements or time limits on residents. There is an organized effort to generate thousands of comments in opposition to this rule - every comment counts. See CHAPA's [excellent response guide here](#). Comments are due by May 1. H

Be sure to register for the **Network Annual Event Gathering on Friday, May 29, 9:30-11:30 am at Holyoke Community College**. [Go here to save your spot!](#)

Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 30, 1-2 pm