

Youth and Young Adult Services Committee Minutes - 4/15/26

In attendance: Stefan Davis, I Found Light Against All Odds, Keith Hedlund, CHD, Janice Humason, Vega Johnson, Three County CoC, Hayley Nelson, Springfield CoC, Declan Nolan, My First Place, Sam Ridgway, Youth Villages, Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Mio Rivera, Hampden YAB, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Cinnamon Smith, Westover Job Corp

Hampden County CoC Data Report:

- by-names list down to 9 from 137 last quarter - although unclear about what that indicates, eg, some youth stopped engaging, not confident that it's a reflection of a decline in need
- 44% male; 52% female
- 55% Hispanic; 34% Black; 15% white - similar demographics across time
- 13 in transitional housing; 31 in shelter (6 youth beds, remainder at adult shelters), 2 sleeping outdoors
- 19 parenting youth
- 15 youth housed this quarter
- Help Line: 87 calls this quarter down from 191 last quarter - 31 needed immediate shelter; 46 intakes scheduled, 50% completed

Three County CoC Data Report:

- by-names list: 63
- last quarter 27 youth added, roughly same number left by-names list, staying steady
- 36 LGBTQ youth
- 28 men, 19 women, 31 white, 13 multi-racial
- 8 rehoused, 2 in transitional housing

Provider updates

- DIAL/SELF - seeing a drop-off in calls; in this last year thus far, worked with 70+ YYA, providing support, rehoused 47 people
- Lighthouse - in close contact with schools, connecting YYA to services; connected 4 young adult women to HCC, one with housing at Westfield - learn ore about Lighthouse here: ifoundlight.com
- Youth Villages - serving young adults 17.5-24 years, receives referrals from DCF, schools - meets weekly to provide support

Statewide Youth Count - please participate! Counting YYA individuals only, not in a home or serviced by DCF. Contact Hayley at Hampden (hnelson@springfieldcityhall.com) or Vega at Three County (vjohnsonbouchard@communityaction.us) for more info.

Update on federal Runaway Homeless Youth Program - Phil noted the policy pushes from the new Associate Commissioner to rewrite contracts to provide proof that no harm reduction support is provided. This could impact youth funding, not to mention the nature of the program.

Pilot program in the works: Phil informed us of a state pilot program in the works that would train people to conduct triage with YYA in a trauma-informed approach, testing out a training framework. Looking at Springfield and Lynn as pilot sites. Will keep us posted.

Network State Budget and Policy Updates

- The House Ways and Means Committee Budget is being released today. [See these quick budget actions](#) to be counted in the push for housing/homelessness funds through the process.
- HUD is proposing regulatory changes that threatens rental assistance for thousands of public and subsidized housing tenants. [Read more and take action here.](#)
- [Sign-on letter by April 20](#) to join groups nationwide in opposing HUD's proposed rule to ban rental assistance for mixed-status families.
- **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 Date: Wednesday, September 9, 11 am