

## **Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 6/30/26**

*In attendance: roughly 34 shelter, housing and community providers*

### **Shelter and Housing Updates**

- **CSO:** preparing to open two new housing developments - 36 permanent supportive housing units at each site in Greenfield and Springfield, and redesigned shelter:  
**Greenfield - Wednesday, July 29, 11:30-1:00 pm - [see flyer here](#); Springfield - Friday, July 31, 1:30 - 3 pm pm, 755 Worthington Street - [see flyer here](#)**

All 3 shelters are full every night; some good movement into housing

- **CHD** - all beds full; more turnover, steady referrals; activated cooling center
- **Craig's Doors** - full shelter; more demand at the resource center in Amherst - seeing between 25-47 people each day
- Springfield will be activating its cooling centers shortly.
- Franklin County: searching out cooling centers for non-traditional office hours. Police lobbies are always open 24/7 (duly acknowledging the limitations of a police facility)
- **Providence Ministries** - transitioning to a sober living facility for 50 men, hopefully by August - most men transitioned to other Providence housing

### **HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):**

It's out!

CoC's Request for Proposals flowing from the NOFO are also out. Learn more here:

Three County CoC: <https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/fy26-nofo> - deadline 7/27

Hampden County CoC: <https://springfieldhampdencoc.com/coc-competition/> - deadline 7/24

HUD's rejection of Housing First continues in this NOFO, only allowing up to 60% of funding to be allocated to permanent supportive housing and allocating \$1.3 billion to transitional housing and supportive services; also requiring up to 20 hours/week of work/school/service work if in transitional housing. CoCs are figuring out ways to protect people currently in housing and in greatest need of housing as much as possible. The current strategy is to maximize funding in the best way possible.

National and state-level advocates have filed an amendment to the existing complaint against HUD to object to this current NOFO as unlawful. We will stay tuned about next steps. Read more on the [blog here](#).

**Rent Control Ballot Initiative:** The MA Supreme Judicial Court threw the rent control ballot initiative off the ballot based on its analysis that its religious exemption (for housing units operated exclusively for religious institutions) violated the Constitution. It was a shocking outcome! Focus is now on the Legislature's passage of the pending bill. Read the [blog post here](#) for more information.

**Three County CoC Summer Cooling Kits and Point in Time Count**

The Three County CoC is conducting a collection drive for summer cooling kits. They are collecting at designated locations through July 13. And then distributing the week of July 27, the same week as the point in time count. The count will take place on the night of July 26. Contact Emma Coles at [ecoles@communityaction.us](mailto:ecoles@communityaction.us) with any questions.

**MA ID Bill push:** The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless is making a big push to get the MA ID Bill passed - please add your name by going here: <https://tinyurl.com/massid2026>

**Discussion of impact of dog tranquilizer in drug supply** - Mark Jachym raised the issue of Medetomidine - and how it is now heavily in the Western MA drug supply. Must be prepared to use rescue breathing (not just Narcan or RiVive) Read more from [local media here](#).

**Next meeting date: Tues., July 21, 1 pm**