

Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 7/21/26

In attendance: approximately 25 providers

Shelter and Housing Updates

- CSO : two big openings coming up! 36 units of permanent supportive housing in both Greenfield and Springfield - see the [Greenfield flyer here](#); [Springfield flyer here](#)
- CSO's shelter contract is no longer covering nursing - Northampton and Greenfield will now be without nursing staff; Springfield will still retain some; Health Care for the Homeless will be the only service providers at the Greenfield and Northampton sites - this is a significant loss.
- Catholic Charities: now utilizing CoC rapid rehousing funds to house 20 seniors 65 and older for up to 2 years of rental assistance (while awaiting a spot at senior public housing)

CoC Updates

- Request for Proposals are out for both CoCs
- Three County CoC: summer point in time count in Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin - taking place on Sunday, 7/26 with surveys being conducted between 7/27-8/2; training today at 3 pm - Contact Emma Coles at ecoles@communityaction.us to get more information on the point in time count. Summer cooling kit drive - making 100 cooling kits - distributing tents and other supplies; will be distributing in Greenfield, Amherst, Pittsfield and Northampton during point in time count
- Hampden CoC - in addition to HUD's regular NOFO RFP (due this Friday, 7/24), another RFP is out for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) (due 7/27); new Coordinated Entry system is progressing with anticipated CE at 5 different sites across Hampden County - will offer clear guidance on where people experiencing homelessness can go to be assessed and referred to services. Stay tuned for launch date.
- Noted national lawsuit filed (with MA AG involved) to challenge HUD's latest NOFO. Hearing is set for early August. Staying tuned for any potential impact on this NOFO stemming from court decision.

FY27 budget updates

- See the [Network blog post](#) that summarizes the outcomes of the FY27 budget process impacting housing and homelessness
- We discussed at length the Legislature's decision to not fund the emergency winter shelter line item (proposed by Gov. at \$12m, in House at \$8m, \$0 in Senate and finally was not funded in the Conference Committee budget - while we trust that HLC will "find" dollars to fund emergency shelter, funding through a line-item would have created the opportunity for the state (and therefore providers) to be far more deliberate and planful about this critical service. We agreed that we should proceed as a region to begin planning ASAP, beginning with an assessment of our winter shelter data from last year, e.g., how many beds did we have, how many were utilized, the demographics around

utilization and best assessment of any gaps. The CoCs will provide a first stab at this data at our next meeting in September.

Legislative Session updates

The formal Legislative Session ends on July 31, but with a change in legislative rules, bills can "stay alive" in the "Informal Session" through Dec 31 if moved into Conference Committees. There is still advocacy to push for action on the Legislature's bill for the local option for rent control (now that the ballot initiative was struck from the ballot by the MA Supreme Judicial Court), and advocacy is ongoing for some key bills as the Economic Development Bill is being debated.

Specifically, see [this blog post](#) for a summary of Senate amendments to the Economic Development bill that would directly impact housing/homelessness. It is especially hopeful that the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) was in the House version of the Economic Dev bill and the hope is that the Senate amendment on TOPA will be adopted by the Senate as well.

Announcements

Health Care for Homeless Veterans and VA Supportive Housing Program: feel free for any unsheltered or sheltered homeless Veteran - or undetermined person for possible Veteran status - to have them call or otherwise be referred to 413-584-4040 x22122 for Health Care for Homeless Veterans at the Central Western MA VA Health Care (covers Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Franklin Cos).

Next meeting date: Tues., 9/15, 1 pm