Individual Services Committee Minutes - 9/15/26
In attendance: approximately 44 providers from across the region

Shelter Updates

Clinical & Support Options (CSO)

- shelters are full
- some movement, esp with new permanent supportive housing units coming online - 36 housing in Springfield, 36 in Greenfield - starting to move people in
- medical respite is full

Center for Human Development (CHD)

- shelter full at 46 beds
- outreach/triage work: saw 200-250 individuals this past month, a substantial increase over the last month
- currently 3 outreach staff - 1 based in Hampden; 2 based in Greenfield; plus responding as needed to Northampton or Berkshire County
- For more info, contact Jamar Williams at jamwilliams@chd.org

Craig's Doors

- shelter is full
- resource center is seeing high numbers, on average 30 people/day, as high as 47
- Wed., 9/23 is Craig's Doors 15th anniversary celebration - please join! Go here for details and to RSVP.

ServiceNet

- 40 bed shelter is full, operating a wait list
- noted more hospitals are calling in search of beds
- Community engagement center is going well - 60+ people coming into the center every day

Franklin County Opioid Task Force

- shared data used in HLC's response to Request for Information: increase in encampments from last year of 83% - 22 encampments vs. 12 last year; increase to 150 individuals compared to 110 last year, roughly 36.4% increase
- increased number of families seeking help, seeking jobs, increased need for food

Overall, providers noted an increase in families calling in search of shelter after being denied eligibility for EA.

Winter shelter planning

HLC will be issuing its Request for Proposals for winter shelter funds in the next couple of weeks. Awaiting on total amount to be awarded - advocacy is happening now to push the legislatures

Job Opportunities!
Several providers noted job openings:

- Eliot Services - hiring 3 positions
- CSO Greenfield - hiring navigator and other positions
- Positive Place: hiring for case managers/coommunity health workers
- Three County CoC: hiring for Coordinated Entry Coordinator (more details to come)

CoC Updates

FYI: EOHLC is conducting an information session on providers' compliance with CoC coordinated entry - Thursday 9/17, 10 am - 11 am - Go here for more info and to register.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness provided an update on the litigation with HUD: There has not yet been a ruling on HUD's appeal on the decision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island to vacate the FY2026 CoC Program NOFO. An update will be shared as soon as new information is known.

Meanwhile, HUD has published a Federal Register notice to solicit public comment on Research Justifying Additional Incentives for Certain Activities to Reduce Homelessness. As the district court noted in its ruling on August 7, HUD is only permitted to provide bonuses or incentives for strategies proven effective at reducing homelessness other than permanent housing when there is supporting evidence and an opportunity for public comment. Stay tuned for more guidance on how to comment in response to these latest proposals.

Three County CoC

The 3 County CoC is convening a meeting to share outcomes and recommendations for its Coordinated Entry system - Thursday, 9/17, 1 pm. Go here to register.

Summer Point in Time Count:
From the PIT conducted in late July, 2026:
112 individuals sleeping outside
36 Berkshire
31 in Franklin
35 in Hampshire
10 unidentified

Over 100 cooling kits distributed - tenants, backpacks, etc. distributed
will start to plan for winter PIT in October

Hampden County CoC
Piloting new coordinated entry system - 5 designated sites - with partners - it's all getting underway now. Going well.

National advocacy opportunity:
Pamela shared a national sign-on letter from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition to urge the next Congress to adequately fund affordable housing programs. Deadline September 16. Go here to sign.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 20, 1 pm