Youth and Young Adult Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 10/28/26
In attendance: Tanja Alessi, CSO, Matt Aronson, BAY/CASH, Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Emma Cole, Three County CoC, Stefan Davis, I found Light Against All Odds, Charlie Knight, consumer, Hayley Nelson, Hampden County CoC, Declan Nolan, My First Place, Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Cinnamon Smith, Westover Job Corps

Hampden County CoC/YHDP Update:
See full data set here (thank you, Hayley!)
Data that was shared includes:

- 135 people on by-names list, 35% male, 54% female; 19% Black; 43% Hispanic/Latino; 17% white
- 39 parenting youth
- 14 youth have been stably housed
- 75 new youth added

Noted a decline in parenting youth and an increase in 18 year olds seeking assistance.
Noted that the majority of young people who are stably housed are coming from placements in programs, especially through the use of FYI (Fostering Youth to Independence) vouchers. In total, 60 young people have been housed through FYI vouchers (amazing work!).

Three County CoC/YHDP Quarterly Update:
See full data set here (thank you, Emma and Michele!)
Data that was shared includes:

- 105 youth on by-names list, 39 identify as LGBTQ+;
- l5 people newly assessed

DIAL/SELF update: utilizing FYI vouchers (5 new ones); noted that Upside413 in Berkshires is using FYIs as well. Noted turnover in half of their 32 temporary units, i.e., people are exiting into permanent housing! Great news.

BAY-CASH: Matt Aronson attended and provided an update on the BAY-CASH program, an initiative to provide guaranteed income plus supports to youth with the goal of informing the next round of state homelessness youth grants in 2028. Currently a pilot in Boston is serving 15 young people. Actively considering the possibility of expanding to a new cohort (with the potential for western Mass impact?).

Network updates:
Pamela shared the latest advocacy efforts, including:

- organizational sign-on letters by our national partners; and
- national day of action on 11/18 to protect suppportive housing

Pamela also reported out on her leadership transition - read more here. She will be here until a replacement is hired or June, 2027.

Next quarterly meeting date: Wed., Jan. 13, 1 pm