

Hampden County Individual Services Minutes - 5/22/18

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In attendance: Gechar Aquino, Friends of the Homeless, Olivia Bernstein, Mental Health Association, Jessica Dorman, Mercy Medical, Dave Havens, Mental Health Association, Sarah Hills, Eliot Services, Janice Humason, FOH, Nichole King, FOH, Todd Koniezhny, Jenifer Lucca, Samaritan Inn, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield, Digno Ortiz, FOH, John Pagliar, Mercy Medical, Herschelle Reeves, BHN, Keith Rhone, FOH, Denise Rivera, FOH, Laura Robertson, Catholic Charities, Christina Ruest, FOH, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Stephanie Tonelli, FOH, Kimberly Wiggins, BHN

Data Review: We reviewed the Hampden County data produced as part of the Built for Zero campaign (click [here](#)) that shows the in-flow vs. the out-flow and number of housing placements. The group discussed the possible reasons for the increased in-flow in recent months, which included (1) the result of “word getting out” that entering the system leads to being housed – a consequence of “success” – so that people who have been chronically homeless are more willing to show up; and (2) better and more thorough outreach flowing from greater collaboration and community awareness. The general sense was that the increased numbers were not a reflection of new people entering the region but a system better identifying who is there.

On the HMIS shelter data (click [here](#)), it was agreed that looking at this data monthly is useful in order to take stock as a group of the demand and any trends (while also recognizing that for FOH staff alone it is not so useful since it is largely their data). It would be more useful if we could also look at it in relation to Hampshire County’s two shelters – Pamela will reach out to ServiceNet and Craig’s Doors (when in season) and continue to incorporate their shelter numbers in the review.

Gerry will adjust the spreadsheet so that we can see actual months (and probably show only 3-6 months as opposed to the whole year).

We agreed it would be most useful to look at the shelter numbers in relation to the housing numbers, i.e., are people coming into shelter being housed.

Resource Fair: Pamela reported that the Resource Fair has over 150 people registered to attend with 40 organizations tabling. People’s expressed interest in the workshop on housing chronically homeless individuals is high! Please register if you haven’t already by going here: [Registration Form](#)

FY19 Budget Update: Pamela distributed information on the Senate budget amendments which are being debated this week. Click [here](#) for CHAPA’s priority amendments. Call/email your senator to ask for his/her support (on the Senate side, senators can sign-on to amendments up until the vote. Find her your legislator [here](#). If you are in Senator Rosenberg’s district, the other Western MA legislators have generously committed to representing your interests. Call [Senator Lesser](#), [Senator Hinds](#) or [Senator Welch](#) to request their co-sponsorship.

Additionally, Network priorities also include ABE/ESOL funding – Amendment #176 to increase funding from \$31 to \$33 million – and Secure Jobs funding – Amendment #525 to increase funding from \$650,000 to \$1 million. Senator Welch is already a co-sponsor for both Amendments (call to thank!) and the others should be contact to request their co-sponsorship. **Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 26, 1 pm, Friends of the Homeless, 755 Worthington Street.**