

## The Leadership Council

*The network thanks our fiscal agent, The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.*

### Co-chairs:

Father Stan Aksamit, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Turners Falls  
Lynne Wallace, vice president, Dietz & Co. Architects, Springfield

### Members:

Paul Bailey, executive director, Springfield Partners for Community Action  
Andrew Baker, coordinator, Campaign to Protect Affordable Housing  
Jane Banks, project director, Center for Human Development  
Timothy Brennan, executive director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
Martha Ceplikas, supervisor, Department of Housing and Community Development  
Dave Christopolis, director of planning, Berkshire Community Action Council  
Steve Como, executive vice president, Soldier On  
Kathleen Damon, chief executive officer, The Carson Center  
Rabbi Justin David, Congregation B’Nai Israel, Northampton  
Sylvia deHaas-Phillips, senior vice-president community impact, United Way of Pioneer Valley  
Dr. Evan Dobelle, president, Westfield State College  
The Honorable Ben Downing, state senator, Berkshire County  
Judge Robert Fields, Western Division Housing Court  
Paul Fitzsimons, regional director, Department of Children and Families  
David Gadaire, executive director, Career Point  
Peter Gagliardi, executive director, HAPHousing  
Joanne Glier, HCEC director, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority  
Brad Gordon, executive director, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority  
Steven Huntley, executive director, Valley Opportunity Council  
Lori Ingraham, assistant treasurer, Easthampton Savings Bank  
Mary Reardon Johnson, executive director, YWCA of Western Massachusetts  
Peg Keller, senior planner, City of Northampton  
John Klenakis, deputy director, The Donahue Institute, University of Massachusetts  
Charlie Knight, former consumer, Springfield  
Jay Levy, regional manager, Elliot CHS-Homeless Services  
Geraldine McCafferty, director, City of Springfield Office of Housing  
William Messner, president, Holyoke Community College  
Andrea Miller, project director, Center for Human Development  
Bill Miller, executive director, Friends of the Homeless  
David Modzelewski, housing coordinator, Department of Mental Health  
Andrew Morehouse, executive director, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
Rebecca Muller, director, Grantswork  
Elton Ogden, president, Berkshire Housing Development Corporation  
Yasmin Otero, regional director, Department of Transitional Assistance  
Jerry Ray, director of homeless services, Mental Health Association  
Maria Rodman Tarajano, associate executive director, Western Massachusetts Training Consortium  
Carmelina Romano, former consumer, UMass graduate student, Amherst  
The Honorable Stan Rosenberg, state senator, Hampshire/Franklin Counties  
Jay Sacchetti, vice president shelter/housing, ServiceNet  
Tom Salter, vice president housing/shelter division, New England Farm Workers’ Council  
Jane Sanders, executive director, Community Action  
Elizabeth Sullivan, community member, former regional director, Department of Mental Health  
Amy Swisher, director of public and community health, Baystate Franklin Medical Center  
Cheryl Volpe, public health nurse, City of Greenfield

Western Massachusetts

network to end  
homelessness



Housing First for Hampden,  
Hampshire, Franklin  
and Berkshire Counties

## The Pilot Project: Making an Impact

Eighteen months ago, the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness funded the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness to build a model for ending homelessness in Western Massachusetts. As the pilot project period draws to a close, we are pleased to take stock of our accomplishments and the foundation they provide for the continuing success that lies ahead.

## Family Homelessness: Over 2,000 Families Served

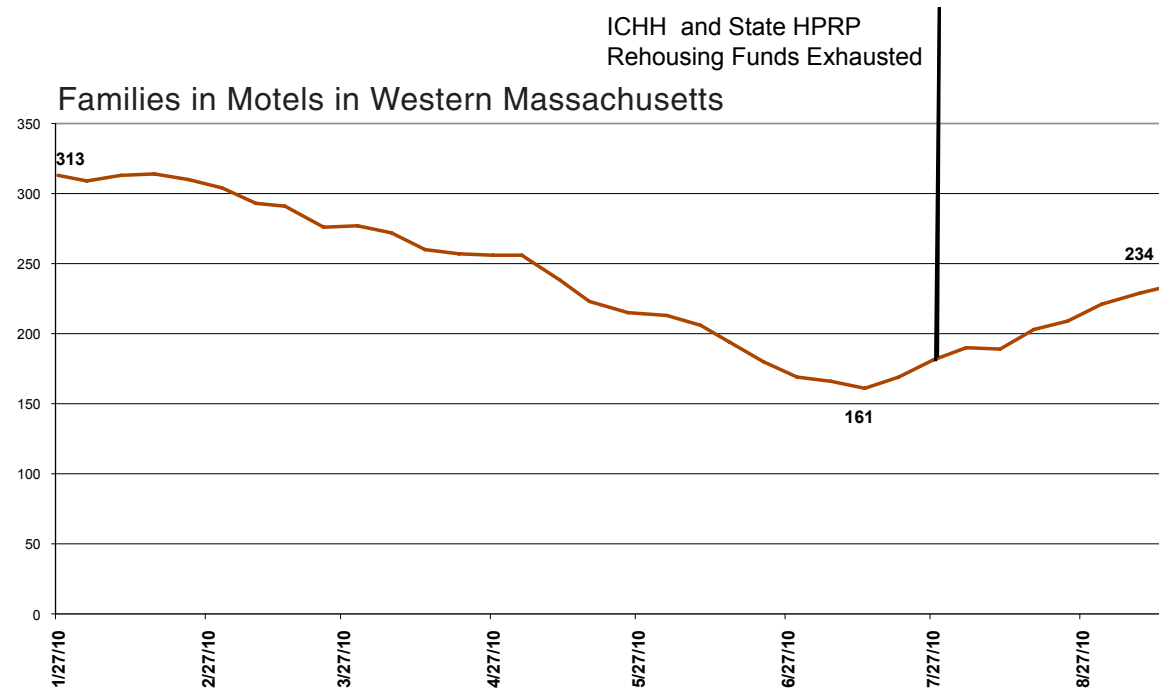
The Network committed to prevent and divert homelessness for a total of 315 families by the end of the pilot period. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment and collaboration of the Network’s funded providers, the **Network served 402 families, well above the expected number.**

Specifically, the Network acknowledges the work of the following providers for making this impact possible: *Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, Center for Human Development, Community Action, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, HAPHousing, New England Farm Workers Council and Valley Opportunity Council.*

When the number of families served is put into a broader context beyond the ICHH funding source, it becomes exponentially larger. With the new resources and coordination, the Network’s accomplishments include:

- **Prevention of homelessness for 2,144 families;**
- **Diversion from shelter of 160 families, who received assistance that enabled immediate access to stable housing;**
- **Re-housing of 318 families from January 2010 through August 2010.**

## Moving Families Out of Motels Into Permanent Housing



In January, 2010, 312 families lived in motels in Western Massachusetts. By the end of June, with the coordinated diversion and rehousing efforts, that number dropped to 161. Since that time, as resources have dwindled, the number of families living in motels is now up to 234.

## Chronically Homeless Individuals Housed

The Network committed to housing 38 chronically homeless individuals through its REACH program, a model for engaging, housing and stabilizing chronically homeless individuals who have lived on the streets for an average of 8 years. With the coordinated efforts of our funded providers — *Brien Center, Carson Center, Center for Human Development, Mental Health Association and ServiceNet* — 32 chronically homeless individuals have been housed to date. With ICHH's six month extension in this area, the **Network will house a total of 42 individuals by March 31, 2011.**

At the same time, the larger individual services Network spans over 80 providers and state agencies across four counties, working together on a sub-regional basis to match chronically homeless individuals with available services and housing. With the facilitating support of David Modzelewski of the Department of Mental Health, the **Network as a whole has housed a total of 82 chronically homeless individuals since April 1, 2009.**

## Housing Court Collaboration

In partnership with Housing Court Judges Robert Fields and Dina Fein, the Network has brought together the Court and service providers to maximize the delivery of resources to tenants facing the threat of eviction. This increased coordination, including the creation and adoption across four counties of a data tracking tool, shows that:

- **137 family tenancies were preserved at court;**
- **70 individual tenancies were preserved at court;**
- **264 cases involved a referral to a partner agency for assistance.**

## Media and Communication

The Network recognizes that use of the media is vital to engage the broader public and win their understanding and investment in the cause of ending homelessness.

Towards that end, the Network has accomplished the following:

- Coordinated opinion editorials in the largest daily newspaper in each county, signed by local leaders, introducing the Network, its goals and the philosophy of Housing First;
- Appearance in television, radio and print media 30 times since July, 2010, outlining Network progress. Please visit: [www.westernmasshousingfirst.org/press](http://www.westernmasshousingfirst.org/press) to see media coverage.
- Production of a video, released at the Network's first annual gathering, that presents Housing First success through personal stories. This video is now appearing on local cable television stations in each county, coverings dozens of towns.
- Creation of a blog, [www.westernmasshousingfirst.org](http://www.westernmasshousingfirst.org) — with 180 subscribers — that offers timely updates, analyses and announcements to a regional and statewide audience.

## The Network's Future

The Network's Leadership Council is 50 strong and still growing, including recent additions of consumers, and academic, faith and business leaders. It unanimously and resoundingly expressed its commitment to ensure the Network's continuity well beyond the pilot project, recognizing that for all we have accomplished, we have only just begun. The pilot period allowed the Network to demonstrate that collaboration and resources are the cornerstones of success. We are determined to build on this success as we turn homelessness into housing throughout Western Massachusetts.