

Hampden Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 6/21/22

In attendance: Tanja Alessi, FOH/CSO, Shawn Banks, FOH/CSO, Farida Bature, Mercy Medical, Kevin Cavanaugh, Samaratin Inn, Lynn Conway, Eliot Services, Kim Fontaine, Eliot Homeless Services, Jay Levy, Eliot Services, Jenifer Lucca, Samaratin Inn, Gerry McCafferty, Hampden CoC/ Springfield, Jeff McLeod, Eliot Services, Theresa Nicholson, CHD, Kim Puffers, Domus, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Stephanie Tonelli, Springfield PD, Kathy West, Eliot Services, Chris Zabik, DMH

Hampden CoC Updates:

- New funding is coming online to address housing needs for domestic violence survivors - a combination of rapid rehousing and transitional housing
- Racial equity planning work continues - looking to bring a plan to this committee next month
- Both DV and racial equity work groups are taking a close look at the coordinated entry assessment tool - the VI-SPDAT - to consider a new or adjusted tool to better meet the goals of coordinated entry (and provide the access desired)
- Anticipating new HUD NOVA in next 4-6 weeks, starting to prepare for that - will be doing program reports to show program performance

Shelter Updates:

CHD: Motel 6 - remains full - seeing an increase in the elder population; chemical dependency is rampant as are chronic mental health issues; having some success in getting people permanently housed; experiencing some delays in the 40-unit low threshold housing project - working towards completion soon.

Catholic Charities: its hotel program - funded by ESG-CV - will be ending by the end of September which is a loss of 30-40 beds. Working very hard to house people there now. Many people have the new EHV vouchers. But worried about the loss of this resource for people coming into homelessness who have multiple challenges.

Friends of the Homeless: starting to discuss this coming winter (DHCD's procurement will apply to NEXT year but not this winter). The new low-threshold housing through DPH (CSO funded for 70 beds across the region) is making a nice impact for long-time stayers, including some elders.

Discussion re: family homelessness: Noted issue of seeing families and pregnant women at FOH's and other front doors. Pamela will do a follow-up email to request a meeting with DHCD and include: - Bill Miller, Theresa Nicholson, Stephanie Tonelli and Tanja Alessi

Community Foundation dollars: \$11,000 remains from the CF contribution of \$50,000 to Franklin/Hampshire Counties for emergency overflow. Theresa at CHD is administering the funds and announced she welcomes calls/emails to use these funds in a targeted way (and open to Hampden County too, especially when cross-over among counties is evident)

Network budget and legislative updates:

Pamela shared recent blog posts that summarize where things are at:

- FY23 budget is in Conference Committee - time for a last big push. [See here for more.](#)
- Legislative session is in last 5 weeks (ends 7/31) - [See here for more](#) and other blog posts as well

New funding available for Permanent Supportive Housing: [Go here for details!](#)

Next meeting date: Tuesday, July 19, 1-2 pm