

## **Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes**

*In attendance: Tanja Alessi, CSO, Jane Banks, CSO, Shawn Banks, FOH CSO, Michele Carr, Kristen Cuddy-Pease, Opioid Task Force, Will Dávila, CHD, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Jake Ferrara, AISS, Luray Fladd, YWCA, Kim Fontaine, Eliot Services, Monique Gondek-Ashe, BHN, Becki Grimsley, Eliot Services, Laura Hudson, A Positive Place, Janice Humason, FOH-CSO, Mark Jachym, CSO Medical Respite, Kathy Keeser, Louison House, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Katy Lessard, Emily Matney, CHD, Gerry McCafferty, Hampden CoC, Lizzy Ortiz, Health Care for the Homeless, Pedro Rodriguez, CHD, Indy Osorio, CSO Northampton, Pedro Rodriguez, CHD, Christina Ruest, FOH-CSO, Jess Salvas, Eliot Services, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Dennis Sheehan, CSO Northampton, Kate Spillane, CSO Northampton, Daniel Walsh, CSO, Kathy West, Eliot Services*

## **Shelter Updates:**

- **Craig's Doors** - some staff changes, introducing Sarah Zim, the new director of operations and programs - [sarah@craigsdoors.org](mailto:sarah@craigsdoors.org). Shelter is currently at capacity, people are getting housed; working on a transportation program to create pick-up and drop-offs for guests at the shelter; running 15 units of low threshold housing - all leases renewed and some may be moving on to other housing, creating room for others; planning beginning for converting the VFW building into a permanent shelter site
- **Center for Human Development (CHD)** - staff update: Marisabel Perez is no longer with CHD. Program update: great news on the new low-threshold housing program - currently housed up to 13 people in Springfield - capacity for 20 - taking people off the by-names list, all Springfield residents. Very exciting progress for meeting the immediate housing need of local residents. Neighborhood group was exceptionally welcoming, asking how to help. Discussed the opportunity this positive reception provides to advance positive messaging in general. Pamela will reach out to Will and Gerry to talk more about the potential to spread the good word.
- **Clinical and Support Options (CSO)** - Low threshold housing program has housed approx 102 people so far. Received new grant from HLC and Dept. of Corrections to serve 10 individuals released from a DOC facility - to provide 2 years of transitional housing. Housed one person so far; doing more outreach on the program.
- **CSO Friends of the Homeless Springfield** - full at 175 beds - within 30 minutes of a bed opening, it is filled; concerning re: summer numbers since usually numbers go down and they have not. The shelter has seen 211 unique individuals this past month alone. Need for more women's beds in particular. Permanently housed 8 individuals from shelter; temporarily housed 3. Noted the need to look at shared living situations to address the demand (working with the Low-threshold housing team on this possibility). Also noted more refugees and the language barriers - Portuguese and French. Also seeing an increase in DMH clients.
- **CSO Grove St Northampton** - at capacity - triaging 12-15 individuals each day (unable to shelter but refer to services) - most are sleeping outside - in buildings or tents
- **CHD Outreach update:** Reported an increase in immigrants and DMH clients and especially concerned about the increase in the number of families she is seeing with nowhere to go - one family with children are sleeping in a park - despite extensive outreach everywhere, there is nowhere for them to go. Pamela noted the change in policy

today that limits families' stays in overflow shelter to 5 days. The MA "right to shelter for children" is being severely curtailed.

- We discussed the need to bring the intense demand for shelter by both individuals and families to our legislators. Pamela will follow-up to plan for some meetings in September.

### **CoC Updates**

- 3 County CoC: People with Lived Experience (PLE) collection drives are going great - creating and distributing kits with basic needs items at various locations in Northampton and Greenfield - the last pick-up is Friday, from 12-4 pm at the Greenfield Public Library.
- 3 County CoC: held first meeting of the Emerge Coalition - over 24 agencies were present - developing a pilot over the next year for an emergency response system to address encampment needs - stay tuned for next steps
- HUD has issued a new CoC Builds NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) that will add new units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) for individuals and families experiencing homelessness through new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation. A total of \$175,000,000 is available under this NOFO. The application for the CoCBuilds NOFO is available through the [CoCBuilds NOFO](#) funding opportunity located at [grants.gov](#).
- The typical HUD NOFO (for all CoC funding) is late in being released, likely because it will be a 2 year competition this year, which means a longer time to respond and more detail to be required. Will keep everyone posted when it is released.

**Training Opportunities and Information Sessions:** Please [go here](#) to see a complete list.

**Next meeting date: Tues., 9/24, 1 pm,** with email and blog communication between now and then.