

## **Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/26/24**

*In attendance: Steve Connor, Veterans Services, Sgt. Gumersindo Gomez, Veterans Bilingual Center, Mike Hagmaier, Soldier On, Justin Landers, Veterans Inc., Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Michelle Lague, HUD-VASH, Gerry McCafferty, City of Springfield/Hampden CoC, Suraj Patel, EOVS, Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH, Uri Strauss, CLA, Sue White, HUD-VASH*

### **Three County CoC Update**

57 veterans on by-names list; 12% of overall coordinated entry system  
4 veterans assessed since July (previously 22 in each quarter, interesting to note decline in last quarter)

### **Hampden County CoC:**

re-envisioning CE and coordinated access; working with HUD TA -  
7 veterans on by-names list - working with several to engage (or to gain eligibility)  
just launching a re-envisioning process for coordinated entry, working with HUD TA

### **HUD/VASH outreach:**

approx. 1,100 unique individuals seen in the last 16 months; sometimes as many as 3/day  
discussion around data sharing to reduce duplication and maximize information sharing  
- Gerry will introduce Michelle to Tony Napa

### **Bilingual Veterans Center:**

7 vacancies in transitional housing (Maple St); none at Cass St.

### **Soldier On:**

Continuing with SSFV and Project Hope (state funding for housing veterans) - very flexible, tenant and landlord incentives.  
Discussion of the effectiveness of landlord incentives  
Discussion of housing availability - noted that it has become easier in recent months

### **Community Legal Aid:**

contact Uri if questions around discharge upgrades and assistance with re-leveling for veterans with sex offenses - unclear what assistance is available but should inquire  
additional discussion of other resources available for discharge upgrades

### **Veterans Services:**

advocating for more veterans resources (staffing) at housing court to assist veterans facing eviction

**HUD/VASH case management:** will be moving faster for getting a voucher- partnering with the outreach team to get people housed more quickly

**Next quarterly meeting: Wed., 12/18, 3pm - 4pm**