

Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 11/19/24

In attendance: roughly 25 providers and partners

Report Out on Secretary Augustus meeting with the Network

Thanks to the outreach by Rep. Aaron Saunders, HLC Secretary Ed Augustus met with roughly 50 Network partners (other legislators, mayors and city/town staff, EA shelter and individual shelter providers) to discuss the most pressing homelessness issues in the region. You can read about the meeting [here](#) and read our recommendations [here](#).

Pamela made clear that these individual services meetings played a significant role in shaping our talking points with the Secretary. Everyone was there! Pamela will report back on any follow-up information and next action steps.

Shelter Updates

We reviewed the regions' applications for HLC's winter overflow resources:

- CHD - 15-20 emergency hotel beds in Hampden County
- CSO - 15 beds at Northampton's Industrial Drive shelter (as soon as open); 5 beds at Greenfield shelter (currently existing as part of their overflow); day shelter resources at all 3 shelters
- Craig's Doors - approx. 20 beds at the Econolodge in Hadley
- Greenfield: City of Greenfield is partnering (serving as fiscal agent) for Franklin County/North Quabbin Opioid Task Force which will oversee 4 hubs across the county, providing warming sites and meeting other emergency needs, including some hotel resources; the City is not applying for HLC funding but is working with the Salvation Army for a warming site in Greenfield staffed by the volunteer Medical Reserve Corps
- City of Springfield is working on a pop-up shelter for 30-40 people, currently working with the building commissioner to find a site; also seeking funds through the [MA Large Cities Health Coalition](#)
- ServiceNet - a warming shelter in Pittsfield that will serve 40 people
- Louison House - applying for additional beds and some hotel beds in Northern Berkshires (# to be confirmed)

Other shelter/housing news

- Springfield has funded a new rapid rehousing program through CHD that will house unsheltered individuals in Springfield - program start date of 12/1
- Greenfield's shelter (Wells Street) will be moving by mid-December to Arch Place as part of the renovation and new housing construction that is underway at Wells Street
- CSO's medical respite shelter has 2 openings - 1 for a male, 1 for a female
- CSO's low-threshold housing is taking applications; has more housing options at its northern locations

- City of Springfield is working on a CoCBuils grant that would provide 60 affordable units, 40 of which would be permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals (Home City Development is the developer and Behavioral Health Network will provide on-site supportive services plus prioritized and no cost access to behavioral health care)
- City of Springfield received a new Dept. of Justice grant for a multi-disciplinary outreach program with a BHN clinician to be housed at Springfield District Court for pre-arraignment diversion
- Holyoke warming center (CHD): 696 Dwight Street. 32 Degrees and below (will supplement this shortly with a comprehensive regional list of warming shelters)

HLC contact for families or pregnant persons facing unsheltered homelessness: contact Tyler newall, Tyler.Newall@mass.gov, 617-894-8237 (thanks to the meeting with Secretary Augustus)

Next meeting date: Wed., December 11, 12 noon - 1 pm (note unusual time is due to our regular time conflicting with Three County CoC's Annual Meeting - we should all go to that, too!)