

WMNEH Family Services Meeting Minutes - 3/11/25

In attendance: approximately 25 providers

Family shelter updates:

- The new EA restrictions that were included in the recently passed Supplemental Budget (that funded the EA system at \$425 million through the end of the fiscal year) went into effect on Friday, March 7. This includes notice to all families entering shelter of a 6 month time limit, new residency requirements and CORI checks. There is concern about how these policies will impact families, especially the 6 month time limit (the overall sentiment: it's not enough time to get rehoused; where will they go?)

Network budget and policy updates:

Pamela reported on the Network's recent convenings of legislators and staff with Network partners across the 4 counties (Hampden County, Franklin/Hampshire, Berkshire). They included in total over 25 legislative offices and roughly 60 Network partners. The meetings were used to share [Network FY26 budget priorities](#) and [2025-2026 legislative priorities](#). This is the start of our focused advocacy to advance these priorities, made all the more vital given the threat on the federal level.

As part of our meetings, we shared recent homelessness data for each county based on the Point in Time count results. Please go here to see:

[Hampden County](#)

[Hampshire County](#)

[Franklin County](#)

[Berkshire County](#)

Statewide advocacy:

- Tomorrow, March 12, is the annual lobby day for the MA Rental Voucher Program (Pamela is attending to represent)
- MA Coalition for the Homeless is holding its State House advocacy day on April 7 ([see flyer here](#) and [register here](#)).

Federal advocacy: Please see this [national sign-on letter](#) to oppose federal budget cuts to housing programs. Deadline March 11.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 8, 12 noon