

## Community Action Pioneer Valley's Three County CoC

The Three County Continuum of Care Board of Directors were called to a meeting from **11:00am-1:00pm, Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Present:** Keleigh Pereira, Three County CoC; Teri Koopman, Three County CoC; Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC; Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC; Brad Gordon, Berkshire Regional Housing; Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH; Betsy Shally-Jensen, APP; Jane Ralph, Construct; Emily English, Gandara, Inc.; Calpurnya Roberts, MHSA; Jay Sachetti, SN; Olivia Bernstein, MHA; Andy Klatka, Eliot; Cindy Ray, Mass Hire; Steve Connor, Hampshire Veterans Services; Theresa Nicholson, CHD; Lisa Sirabella, CoC equity and Inclusion committee; Mel Antuna, Wayfinders; Kathy Keeser, Louison House; Jennifer Dieringer, Community Legal Aid; Stacy Parson, Liaison; Dave Christopolis, Hilltown CDC; Mike Hagmire, Soldier On.

**This meeting was held on zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82158085732?pwd=Q0JKc2pya3hOc3BvRHRWVkhXUUhXZz09>

### Agenda:

#### Welcome/Introductions

- Visitors:
  - Calpurnya Roberts, MHSA – A Place to Live – presenter, C4 Innovations CE System evaluation
  - Lisa Sirabella – presenter, lived experience work
- Welcome New Members (*Voted for inclusion in March, 2021*)
  - **YHDP Project Representatives:**
    - Emily English: Gandara, Inc. (Joint Component)
    - Olivia Bernstein: Mental Health Association (PSH and RRH, Navigators)
  - **Person with Lived Experience:**
    - Omayra Quinones: Latina /x Advocate, The Salasin Project
  - **Affordable Housing Advocate or Developer - A representative from Community Legal Aid.** In attendance: Jennifer Dieringer | Managing Attorney
    - New member identified: **Raquel Manzanares, Housing Attorney**

#### Board Membership Business

- *Review of minutes from the December 2021 meeting of the Board.*
  - *Brad motion to accept along with Theresa. Seconded by Melphy. All in favor.*
- Site Monitoring Planning
  - New Policies/review
    - Move on -
      - *Pamlea moved, Theresa Second. (Flexibility for Keleigh to adjust if needed)*

#### Comments:

- Phil - In regards to the Move-on Policy. I am wondering if an additional \* is needed to address the age out process in YHDP programs under PSH to reflect the built in Move-on strategies built-in to age specific programs. The policy wording as written I think allows for enough flexibility for internal program policies to be transparent that the move-on process is voluntary up to the point of exceeding the defined age range for services. Just wondered if the larger COC policy should acknowledge this or not?
- *Keleigh suggested that funded agencies can also further develop their own if needed.*
- *Pamela – seems straight ahead and ready to move with it*
- *Jane – very difficult to find people housing*

- *Brad – something we should strive for and moving forward it's about having the policy, good faith effort. Developing supports allowing people mobility.*
- *Theresa – we have had some people move on, some with increased income.*
- Anti-discrimination
  - Phil - In regards to the Equal Access Policy...This comes up every time in YYA services, age discrimination. As written one could argue that all the YHDP programs and the DIAL/SELF program is out of compliance and discriminates based on age. In truth the program does, as those over the age of 24 will not be considered eligible to receive services. I have had to argue this with DHCD monitoring layers in the past who tried to tell us we were not in compliance with fair housing and discrimination statues despite having DHCD specifically funding the project for a restricted age range. Wondering if a \* is needed in this policy as well to note that some specific programs designed to provide added supports to specific to a populations may exclude some people in order to provide program appropriate supports to those populations such as young adults program under YHDP?
  - Betsy – sometimes clients can be racist etc. does that seem appropriate to include here?
    - Keleigh – difficult for the CoC to oversee or hold accountability for agencies around this, seems like an agency level policy.
    - NO VOTE taken - Brad – may need to give the board members time to give suggestions for changes and do an email vote.
      - Folks should provide feedback by Monday/Tuesday or next week and we will conduct a vote over email.
  - Ranking update/questions for consideration –
    - ***Keleigh requested that the ranking and evaluation committee look this & provide recommendation to the board. Members agreed.***
      - new updates since NOFO - includes data responsiveness? Includes evaluating specifically re: data quality - equity?
      - RRH/NAV project – are there areas that we want to think about differently for RRH?
        - Length of time between project start and move in..should this be longer?
        - Bed utilization – we are supposed to know – how many beds on one particular day are people housed. (What percentage of their available beds are they utilizing? Is this just a back up scenario? - we might not want to give them negative pts. )
        - Populations served

## Brief Report of the Ad Hoc/Special Workgroups and Committees

- **Coordinated Entry**
  - C4 Innovations CE System evaluation, Calpurnya Roberts
    - Three County had the most people participating
    - Understanding of Concepts – Three County is creating a strong foundation of shared language and understanding
    - Recommendations that we work to incorporate some further involved topics – social construct, housing discrimination, anti-blackness, etc.
    - There is a shared vocabulary
    - There is an explicit strategy widely known across the CoC
    - Culture of practice and focus on racial equity

- Overall positive responses. *see attachment for breakdown of recommendations.*
  - Brief - New CE vulnerability assessment tool release
- **Equity and Inclusion Committee**
  - Lived Experience work Presentation (Lisa Sirabella, Shaundell Diaz)
    - We need more people with lived experience, we need to work on building the support and network for them, we are working on creating an action board..and Shaundell is available to meet with PLE for onboarding to our work.
      - Agnes Lindsay Trust technology grant – CoC applying for \$5,000 to offer stipends, laptops, tablets, and hotspots.
      - Increased EOHHS funding for YAB stipends
      - Series of legislative advocacy training
      - Racial Equity training series – march 23<sup>rd</sup> – re: incorporating people with lived experience
      - Equity and inclusion committee working on the PLE goal and expanded it
        - Recruitment
        - Create onboarding support
- **Data**
  - HMIS Implementation system implementation updates -
    - Feedback on security/sharing concerns.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> – change the default setting to “full sharing clients” for all agencies. Least amount of configuration issues for the CoC.
      - staff would have capability to view other staff agency clients – but can’t see where they are enrolled unless you have access. Consider conflicts/policy and updates required/resources/legal ramifications.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> – duplicate client profiles from 1 profile into multiple – manually create duplication or set up work for bitfocus to do this. likely costs money (not sure of amount yet)
      - Quantity issues/data quality issues possible due to duplication. less trauma informed approach, might require statement of work.
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> – adjust default sharing group from clients created/not share/adjust provider workflows.
      - Manual script adjusting after setting anything to open. Mark clients that are only working with one agency as private. only that agency can see that client. time involved, and script request may cost us money – allows current shared record, but over time you will get duplicate records within an agency – data quality issue. This could be used temporarily until community agrees to shared settings.
    - *Board discussion* – HMIS committee has been discussing this and we need to make a decision ASAP.
      - Pamela - I agree with Michele’s inclination.
      - Steve - I feel like #3 is the best option
      - Jane - Is there a way that we as a board can provide high level guidance rather than ground level implementation? For example of highest concern for me is the trauma informed approach with participants and accurate deduplication.
      - Brad—let's allow for the CoC to make the plan with the HMIS committee and circle back with a decision.
  - PIT count initial updates
    - PIT count date moved to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, no preliminary data
      - Due to HUD by April 29<sup>th</sup>
      - This year we expanded to focus on including individuals experiencing homelessness that are couch surfing or in treatment – unofficial version.
      - Great deal of engagement with additional providers, community groups, PLE.

- Also suggestion to hold an additional count outside of winter (may try this in the spring)
- WMNEH provided gift cards.

## New Business

- **Funded Project Report/Update**

- Funding FY21

- HUD approval -

- **With increases and new projects, MA received a \$7.8M increase from last year.**
- **Our CoC increased total HUD funding from \$2,838,507 to \$3,051,996, which is an increase of \$213,489, and an overall 5 bed increase since due to reductions and new project overlap.**
  - **Will send out a spreadsheet of project breakdown/funding applied for versus awarded.**
- **Still unsure of project start dates for new projects, or individual budget line allocations (though usually adjustments to renewal projects happen in the rental assistance or leasing line)**

- Some projects had movement in award due to the FMR changes (Projects with rental assistance or leasing)

- Shelter Plus Care, experienced a dramatic decrease.

- The CoC had reallocated \$30,168 to support new project applications
- The CoC prioritized new projects differently this year than what was done in the past to remain competitive and to respond to the needs of the region.
- This project was at the bottom of the scoring and tier structure
- HUD request was \$199,527, award was \$87,770
- HUD didn't remove the DV expansion project from the tier structure, as had been the hope if it met HUD's expectations for DV (check NOFO)
- Keleigh reaching out to TA providers, HUD rep, and submitted an aq to understand this process

This is likely the loss of about 11 beds that puts people at risk of losing housing.

- Jay – this is not surprising that the Federal process is this way. People being moved from this subsidy is really difficult, very vulnerable population
- Brad – we MUST advocate and push back hard. Willing to participate in that effort.
- Theresa – add a conversation about the FMR issues.
- Melphy – Cities CPA funds?
- Pamela – Community ARPA funding?
- Dave - let McGovern and Neal know about the funding cut.

- New Projects

- DV expansion – Coordinated Entry Expansion that includes funding to provide housing navigators at the entrance to homelessness for survivors & system efforts to consider the specific needs of survivors (safety/confidentiality, etc).
  - DV expansion efforts -NASH work – Funded by the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness to provide trainings and consultation in the role out.
    - March 24<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> – meeting with DV providers, CE providers, and NASH folks
    - Scheduling individual meetings with NASH for DV service providers
    - Will be planning for how to engage around this funding (RFP? Provider driven planning?)

- Independent Housing Solutions

- 16 units with onsite medical/mental health support in Northampton
  - Building has been purchased and construction underway.
  - CoC funds will support specifically the units funding, some minimal operations, HMIS data collection and reporting, and a some equipment.
  - Keleigh has been meeting with Cooley (already subrecipient for APP), met with their Board's executive committee to discuss opportunity for them to be the fiscal agent for two years as recommended by the ranking and evaluation committee and supported by the BOD of the CoC.
    - Looking promising.
- *Experienced a 5 bed increase overall*

#### **Pamela – Western Mass Network regional updates**

- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Annual WMNEH event – register here [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYud-ytpz8jE9G4Owbjxwg6zSda\\_bAdcdg](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYud-ytpz8jE9G4Owbjxwg6zSda_bAdcdg)
- Legislative asks - <https://www.westernmasshousingfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/WMNEH-Legislative-Priorities-3.10.22-2.pdf>
- Budget priorities - <https://www.westernmasshousingfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/WMNEH-FY23-Budget-Priorities-final-2.pdf>
- Community Foundation of western Mass Funded \$50,000. overflow for shelter work – CHD fiscal agent and is partnering with Service Net, Craigs Doors, the Network and CoC as well as other partners.

<http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>

#### **Youth EOHHS**

- Youth Count – Teri
  - State/MA commission on unaccompanied homeless youth collects info to address the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness.
    - April 4<sup>th</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>
    - Youth will receive \$20.00 stipends for completing the survey
    - Testing the 2022 survey and finalizing fliers, hiring regional youth ambassadors.
    - Three County is working with providers on outreach

#### **Adjournment**

**Motioned – Pamela**

**Second - Kathy**

Attachments:

Minutes, Dec, 2021 BOD

Current BOD list

2022 Quarter 1 Board Report

Anti-discrimination Policy Draft, for review

Move-On Policy Draft, for review

C4 Innovations/MHSA CE evaluation docs/report

NASH agreement

Vulnerability assessment tool & companion guide