

SPRINGFIELD-HAMPDEN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Board of Directors

June 24, 2022, 9 – 10:30 am

Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Denise Jordan (SHA), Anna Smith (CSO-FOH), Kathleen Lingenberg (City of Chicopee), Gerry McCafferty (City of Springfield), Charlie Knight, Maria Perez (New North Citizens Council), Kat Wong (City of Springfield- YHDP), Jennifer Sunderland (Springfield Public Schools), Christine Palmieri (MHA); Pamela Schwartz (Western Mass Network to End Homelessness); Aisha Pizarro (YWCA); Chris Coburn (YAB)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gerry McCafferty welcomed Board members to the Zoom call and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 1, 2022 meeting. Charlie Knight moved to approve the minutes, and Maria Perez seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

3. CoC News & Updates

- Board of Directors turnover

The CoC's Board of Directors has many positions which are representative of certain agencies or interests. In the last several months there have been a number of Board member who have moved on from their positions. We will need to work toward recruiting replacements in advance of our November annual meeting where we will have our next vote to approve Board members.

- DV planning

The CoC received a new award this year, which is for a Domestic Violence TH-RRH project which will be operated jointly by the YWCA of Western Massachusetts and Alianza DV Services. In support of this project and in an effort to improve our coordinated entry response to DV survivors, the DV providers are working with the Safe Housing Alliance to redesign their system. This work is generously supported by the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness. Stay tuned for more information as this work progresses.

- Racial Equity planning

The CoC is continuing its racial equity work through a small workgroup that is meeting with Racial Equity Partners (REP) to create a proposed racial equity strategy for the CoC. The group was recruited from people who attended the racial equity training series we held this past spring. If you would like to be involved, please let Gerry know.

- HMIS Capacity Building

The CoC has been working with HomeFire Consulting to review and improve our HMIS through a HUD-funded HMIS Capacity-Building grant. As part of this work, there is a small group working on updating our HMIS Policies and Procedures. These will come back to the Board at a later date for review and request for approval.

- Emergency Housing Vouchers

The CoC has referred people for all EHVs we were allotted, and people are in various places in the process. Many who have received vouchers are struggling due to the tight rental market—there are few units available, and rents have risen so quickly that they are more than people are allowed to use with the vouchers.

4. CoC Funding/New Competition

HUD has just announced a new and separate competition for CoCs. We are eligible to apply for a little over \$5 million (as a 3-year grant) to address unsheltered homelessness. This was just announced, so stay tuned for more information.

What we know now is that the goal of these funds is to work toward housing people who are unsheltered, and reaching those with the greatest service needs. HUD has acknowledged that unsheltered homelessness is rising, and is seeking to fund long-term solutions over activities that criminalize homelessness.

The attached slides provide more information about the new competition.

5. Prioritization Issue for Discussion: Undocumented Households

The CoC is identifying a recent issue that has come up for discussion. We may choose to act on this at a later time, but at this time the CoC is seeking input.

The issue: our existing permanent supportive housing is targeted to those with the highest service needs. Providers have noted that these are very rare housing opportunities that can serve undocumented people. Does it ever make sense to house a chronically homeless family who is undocumented in one of these units despite have moderate (not severe) service needs?

As we discussed this, it was pointed out that the state MRVP program can serve undocumented people, which seems to take away from the justification that there is really no other resource for these families.

6. Network news: FY23 budget and legislative updates

Pamela Schwartz provided an update on the state budget and legislative process. She let us know that we are at the end of the budget process—House and Senate budgets have passed, and they are now in conference to make final spending decisions. We are also at the end of the two-year legislative session' formal session closes July 31, 2022. There are still lots of the Network's priorities pending. Pamela urged everyone to watch the Network blog for updates and steps you can take to advocate for Network priorities.

The meeting adjourned.

Springfield- Hampden County Continuum of Care

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUNE 24, 2022

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of minutes from the April 1, 2022 Board meeting
3. CoC News & Updates
4. CoC Funding/New Competition
5. Prioritization Issue for Discussion: Undocumented Households
6. News and Announcements
 - Network news: FY23 budget and legislative updates

CoC News & Updates

- Board of Directors turnover
- DV planning
- Racial Equity planning
- HMIS Capacity Building
- Emergency Housing Vouchers

FY22 CoC Funding Opportunities

Regular CoC competition – not yet announced

Special Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

- Opened June 22, 2022
- Due October 20, 2022

CoC Unsheltered Homelessness NOFO

Available funds: \$5,157,415

Allowable project types:

- Supportive Services Only (SSO)
- Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Joint Transitional=Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH), Rapid Rehousing
- HMIS

3 year grant term

Application Requirements:

- CoC Plan For Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs
- Commitments of housing and healthcare services
- PWLE working group
- PHA commitment re Stability Vouchers

CoC Plan For Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

Commitments of Housing Resources

Commitments of Healthcare Resources

Describe Outreach Strategies & connection to low-barrier housing

Best Practices

- Coordinated entry
- Incorporate new partners – police, healthcare, etc.

Prioritize Unsheltered Persons for Permanent Housing

Persons with Lived Experience Workgroup

Support Underserved Communities

2 parts to application

1. Create plan
2. Competition for new projects – RFP mid/late August; due no later than Sept 20

Reminder from Feb 2022 PIT Count: Location of Unsheltered Homelessness



Planning Process: Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

Opportunity to improve response to unsheltered population throughout Hampden County

Challenges:

- Municipalities have different sets of players – brief time for engagement of all simultaneously
- Engagement of different types of players:
 - Healthcare
 - Housing Authorities
 - Municipalities and Police
 - Persons with Lived Experience
- Recruitment of providers to deliver new services



Call for Volunteers!

Planning Group – oversee process for creating CoC plan

Competition Review Team – approve competition materials; review and score project applications

Board authorization: Competition Review Team

Vote to authorize team to oversee competition

Issue for Discussion

Prioritization of Undocumented Individuals and
Families

News and Announcements

1. Pamela Schwartz

Western Massachusetts



2. Other News and Announcements



Next Meeting

SEPT 9, 9 – 10:30