**CoC Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021**  
**4:00 – 5:30**

Participants: Jake Hogue, Holly Kosisky, Lisa Lapierre, Dan Sontag, Israel Ortiz, Justin Journet, Michele La Fleur, Shaundell Diaz, Matt Attesi, Amanda Koch, Yael Petretti, Taylor McAndrew, Ray Moniz, Nafeeza Castro, Jena Duncan, Emily English, Andrea Tomsho-Dexter, Kathy Keeser, Via Dobrowolski, Kim Bordon, Keleigh Periera, Jessica Lenihan, Keyedrya Jacobs, Kaia Fulk

**Announcements**

Annual MA Youth Count is happening in April/May. This is different from the Continuum of Care’s Point in Time Count as it is a larger survey of YYA under 25 who have experienced or currently experiencing housing instability (includes couch surfers). It also asks about what led to the housing instability, what services they have tried to utilize and how successful they were with this, connections with DCF and DYS, education and employment, if they are parenting and more. It provides much deeper information that is used for advocacy, program planning, fundingopportunities, such as the YHDP. Typically, these Counts are done through partnerships with other YYA serving agencies that have relationships with YYA in their programs. This year, the plan is to do many more surveys online, with compensation for those completing the survey and meeting the requirement of past or current experience of housing instability, done online as well. A meeting will be scheduled soon, so you should expect to hear more about this and please consider helping with the Count.

Community Action Pioneer Valley Youth and Workforce Development Programs has openings in Youthworks: <https://www.communityaction.us/youthworks> and a number of job openings: <https://www.communityaction.us/job-openings> Also running Gen Q groups.

CoC is always looking for new members for their communities. Please go to the website for more information: <https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/>

Healthy Families held their first Advisory Meeting focused on pregnant and parenting YYA this week and the next one will happen at the beginning of May. If you are interested in getting an invitation to the next meeting, please email [atomsho-dexter@communityaction.us](mailto:atomsho-dexter@communityaction.us)

Treehouse/HEROES Program looking for ways to reach out to young people and for volunteer mentors.

Three County CoC Racial Equity Convening to launch the Racial Equity Action Plan -Thursday February 18, 2021, from 1-2:30 ET.   Registration link: <https://forms.gle/SgtrP2m4dHbmfQbV8>

Keleigh and Shaundell will be speaking at an event on April 28th "Homelessness: Our Housing Crisis and A Call to Action". Link: <https://housingishumanright.com/d/290/Homelessness:%20Our%20Housing%20Crisis%20and%20A%20Call%20to%20Action>

OTF's Housing & Workforce Development Committee will be meeting tomorrow (Friday), February 12th, 10 AM - 12 Noon, via Zoom and Keleigh will be presenting.

**Review of Last Meeting**

The group reviewed the last meeting and began a discussion on ways to improve collaboration. Keleigh informed the group that the individual who had made comments was asked to take a break from Continuum of Care meetings as the person was struggling with the fundamental beliefs we base our work on. The Vision and Guiding Principles that were created during the YHDP planning process are attached and a meeting in March will be held to work on developing better working relationships to be facilitated by Jena Duncan and the Youth/Young Adult Action Board.

**Centering Racial Equity in our Plan**

The project outcomes include reviewing which populations were placed into which types of housing and the housing outcomes for different populations. The Committee will review outcomes on an annual basis and can add additional outcomes, as needed. The Continuum of Care also looks at outcomes related to race in all of the projects. Committee members are encouraged to join the larger Continuum of Care’s efforts around racial equity if they are interested in learning/doing more in this area.

**Lisa’s Final Meeting**

Lisa is leaving her position in early March. There will not be a meeting in March, but there wil be a meeting in April.

**Next Meetings**

March-No Committee meeting. Look for information on a meeting to continue discussion of collaboration.

April Meeting-This will include a review of what has been accomplished with the plan so far, a final review of the project outcomes and discussion of the draft surveys to get input from young people on their experience in the system and projects, which will be included in project evaluations.