**Coordinated Entry Committee Meeting notes**

Wednesday, February 24th 2021  
**3:00 – 4:30**

**Present**: Lisa Goldsmith, Heather Marshall, Owen Wallace, Dave Christopolis, Kara Peters, Shaundell Diaz, Jeff Lobenstein, Michele LaFleur, Steve Connor, Calpurnia Roberts, Pamela Shwartz, Regina White, Kathy Keeser, Stacy Parsons

**Introductions /welcome to new members**

**Committee Membership Check-In**

* Looking for members to co-chair the committee
  + Please email Keleigh at [kpereira@communityaction.us](mailto:kpereira@communityaction.us)
* Engaging more members with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability
  + Please email us if you know of anyone who is interest in joining this committee or who we can send information to. Will schedule meetings to talk about their interests and fit.

**Case Conferencing Updates/Discussion –**

Franklin County YYA Case Conferencing Updates

* Weekly on Tuesday’s from 2p-3p through Zoom
* Who’s at the table
  + - * MHA
      * Gandara
      * Dial/Self
      * DMH
      * McKinney Vento Liaison
      * BCRHA
      * CAPV
        + Family Center
        + Youth Programs
        + Youth and Workforce Development
* Project Types
  + - * MHA
        + RRH/Navigation Project

Navigators will offer support to eligible YYA and to families where YYA are heads of households, throughout their experience with the YHDP project; from outreach, to connection with a provider through CE, through housing placement and maintenance.

Conducting assessments for YYA and make appropriate referral linkages to service and housing needs.

MHA will also provide short – and/or medium-term rental assistance and accompanying supportive services as needed, to help homeless YYA and their children (if applicable) move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

* + - * + PSH Hope for Home Project:

Will provide 8 affordable rental housing units which include services to support YYA tenants in order to improve their quality of life and sustain their housing permanently.

Will integrate permanent, affordable rental housing with best practice community-based supportive services to help youth and young adults who are homeless and have serious and long-term disabilities, such as mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, substance use disorders, and chronic conditions.

* + - * Gandara
        + Shine YHDP TH/RRH Project

Will target pregnant and parenting YYA, and high barrier/high need youth, who have/had connection to State systems of care such as DCF or DYS, and/or LGBTQ youth, as well as YYA with health or functional difficulties.

It is the projects intention to offer 6 units of RRH on a 12 month basis and 6 units on a shorter term – 3 month basis to offer max flexibility to meet the presenting needs of YYA.

Participants will have access to intensive supports and additional parenting supports.

Supportive services for pregnant/parenting youth will be provided in coordination and partnership with CAPV.

CAPV offers in-home services through the Healthy Families, and Parent-Child programs, and community based services through their Family Center.

* + - * Dial/Self
        + YHDP RRH Franklin Project

Dial/Self has proposed a 4 bed community based 2 year RRH program for YYA between 18-24 olds.

It will strive to quickly move participants into community housing and access to wraparound services appropriate to the needs of the participants under a housing first model.

* + Veteran’s Case Conferencing- Updates
    - When are they happening
      * Monthly, Every Third Thursday from 3p-4p
    - Who is at the table
      * VA Affairs
      * Eliot
      * VOC Housing
      * SoldierOn
      * BCHRA
      * Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Services
      * Central Hampshire Vets
    - How did this come about and what are the goals.
      * There was previously a Case Conferencing Meeting that used to happen, and the folks who deal with the Veteran’s wanted that to come back into play.
      * These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss veterans on the Three County by-names list, to conduct problem-solving, share resources and work to end veteran homelessness in the Three County region of Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.
  + Transitional Housing and Coordinated Entry – Updates and Feedback
    - Identify concerns brought up by TH providers about chronic homelessness and how we are trying to address this/ask for feedback.
      * Concerns
        + Partners find it hard to get people on the BNL
        + Many don’t want to go to South County in the Berkshires due to supports and not knowing the area
        + Many folks don’t fall under HUD Definitions
        + Some partners have trouble with assessments going into ETO

Due to move

* + - * + DO we prioritize chronically homeless for TH

Which in turn could limit people from going into permanent housing.

* + - * Further Conversation/implementation
        + To make sure when people show up everyone gets assessed to them on the BNL.

This will identify those counted as homeless and the need in the community

* + - * + TH does not require Chronic Homelessness status.
        + Maybe adding some questions the CE assessment for TH.
        + Need to have a conversation in Berkshire Case Conferencing to not necessarily moving Chronic folks into TH, and provide resources for literally homeless.
        + Separate TH Tab, and color coding for those that are literally homeless.

Case Conferencing- Feedback and discussion – moving regular meetings to by weekly?

* + **YYA needs to be continued weekly since we have so much to accomplish.**
  + Monday holidays are a concern
  + If theyre are openings how are we handling this
  + Schedules weekly – they know when the meetings are..not knowing if it’s the right county
  + How much is there discussion of folks on the by names list – do we still want to talk about folks on the list even if there are not.
  + considering moving to every other week per region case conferencing - what are the concerns?  how can we address them.
* **what have we gained during COVID about meetings over zoom?  Is there any part of the new way of doing things that we might want to keep?**
  + Zoom?
    - Getting everyone at the table. Keep zoom as an option.
    - Security risks
    - Convesations vs the work.

**HMIS/CE Updates**

* Trama Informed Data collection training – held
* CE Data Elements – as of 10/1, CoCs required to collect three new data elements as part of CE system. CoC will be providing training soon on taking these data touchpoints.
  + Element 1: Assessment Touchpoint- date of assessment
  + Event: Element 2: Referrals to housing or resources (including CoC housing)
  + Element 3: Current living situation – this element needs to be done at each time of assessment, and any event. ***We don’t currently have this in ETO yet.***
* Assessment on CE would now include – enrollment, an actual assessment, “events”, and then current living situation at time of each event.
* HMIS Changing
  + Right now using DHCD’s ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) system as our HMIS (homeless Management Information System). HMIS Workgroup update
    - Three vendor demonstrations
    - Goal: new HMIS system by the fall and all partners trained by the winter
    - Decision making to be made in the next few weeks
    - Will be able to change the current vulnerability assessment
  + Will not be able to implement new assessment tool until we have new HMIS

**Assessment Tool**

* Review of workgroup activities/CE goals
* Review current new draft assessment tool – share racial equity partners feedback
  + How do we get them on the form to provide better matches.
  + How are we scoring for equity considerations vs the rest of the factors – Global Question?  Scoring is subjective no matter what you do.  If we start to score on things like racial identity/GLBTQ –
  + We could score for “high risk housing situation”, or other proxies that paint additional risk profile.
  + Composite scoring risk factors – high utilizers of emergency department or criminal justice system, foster care emancipation, low resourced community.  – gave bonus points based on if they were in the top 100 of those systems.
  + Additional risk factors – ok and then what do we do with this..what are we prioritizing?
  + Victimization – by who’s criteria or standards?  \*strategies that were discussed in the workgroup: Limited to no assessors of color. Discussed having explicit points added to your score based on identity. Are there well established proxy. This looks like – which of these are we going with.
  + GLBTQ status/person of color – can have the opposite effect than we are intending. Also need to make this simple and non-repetetive.
  + will each section be scored and added up? – currently this is how it works.
  + concerned that we make sure to score folks for additional risk factors.
  + remember the score is just a score.
  + Equity considerations are in direct conflict with chronic homelessness – in tension with what is on page
  + YAB review

***Plan for next quarter – schedule date (May) – Keleigh will schedule a doodle to find a date.***

* Implicit bias trainings
  + Held several times a year for MassHousing
* Racial Equity data/CE - next steps and planning
* Finalize assessment/update on HMIS system integration and type