**MA 507, Three County CoC – March 2021– Quarterly Board Report**

This report was compiled in preparation for the full meeting of the board, scheduled for March 18th, from 1:30-3:30pm over zoom. An agenda for that meeting is forthcoming.

***COVID-19 -***

***The Three County CoC staff are continuing to work full time - partially in the office at 277 Main Street and part time from home. We are in the office in small teams in order to keep risk low.*** We are working closely with Shelter Providers in all three counties as they try to respond to the rising needs and expand bed capacity.  Our Program director maintains open lines of communication to service providers working with our unsheltered population, the Shelter leadership and staff within the communities that we serve and the municipalities continuing to see a rise in the Shelter capacity need. Our projects, throughout the pandemic have continued to provide supportive services to their participants and have continued to share openings and utilize case conferencing and the coordinated entry process to house people experiencing homelessness.

Both Shelter providers and projects funded by the CoC have worked to provide vaccinations to the population we serve and have had limited interest in vaccines from guests and participants though this tide is beginning to change as more people are vaccinated in Massachusetts.

***Board Updates:***

There is one seat open at this time and the CoC staff is interested in increasing the number of people with lived experience of homelessness participating in the board, as well as committees of the CoC. Heather Marshall has left her role at the Elizabeth Freeman Center, so the CoC must look to fill the permanent seat for a DV provider. The Program Director has reached out to the executive director of Elizabeth Freeman to offer this role.

***CoC Funding Updates:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Collaborative Applicant | SNAPS grant Number | Start Date | Project Name | Fy20 Funding amount | FY19 funding amount |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0064L1T072010 | 1-Feb | Three County CoC HMIS Application FY2019 | $80,079 | $80,079 |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0072L1T072013 | 1-Feb | Paradise Pond Apartments | **$29,604** |  **$27,247** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0142L1T072013 | 1-Nov | Adult Independent Living Program | $43,412 | $43,412 |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0144L1T072013 | 1-Feb | Louison House TH | $139,091 | $139,091 |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0336L1T072010 | 1-Nov | Project Reach | **$26,110** |  **$24,290** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0353L1T072011 | 1-Oct | SN Shelter Plus Care North | **$229,695** |  **$211,239** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0401L1T072009 | 1-Aug | A Positive Place | **$135,932** |  **$127,880** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0468L1T072007 | 1-Nov | Village Center SHP | **$68,811** |  **$65,117** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0540L1T072004 | 1-Jul | Three County CoC CE Project Application FY2019 | **$111,543** | **$11,543** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0604L1T072003 | 1-Sep | LH Northern Berkshire PH | **$147,464** |  **$137,368** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0633L1T072002 | 1-Jul | CHD PSH | **$727,836** |  **$690,520** |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0634L1T072002 | 1-Jul | Dial Self TH/PH RRH | $98,255 | $98,255 |
| Community Action Pioneer Valley | MA0701L1T072000 | 1-Jul | MA-507 CoC Planning Project Application 2020 | $52,681 | $52,681 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Total FY20 Annual Renewal Demand** | **$1,890,513** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* The Federal Government approved an action to automatically renew the CoC funding for existing projects. There was no new funding for FY20. the following is the current project total, including increases to leasing dollars in response to the current FMR. The FY20 ARD is $1,890,513. ***This does not include the YHDP funding.***
* CAPV is looking to find funding for the FY20 HMIS grant’s cash match. Subrecipients have not been billed so far for this cash match requirement. The YHDP cash match is being funded for this year through the EOHHS grant to support data collection and reporting for both the state requirements and the federal expectations.
* The CoC Program is working to include the WMNEH funding and Eliot Human Services Path funding as match to the Coordinated Entry Grant. The Eliot staff are conducting a 2 month time study for Three County Staff efforts that support the Coordinated Entry System.
* Currently, the MA House and Senate Ways and Means budgets each included a $3,000,000 increase in the EOHHS line item, this provided a $220,000 increase to the Three County Regional EOHHS budget for our grant through 6/30/21 which includes funding for emergency housing response in all three counties and capitol funds to support a project in Hampshire County.

***CoC Committee Updates:***

CoC Board and Committee meetings are continuing to be held over zoom. Specific workgroups have been meeting to address large efforts for these committees – see below for workgroup updates as well. All CoC committees are looking for co-chairs and are looking for people with lived experience of homelessness to lend their voices to the work of ending homelessness in the Three County area. The CoC staff have developed a policy which is being looked at by fiscal, in order to be certain to pay people with lived experience for their time and perspectives.

As the expectation of social distancing continues, the CoC remains committed to holding committee meetings that are accessible via Zoom and, as much as possible, at the normally scheduled time.

**Youth/Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Committee, meets monthly**

The YYA Homelessness Committee has continued to meet and focus on creating outcomes and measurements for the YHDP projects 2 year demonstration project evaluation, developed a YYA pre and post survey for project participation, and held a discussion on centering race in our response. The Coordinated Community Plan is beginning to be addressed in this committee’s efforts and the CoC is looking to hire for the Youth Homelessness Services Coordinator role which will oversee this committee and the work of the CCP.

***Data Evaluation Committee, meets monthly***

 The Data Evaluation Committee has finished a first draft of the Three County CoC Privacy & Security Plan. This draft will now be circulated among project representatives and members of the CoC board for feedback to bring back to the Data Evaluation Committee. Some aspects of the plan, such as requiring that each agency designates an HMIS privacy & security officer and conducts regular agency wide audits, are mandated by HUD as part of HMIS technical standards but we have some flexibility in the details. The next Data Evaluation Committee will be on the first Friday in April and we will resume meeting monthly from that point forward. The Committee will be turning to the Data Quality Plan and System Performance Improvement Plan next.

* The **New HMIS Implementation Workgroup** was created to act as a planning and selection team for the Three County CoC’s new HMIS Implementation. We have formed this workgroup in response to a notification from DHCD that we will no longer be able to utilize the HMIS they administer as of December 31st, 2021. The HMIS Implementation Workgroup released a request for proposals for a new HMIS on October 29th.  This request included a comprehensive list of features the CoC prioritizes or requires and can be found on the Three County CoC webpage at the following URL: <https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/hmisrequestforproposals>. The workgroup has completed the scoring and selection process and is in the final stages of choosing a new HMIS installation. Our goal is to have access to our new HMIS by September 30th, 2021 and to have all data migrated from the DHCD HMIS by December 10th, 2021.

***Ranking and Evaluation Committee, meets monthly in current stage***

This committee has been meeting regularly to advise the CoC’s project ranking process and to support this CoC staff’s efforts in updating the ranking tool and plan. During this quarter they provided feedback at the YHDP Project 2 year demonstration period evaluation and the new site monitoring documents. Upon FY2021 NOFA release, this committee will address the needs of any new project ranking opportunities and will support the project ranking process. The ranking process will now implement changes based on new project types since we have two joint component programs and some Rapid Rehousing programs due to YHDP.

***Youth/Young Adult Action Board (YAB), meets weekly***

Youth/Young Adult Action Board (YAB) members continue to participate in weekly meetings to plan new projects to serve their community and some members have participated in the last two YYA Homelessness Committee meetings.  The YAB has also met with other YAB groups, including one that asked them to participate in a focus group to support the development of a provider feedback survey, and they joined the Massachusetts YAB Collab, which is a statewide organizing group for YABs. They also spoke at a radical healing symposium and one member had their powerful story presented at a local legislative forum.

***CE Committee, meets quarterly***

The Coordinated Entry Committee met in February. We welcomed 3 new members. The Committee reviewed and discussed updated assessment tool draft that was developed by the CE workgroup in the fall and identified a plan for changes based on our Racial Equity partner feedback. We will work to implement an implicit bias trainings to recommend to CoC funded-projects and CE assessors. The Coordinated Entry Committee also discussed new plans for Veteran’s case conferencing and obtained updates on the Youth and Young adult Case conferencing and system map.

***Equity and Inclusion Committee, meets monthly***

The Equity and Inclusion Committee convenes monthly on the third Friday of each month. Since the last Board meeting, the committee met in February and did not meet in January due to scheduling issues. During the February meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed possible recommendations for the Committee Co-Chair position, bringing attention to the role and responsibility of the position. Such as someone who is willing to assist in information gathering, presenting, and leading the meetings. In addition, the committee discussed who is missing at the current table, and how the meeting should be more diverse in attendance. The committee also reviewed and updated the Equity and Inclusion Goal and Action Steps. During this portion of the meeting, the committee identified where it wanted to start in the implementation of the identified goals, and decided that it would be best to work on getting participation of youth, people with lived experience and have them paid for their participation. The committee wants to be very thoughtful and transparent on what the system looks like under the COC, and the multiple levels of advocacy the COC can do. Such as trainings, continued education, how the COC supports agencies with funding restrictions, through community collaborations. The Committee also identified that inviting people in and providing lots of opportunity will be key, and encouraging COC funded projects to adopt policies at an Institutional and System level. At the March 19th meeting, the Committee will review and give feedback on a flyer geared towards inviting the BIPOC community, Youth, and folks with lived experience to the table.

* ***Racial Equity Workgroup***

This workgroup planned and held a community event in February to release our Racial Equity Action Plan and began to implement parts of this plan. They also identified needs for staffing support for pieces of the plan’s robust reach. The workgroup also supported the CoC in identified efforts for the Board of Directors and next steps for youth and young adult leadership opportunities.

***Coordinated Entry System Updates:***

Since January, the Coordinated Entry system as seen the following placements into CoC Housing:

Transitional Housing: 7

 Permanent Supportive Housing: 6

 As previously stated, CoCs must start tracking CE Touchpoints. The CoC is in the process of holding info sessions during case conferencing to update CE partners on this process. And will educate partners using a user guide centered on how to enter CE Touchpoints and Exits.

Using a color-coding system, and continuous review of the By Names List during Case Conferencing, the CoC has been identifying households who are still listed in the Coordinated Entry Project in HMIS who need to be exited from the system because they have found housing or have not been in contact for over 6 months with CE partners.

In February, the CoC began convening Veterans Case Conferencing meetings, which are facilitated by the Coordinated Entry Specialist Shaundell Diaz. The Veterans Case Conferencing meetings will be held bi-weekly on Fridays from 1:00-2:00 via Zoom. This meeting will primarily focus on connecting Veterans who are not VA eligible to COC housing opportunities and resources in the community; however will also include discussion of Veteran homelessness CoC-wide.

The CoC is creating a two part training series, in partnership with CE assessors from Dialself, Eliot Human Services, and Service Net, to be held in April to meet HUD’s expectations surrounding the HMIS Data elements and to expand CE assessors in the system. The first in the series will be on conducting the assessment with people experiencing homelessness and will include information about trauma and Motivational Interviewing. The second will be to learn how to take full assessments in the HMIS data system.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | General | Units | Characteristics Per Unit | Unit Type/Bedroom  |
|  | **County** | **Household/Units** | **Capacity**  | **Adult 25+** | **Families** | **18-24+** | **Congregate** | **SRO** | **1 bed** | **2 bed** | **3 bed** | **4 bed** |
| Transitional Housing | Berkshire | 24 | 32 | 17 | 3 | 4 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Franklin  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hampshire | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|  |  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Berkshire | 26 | 36 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 8 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Franklin  | 37 | 37 | 35 | - | 2 | - | 16 | 21 | - | - | - |
| Hampshire  | 35 | 59 | 26 | 8 | 1 | - | 6 | 21 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Hampden | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | - | - |
|  |  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| YHDP PSH | Franklin | 8 | 8 | - | - | 8 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - |
|  |  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| YHDP RRH | Franklin | 22 | 22 | - | - | 22 | - | - | 22 | - | - | - |
|  |  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| YHDP TH | Franklin | 8 |   |  | 2 | 6 |  |  | 6 | 1 | 1 |   |
|  |  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| TH/RRH -PH | Franklin | 10 | 10 | - | - | 10 | - | - | 10 | - | - | - |
|  | **Totals** | **177** | **213** | **104** | **18** | **55** | **37** | **24** | **101** | **4** | **9** | **2** |

***HMIS lead Updates:***

We are still in the process of trying to fully implement the new Coordinated Entry Data Elements into our system and are encountering some difficulties due to the limits of our control in the DHCD ETO HMIS. We are very close to being ready and have forms built to capture data in the meantime if we need to. The CoC will be holding a training to help explain the change in the next couple of months. We are still trying to gain access to enroll and dismiss participants from those Coordinated Entry projects so that we can help providers remove housed participants but our new HMIS may be coming even sooner.

The CoC held a two part trauma informed data collection training in January run by Dr. Carrie Fisher from the Institute of Community Health. These sessions focused on explaining the concepts of trauma and an introduction to trauma informed practices for conducting intake interviews and involved some role play scenarios. In addition, the CoC held a training on solving common data quality errors on March 4th, run by Tachica Murray from Nutmeg Consulting, who has been assisting some of our partners with data quality cleanup help.

The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) and the System Performance Measures (SPM) were both submitted since the last board report. The LSA was due on January 15th and the SPM was due on March 1st. Both of these reports look at the three County CoC as a whole to determine how well our system performs in housing people and helping them maintain housing.

***Point in Time County (PIT) count:***

The 2021 Point in Time Count was conducted on January 27, 2021 and involved a provider survey which was administered for two weeks following the count. We are still compiling results but will share the count numbers as soon as we have a better sense of them. Thanks to the generosity of the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness we were even able to give gift cards to many survey respondents! The count was made possible by a number of people providing support, conducting surveys, providing and delivering supplies, and helping to plan a safe count during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who participated!

***Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Updates:***

The 4 housing and services projects funded by the YHDP designation for Franklin County have begun operations and project implementation. No YYA have been housed through these programs yet, though 7 youth have been entered into these projects and over the next month, at least another 15 should be moved from the by-names list into case management support and housing search, as well as systems navigation. Our Transitional Housing site has been identified in Greenfield, and will begin referrals for an April 1st move in. Projects have been working on training, including the CoC’s 6 part rapid rehousing training, a two part trama informed data collection series, a CoC fiscal training, and an HMIS trouble shooting session – all held during January-March and hosted by the Three County CoC. The YYA case conferencing meetings are being held weekly on Tuesday afternoons, since the beginning of November. These meetings currently have concentrated on providing project staff from Gandara and MHA with Franklin County related resource information, training on system flow and CoC regulations and prioritization. We will begin to train YYA CE partners with training on the assessment tool in April. All three Agencies have begun to utilize the funding resources that were made available on October 1, 2020, though both unit and funding utilization remain limited. The CoC has been working to develop a strong landlord engagement plan and has begun to engage YHDP project partners in implementation.

***Executive Office of Health and Human Services – Youth Services Updates:***

Lisa Goldsmith, Homeless Youth Services Manager, has left the agency to take a new role. The CoC is in the process of filing a new coordinator role.

The EOHHS Housing and Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth line item in the state budget was recently increased from $5 million to $8 million. EOHHS offered each the regions an additional $130,000 for this year and we submitted a revised budget that included funds to support two emergency shelter beds for young people at Louison House, which are currently at a local hotel until their renovations are complete, as well as additional flexible funds to support other emergency shelter options, increased staffing in Berkshire County to ensure fuller coverage, and a COVID-modified vehicle to be used in Franklin and Hampshire Counties to support young people accessing housing and other resources. EOHHS also met with all of the regions and offered additional funds for capital projects. It appears that we will be receiving $90,000 that will assist with final renovations of the DIAL/SELF Teen Housing project.

EOHHS asked us to submit a regional emergency/housing/equity plan for youth/young adults in January. Highlights of this plan include the addition of resources mentioned above, as well as activities related to working on ensuring more equitable services. These include tracking and reviewing data related to young people in EOHHS services to assess for disparities and create an appropriate response, participating in the larger CoC work on racial equity, and engaging the Youth/Young Adult Action Board for ongoing input.