**Three County CoC Board Meeting**

March 19, 2020

***Meeting* –** Held as a Zoom call due to COVID-19, with members attending via phone conference. Agenda and Quarterly Board Report were sent out previously to Board members for their review.

**Present:**

By Phone -- Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF; Cynthia Ray, MassHire; Jane Ralph, Construct; Justine Dodds, City of Pittsfield; Stacy Parsons, North Adams Public Schools; Diana Abath, Greenfield Community College; Brad Gordon, BCRHA; Betsy Shally-Jenson, A Positive Place; Andy Klatka, Eliot CHS; Theresa Nicholson, CHD; Erin Cassidy, Amherst Housing Authority; Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH; Kathy Keeser, Louison House; Steve Connor, Vet Services; Dave Christopolis, Hilltown CDC; MJ Adams; City of Greenfield; Sara Cummings, CAPV; Keleigh Pereira, CoC CAPV; Brooke Murphy, CoC CAPV; Jay Sacchetti, Service Net..

**Members not Present:** Heather Marshall, Elizabeth Freeman Center; Mike Hagmaier, Soldier On; Jay Sacchetti, ServiceNet; Timothy Rivers, Youth Action Board; Deb McPartlan, Way Finders; Earl Miller, Department of Mental Health; Tina Schettini, Berkshire Community  College;  Kasey Erickson, DCF CRA Unit

***Minutes:***

* **Call meeting to order, Introductions and Welcome**

Everyone introduced themselves and identified agency

***Vote on Minutes from December 19, 2019 Board Meeting—***

***Motion by Jane Ralph to accept minutes***

***Motion by Phil Ringwood to amend minutes to add MJ Adams to attendance list.***

***Motion to accept amended minutes***

Vote to approve – all yes

***Agreement to not proceed with formal agenda and move into discussion around the impact COVID-19 is having on CoC projects and what the needs and resources are within the three counties.***

***Brief notes from the conversation:***

Brad –

Considering using temporary MRVPs, Raft funds are drawn down across the state. Need to operate in good faith. Dave wondered if there is a way to get rehab dollars from DHCD. Suggested to try this connection, and Dave can support that.

Kathy also supporting.

Dave –

Sharing that housing court has been suspended/district court. Construction work is also being slowed. Brad shared that on the state level, district court is frozen for 60 days (moratorium) so see in the later part of May. Eviction process for housing court is being held back until at least the end of April. Evictions and foreclosures not a free ride though, also utilities are in a moratorium. There are a ton of legislation happening to support this and financial assistance. In Berkshire county there are a lot of small businesses/small landlords we also need to be concerned about. FHA loans also on a moratorium. Guidance regarding emergency evictions for landlords? – Can make a request telephonically if that is needed and Berkshire Housing could help with that.

Stacy –

School districts closing – working out of the North Berkshire. Lots of concern about food insecurity. Resources are good, but access needs to be trouble shooted. Calls coming in from volunteers and donations. All the school liaisons are working together, lots of communication and coordination.

Phil –

HRA update – Franklin County Regional Housing Authority property management has paused new lease ups, so we are not sure how long this pause will be. Keleigh asked if they can place folks in the TH side. They have a number of folks that can’t get leased up in Orange right now.

Jay – Shelter update

Pittsfield – thought they had an alternative site until last night, to spread sheltering out but the spfld dioceses has asked that it only be a quarantine site. Jay is working to speak with the health department about it and where they are all going to talk. Open from 4pm to 8 in the morning.

MJ – alternative site, we are all meeting tomorrow. MEMA sent cots and blankets, they are under contract with red cross, can provide food and staffing.

Theresa - asked if they need support in Berkshires from CHD staff, 50 people at Barton’s crossing and they are in there like 24 hours a day. Behavior gets really hard to manage. CHD staff needs to work with the Barton’s crossing folks, they purchased phones for participants. Theresa is looking to find another landlord.

Kathy did share the possibility of quarantine support in North Adams. She will be looking for health care staffing. Louison House has moved this week! In Adams! Staff is working in the TH. Can stay open.

MEMA – providing additional funding through the board of health to address the health concerns.

Pamela – talked to Mayor of Northampton yesterday, but they don’t know where they are going to put folks and how they were going to staff it. We need it to be money for staffing.

Jay said that Berkshire Medical Center can’t share information, we have people call their PCP. There is not personal protective equipment. Industries are trying to produce. If someone in a Shelter presents with symptoms, they are a bullseye. If you have seen the Shelters, you would know. They are doing the best they can.

MJ – working with the National Guard, they are planning to get the Armory available to them, Jay will work with them on this.   
Governor released information for small businesses – funds available to Non-profits, Mass growth capital corp. for non-profits that are all – will share will Phil.

FRCOG – has a great website with non-profit resources.

Youth Shelter work – seeing a spike in youth seeking support in that area. They are putting youth up in hotel rooms in Gfld and Northampton every night for the last week. Phil made a pitch to Lisa to get EOHHS to increase funding allowable for this resource.

Cynthia Ray – Career Center MASS HIRE – closed to the public, but staffed onsite at least with a skeleton crew. They are overwhelmed with phone calls, over 50,000 unemployment claims, people are nervous and scared. Communicating daily with the Career Centers across the state. They should be working on money food and shelter. They are all assisting with unemployment claims. State wide call center will be up and running hopefully by Monday. Cynthia said that they are are struggling with staff even having laptops. 30 employers and job seekers had a cancelled training, but they are committed to individual matching. WIOA programs are mostly shut down or have moved to remote learning. Grant funded training programs, health care up grant was able to finish and got people hired. Cohort 2 delayed to the summer. Have another job readiness training expected to be delayed until summer.

Amherst Housing Authorities –

Amherst housing authority has not suspended lease ups. Working, behind closed doors of course, processing rent changes first and foremost, conducting briefings by phones and email. Will have increased HAP payments. Inspections are a big issue right now, move in only, lots of calls with HUD with how. Erin Katelyn and Ann are talking about pushing off the mainstream vouchers and the public hearing regarding these, but cannot start this yet. HA is definitely considering extensions in search times, will do anything they can.

**Adjournment**