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

This report was compiled in preparation for the full meeting of the board, scheduled for Wednesday, June 16th, from 2-4pm 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 have been meeting regularly with municipal representatives, shelter and service providers, and developers to consider opportunities that the American Rescue Funds may offer to Massachusetts as a whole and to work in partnership to bring funding and resources to Western Massachusetts in the area of housing development and services to serve people experiencing homelessness. We are also working closely with local and Regional Housing Authorities in Three County to plan for the release of Emergency Housing Vouchers coming to HA’s and the state to support the rehousing of people living in shelter and on the streets.  We are working to engage the coordinated entry system in fully supporting this initiative.

**Site Monitoring/Ranking & Evaluation-**

We will prepare to share initial ranking and evaluation measure for our funded projects during the June 16th Board meeting. Initial site monitoring outcomes have demonstrated a strong commitment from our partner agencies around continued support for their participants throughout the pandemic, they have continued to share openings and utilize case conferencing and the coordinated entry process to house people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we have seen an increase in policy development; timely and effective data collection; and in data quality during this past year. Billing processes have been, for most projects, meeting expectations, and the client files in order. We have had very few needs for corrective action.

***Board Updates:***

There is still 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.

***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 FY 21 NOFA has not yet be released. The FY20 grant agreements have been slowly coming our way from HUD. THE YHDP grants underwent a recent termination and re-signing for new agreements beginning in May 2021. This action was taken due to an issue through the SNAPS office which affected over 100 of the round three grant agreements. We do not believe that this will affect the subrecipients – though we are hoping to engage with HUD around possible extensions for these grants, beyond the two year demonstration period. This is due to the slow start of these grants due to COVID-19 and the likelihood that we will not be able to spend them down fully.
* CAPV is working with a few large sub recipients to develop a way to charge for modified indirect costs for the CoC grants.
* 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 conducted a 2 month time study for Three County Staff efforts that support the Coordinated Entry System and we are working with HUD for approval.
* Currently, the MA budgets include $8 million in funding for youth and young adult homelessness response through EOHHS. This means that Three County will likely maintain the increase in funding from this year and keep our newest EOHHS partner, LH which is providing emergency housing resources in Berkshire County. Three County FY22 budget plan currently includes $585,000.00 in youth and young adult case management services, emergency housing funding, and flexible funds. This year we will also fund a half time position for YAB oversight, YAB support funding, and landlord incentives.

***Project Updates:***

***2021 – Project Unit & Grant Utilization***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| General |  Program Utilization (on 6/1/2021) | FY19/FY20 Contract Utilization (6/1/2021) |
| Project | Contract Units | Contract Capacity | **Current Units Filled** | **Current Unit Utilization** | Contract Start | Total Sub-Award | Point in Contract (6/1) | Month Billing Processed Through | **% of Contract Billed (6/1/2021)**  |
| A Positive Place | 11 | 17 | **14** | **127%** | Aug-20 | $127,880 | 83% | April | **55%** |
| Adult Independent Living | 10 | 10 | **10** | **100%** | Nov-20 | $43,412 | 58% | April\*\* | **48%** |
| CHD PSH | 48 | 48 | **47** | **98%** | Jul-20 | $690,520 | 92% | March\*\* | **60%** |
| DIAL/SELF TH/RRH-PH | 10 | 10 | **11** | **110%** | Jul-20 | $98,255 | 92% | April | **76%** |
| Louison House TH\* | 14 | 22 | **14** | **100%** | Feb-21 | $139,091 | 33% | March | **17%** |
| Northern Berkshire PSH | 9 | 9 | **9** | **100%** | Sep-20 | $137,368 | 75% | March | **58%** |
| Paradise Ponds\* | 4 | 4 | **4** | **100%** | Feb-21 | $27,247 | 33% | - | **0%** |
| Project Reach | 3 | 3 | **3** | **100%** | Nov-20 | $24,290 | 58% | April\*\* | **41%** |
| Shelter Plus Care | 22 | 18 | **20** | **90%** | Oct-20 | $211,239 | 67% | January | **27%** |
| Village Center Apts | 5 | 12 | **4** | **80%** | Nov-20 | $65,117 | 58% | November | **4%** |

\*Indicates in FY20

\*\* Received but not processed

**YHDP Projects**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| General |  Program Utilization (on 6/1/2021) | FY18/FY19 Contract Utilization (6/1/2021) |
| Project | Contract Units | Contract Capacity | **Current Units Filled** | **Current Unit Utilization** | Contract Start | Total Two Year Sub-Award | Point in Two-Year Contract (6/1) | Month Billing Processed Through | **% of Two-Year Contract Billed (6/1/21)** |
| DIAL/SELF RRH Franklin | 4 | 4 | **3** | **75%** | Oct-20 | $140,576 | 33% | April | **9%** |
| Gandara SHINE TH-RRH | 8TH/12RRH | 20 | **2** | **10%** | Oct-20 | $828,962\* | 33% | April | **6%** |
| MHA PSH | 8 | 8 | **0\*** | **0%** | Oct-20 | $351,120 | 33% | January | **0%** |
| MHA Youth Navigators- RRH | 6 RRH | 6 RRH | **0\*\*** | **0%** | Oct-20 | $408,000 | 33% | Jan.\*\* | **4%** |

\*No currents filled but referrals have been made and housing search is underway

\*\* Does not include YN referrals only – number is counting RRH placements

+Gandara Shine project includes $85,882 in supportive services funding contracted to CAPV Youth Programs.

***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 to be certain to pay people with lived experience for their time and perspectives.

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

The Youth/Young Adult Action Board members continued to meet weekly to work on projects and collaboration, and have been attending additional paid trainings and meetings on housing and homelessness. They hosted their second Building Bridges meeting in May to build relationships and trust among members of the YYA Homelessness Committee, and are planning another of these recurring monthly meetings for June. They’ve continued attending the YYA Homelessness Committee meetings to give updates, and have been working with YHDP & CoC on improving youth inclusion & collaboration. YAB has also met with Gandara several times to work on making positive and affirming policies for youth in Gandara’s housing programs.

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

 The Data Evaluation Committee has continued to revise the Privacy and Security Plan to make sure we agree on all of the details and that they feel manageable. We have recently done a recruitment push to try and ensure that we are making these significant decisions with the input of multiple people who will be affected by those decisions and are happy to report an increase in membership. We will be finding a new regular meeting time that works better for new and current members than Fridays at 8:30. The Committee will be turning to the Data Quality Plan and System Performance Improvement Plan next.

* The **New HMIS Implementation Workgroup** has selected a new HMIS vendor after a lengthy and comprehensive review and selection process. Community Action Pioneer Valley signed a contract with Bitfocus on April 21st for their HMIS [**Clarity**](https://www.bitfocus.com/hmis-software) and had a kick off call with the implementation team on May 18th. Going forward, a small group of CAPV staff and CoC partners will engage in weekly check in calls with Bitfocus in order to move the process along over the course of the remainder of this year. Our goal is to have access to our new HMIS by September 30th, 2021 and to have all data since 2012 migrated from the DHCD HMIS by December 10th, 2021. The HMIS Implementation Workgroup has taken a break during this portion of the process but will reconvene as needed, especially for user acceptance testing and to confirm that the product we have is what we expected based on the vendor's proposal.

***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***

The Youth/Young Adult Action Board members continued to meet weekly to work on projects and collaboration, and have been attending additional paid trainings and meetings on housing and homelessness. They hosted their second Building Bridges meeting in May to build relationships and trust among members of the YYA Homelessness Committee, and are planning another of these recurring monthly meetings for June. They’ve continued attending the YYA Homelessness Committee meetings to give updates, and have been working with YHDP & CoC on improving youth inclusion & collaboration. YAB has also met with Gandara several times to work on making positive and affirming policies for youth in Gandara’s housing programs.

***CE Committee, meets quarterly***

The Coordinated Entry Committee last met on Wednesday May 26th and was attended by seven members. The Committee reviewed what the committee has accomplished in recent months including: creation of CE Workgroup and Assessment Tool work; planning around CE assessment, HMIS, and case conferencing training; and planning around Implicit Bias Training to be held in June. During the meeting, the committee also discussed: plans around the assessment tool and connecting with racial equity consultants; plans for TH and CE policies and procedures; landlord engagement and housing recruitment; Emergency Housing Vouchers; Youth Action Board engagement; Domestic Violence provider engagement in CE system; barriers to case conferencing attendance; CE housing connections; and piloting the new assessment tool. The committee identified the following next steps to work on before and for the August meeting: finalize assessment tool with racial equity consultants and TAC; make plan for piloting tool; identify local trends around housing instability, homelessness, and the housing market; identify needs with EHV voucher planning and administration; system improvement activities including map of coverage area, TH-CE policies and protocols, and landlord engagement. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 10th from 3:00-4:30p.

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

The Equity and Inclusion Committee convenes monthly on the third Wednesday of each month, the meeting day and time has changed to provide more opportunity to join since Fridays were proving to be difficult due to scheduling conflicts. Since the last Board meeting, the committee met in April and May. During the committee’s last two meetings, the committee designed a Lived Experience Flyer, to gage the community and invite folks with Lived Experience to join various COC committees, with the hopes of creating a more diverse group. In addition, the committee discussed creating a peer ambassador position that will hopefully be held by a member of the Youth Action Board, to connect the YAB with what the committee is trying to accomplish and gain their input as youth in the community. As a result the committee has decided that a Focus Group consisting of professionals with lived experience be created as a welcoming group where those with Lived Experience will be introduced to what their role will be and what the committee is about, and will continue to evolve as an Advisory board. The committee also reviewed and updated the Equity and Inclusion Goal and Action Steps. During this portion of the meeting, the committee continued to work towards the implementation of the previously identified goals, which now includes making sure that we have in attendance a professional from the Mental Health community, to help those with Lived Experience in a support role for moments that may be triggered or relive past traumas. 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 decided that the first training that needs to be worked on is Orientation Materials, which will be put together by the COC staff, and brought back to the committee for review. The Materials will include data to bring more context to the historic goal, and making sure to highlight how much has gone into the Racial Equity Plan. The committee has also identified potential barriers that could stop folks from attending, particularly being accessible technology barriers, and connectivity issues. At the June 16th meeting the committee will review the proposed Orientation Materials and continue with the identified goals.

* ***Racial Equity Workgroup***

This workgroup met on April 5th and May 10th and have continued the efforts to implement parts of the Racial Equity 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, next steps for youth and young adult leadership opportunities, workforce and organizational training and development opportunities, and promoting space for those with Lived experience.

***Coordinated Entry System Updates:***

* Since March, the Coordinated Entry system as seen the following placements into CoC Housing:
* Transitional Housing: 7
* Permanent Supportive Housing: 4
* YHDP Projects: 12

In April, the CoC held two Coordinated Entry related trainings. The first training was on Thursday, April 8th and was about the CE system and Vulnerability Assessment Tool. As part of the training, Jay Levy, Erin Forbush, and Kelsey Wessels presented on outreach and assessment best practices and use of the CoC’s CE Vulnerability Tool. The second training was held on Thursday, April 15th and was about use of the HMIS as it relates to CE and case conferencing best practices.

The CoC has continued working on updating the By Names List and “cleaning up” entries to the list who have long moved on or are long time out of contact.

At the end of May, the CoC was notified of new federal Emergency Housing Vouchers, which were allotted to three housing authorities in our region: Northampton Housing Authority (17), Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (15), and Pittsfield Housing Authority (15). These EHV vouchers are designed for four eligible categories: Literally Homeless, At-Risk of Homelessness; Fleeing DV/Violence; and Move-On. Referrals for these vouchers must be made through the CE system. Both Northampton and Franklin County Regional accepted their initial allotment and have each requested a total of 25 vouchers. Pittsfield Housing Authority declined. Upon notice of the vouchers, the CoC contacted all three housing authorities for initial planning discussion. The CoC continues to work with NHA, FCRHA, technical assistance, and other stakeholders to plan for the administration of these vouchers. Next steps include: Convening stakeholders (including “Victim Service” providers to discuss prioritization for vouchers; Planning with PHA around prioritization, preference, screening, referral, and administration of vouchers; convening meetings with supportive services stake holders; creating MOUs; and preparing the Three County CoC CE for referrals, support, and housing search assistance and unit identification.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 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:***

The new HMIS procurement and implementation is probably our biggest HMIS Lead update at the moment. Outside of that, we have been struggling to fully set up one of the new YHDP projects in HMIS due to the nature of working in a system that we are not able to set up projects ourselves. Apart from HMIS implementation and setting up new YHDP projects, the CoC has been working on the Housing Inventory Chart and Point in Time Count as well as engaging with the statewide Rehousing Data Collective (RDC). The RDC is a Green River data warehouse administered by DHCD for the purpose of looking at how people move across the state and providing verification of homelessness for clients who have traveled between CoCs. The Three County CoC has uploaded all data going back to 2012 that partners agreed to provide- only projects which agency's agreed to include were uploaded to the RDC. DHCD will be releasing a public dashboard containing data from across the state very soon.

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

The 2021 Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Chart were submitted to HUD on May 14th and were informed by HUD that we were one of very few communities who conducted a full unsheltered count. 425 people were experiencing homelessness on January 27th 2021, 50 of which were experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This is slightly less than half of the 2020 unsheltered count of 101 people and we are not yet sure if this is a true reflection of a decrease in unsheltered homelessness or a result of trying to conduct the count during a global pandemic.