**MA 507, Three County CoC – June 2023– Quarterly Board Report (April – June 2023)**

This report was compiled for dissemination by June 23rd, 2023 prior to the June 29th, 2023 quarterly Board Meeting.

***Board Updates:***

* The CoC was awarded a one-time grant of $12,000 from the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) for the FY23 & FY24 Reimagining Interim Housing Project to support:
  + The integration of People with Lived Experience into the Initiative
  + The upgrading of our current Talent LMS training Package
  + Providing online Training access and Chromebooks
* FY22 CoC NOFO Scoring Summary-Overall Scores for All CoCs:
  + Highest Score for Any CoC 188.75
  + Weighted Mean Score for all CoCs 162.25
  + MA-507 Scored 165.25

Note: CoCs that scored higher than the weighted mean score were more likely to gain funding relative to their Annual Renewal Demand

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| **CoC Scoring Summary (from FY 2022 CoC NOFO** |  |  |
| **Scoring Category** | **Maximum Score (Points)** | **Your CoC Score (Points)** |
| 1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation | 5 | 4.75 |
| 1C. Coordination and Engagement–Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations | 29 | 25.5 |
| 1D. Coordination and Engagement–Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations–Continued | 49 | 49 |
| 1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition | 30 | 30 |
| 2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)–Implementation | 9 | 9 |
| 2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count | 5 | 5 |
| 2C. System Performance | 59 | 35 |
| 3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare | 14 | 7 |
| **Total CoC Application Score\*** | **200** | **165.25** |

* In collaboration with the Equity and Inclusion Committee, CoC staff created and sent out a Diversity Survey to all funded agencies. The purpose of this survey is to assist the CoC in understanding staff experiences, perceptions of diversity and equity, and desired trainings. 54 responses have been recorded from 13 agencies. Next steps are still being determined, but the CoC is committed to furthering equity and working to create a community in which everyone is respected and valued.
* The CoC Program Director continues actively recruitment for the following seats.
  + Representative from the CAPV Youth Action Board (*financial compensation for meeting attendance is available)*
* The fourth edition of the CoC newsletter was published in May. Check it out [here](https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/may-23-newsletter).

***CoC Community and Project Level/Subrecipient Trainings***

Since the March Board meeting, the CoC has conducted numerous trainings! 46 staff at our partner agencies were trained (or refreshed) on HMIS Privacy and Security, Coordinated Entry in HMIS, YHDP HMIS, and Green River EOHHS.

On April 5th, the CoC, along with the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, partnered with James Schultz to put on a training on the Equal Access Rule Workshop. This training had over 100 participants.

The CoC partnered with Community Legal Aid to offer two trainings in June: Tenant’s Rights and Responsibilities, and a Community Legal Aid Info Session. Tenant’s Rights and Responsibilities was one of our most popular trainings of the year, with over 200 registrants and 88 attendees. The Community Legal Aid Information Session was also a success, with 50 attendees.

***Fiscal Updates:***

**FY21:**  2 Projects have completed their contracts

**FY22:**  HUD has issued 3 Grant Agreements (GAs)

1. GA 1: CoC HMIS, Paradise Ponds, and LH TH; Subrecipient Agreements have also been executed and contracts for 2 projects have started
2. GA 2: CoC Planning, Independent Housing Solutions, Northern Berkshire PSH, A Positive Place, CoC Coordinated entry, Dial Self RRH; Subrecipient Agreements have been drafted and will be forwarded once GA is executed
3. GA 3: CHD PSH

**FY23 GIW (Grant Inventory Worksheet)**: HUD issued and contents were reviewed by the CoC for the upcoming FY23 NOFO competition

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| **FY21 Subrecipient & YHDP Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **General** | **Program Utilization** | | | | **FY 2021 Contract Utilization (as of 6.20.23)** | | | | |
| **Project** | **Contract Units** | **Contract Capacity** | **Current Units Filled (per Rent Roll if applicable)** | **Current Unit Utilization** | **Contract Start** | **Total Sub-Recipient Award** | **Point Billed in Contract** | **Month Billing Processed Through\*** | **Current Utilization (thru last billing)** |
| **CoC Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A Positive Place** | 11 | 17 | **10** | **91%** | Aug-22 | $135,219.00 | 75% | April | **58%** |
| **Adult Independent Living** | 10 | 10 | **10** | **100%** | Nov-22 | $41,992.00 | 42% | March | **55%** |
| **CHD PSH** | 48 | 48 | **41** | **85%** | Jul-22 | $720,045.50 | 75% | March | **63%** |
| **DIAL/SELF TH/RRH-PH** | 10 | 10 | **13** | **130%** | Jul-22 | $95,041.50 | 67% | February | **62%** |
| **Independent Housing Sol** | 14 | 14 | **14** | **100%** | Aug-22 | $139,004.50 | 58% | Feb\*\*\* | **20%** |
| **Louison House TH** | 14 | 22 | **15** | **105%** | Feb-22 | $134,541.50 | 100% | January | **100%** |
| **Northern Berkshire PSH** | 11 | 14 | **11** | **100%** | Sep-22 | $171,598.00 | 67% | April | **64%** |
| **Paradise Ponds** | 4 | 4 | **4** | **100%** | Mar-22 | $29,717.50 | 100% | February | **100%** |
| **Shelter Plus Care** | 19 | 19 | **9 \*\*** | **47%** | Oct-22 | $85,885.00 | 42% | January | **49%** |
| **Village Center Apts** | 5 | 12 | **5** | **100%** | Nov-22 | $68,645.00 | 17% | December | **23%** |
| **YHDP Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DIAL/SELF RRH Franklin** | 4 | 4 | **3** | **75%** | Oct-22 | $68,402.50 | 42% | February | **24%** |
| **Gandara SHINE TH-RRH** | 4TH/10RRH | 26 | **4** | **40%** | Oct-22 | $403,166.00 | 67% | May | **44%** |
| **MHA PSH** | 9 | 9 | **6** | **66%** | Oct-22 | $171,144.00 | 58% | April | **45%** |
| **MHA Youth Nav/RRH** | 6 RRH | 6 | **5** | **100%** | Oct-22 | $197,312.00 | 58% | April | **43%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | \*\* Tenants being moved to other Vouchers-Agreement with CoC is not being renewed in FY22 | | | | | \* Does not include billing received but not yet approved | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \*\*\*March on Hold | |

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| **FY22 Subrecipient & YHDP Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **General** | **Program Utilization** | | | | **FY 2022 Contract Utilization (as of 6.20.23)** | | | | |
| **Project** | **Contract Units** | **Contract Capacity** | **Current Units Filled (per Rent Roll if applicable)** | **Current Unit Utilization** | **Contract Start** | **Total Sub-Recipient Award** | **Point Billed in Contract** | **Month Billing Processed Through\*** | **Current Utilization (thru last billing)** |
| **CoC Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A Positive Place** | 11 | 17 |  |  | Aug-23 | $135,219.00 |  |  |  |
| **Adult Independent Living** | 10 | 10 |  |  | Nov-23 | $41,992.00 |  |  |  |
| **CHD PSH** | 48 | 48 |  |  | Jul-23 | $720,045.50 |  |  |  |
| **CHD Subrecipient A** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CHD Subrecipient B** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DIAL/SELF TH/RRH-PH** | 10 | 10 |  |  | Jul-23 | $95,041.50 |  |  |  |
| **Independent Housing Sol** | 14 | 14 |  |  | Aug-23 | $139,004.50 |  |  |  |
| **LH Bracewell** | 6 | 7 |  |  | Pending | $108,685.00 |  |  |  |
| **Louison House TH** | 14 | 18 | **19** | **105%** | Feb-23 | $134,541.50 | 25% | April | **29%** |
| **Northern Berkshire PSH** | 11 | 14 |  |  | Sep-23 | $171,598.00 |  |  |  |
| **Paradise Ponds** | 4 | 4 | **4** | **100%** | Mar-23 | $29,717.50 | 0% | Not billed | **0%** |
| **Village Center Apts** | 5 | 12 |  |  | Nov-23 | $68,645.00 |  |  |  |
| **YHDP Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DIAL/SELF RRH Franklin** | 4 | 4 |  |  | Oct-23 | $68,402.50 |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \* Does not include billing received but not yet approved | |

**FY22 Subrecipient & YHDP Projects:** HUD has not released the FY22 Awards

***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 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 bi-monthly**

The YYA Homelessness Committee met on March 16th and May 18th. At the March meeting, DIAL/SELF and Gandara provided updates on their YHDP projects. YAB members spoke about their continued work on an anti-retaliation policy and an adultism educational video they hope to eventually post on YouTube. Additionally, they have begun meeting in person. Finally, Advancing Racial Justice in Schools (ARJIS) presented about the work they are doing to build healthy communities. YAB members have been interested in getting more involved in educational advocacy, and a potential for peer advocacy around racial justice was identified.

The May meeting began with some great news—Gandara has secured a second house for their Transitional Housing program! This space will provide four new TH beds, increasing Gandara’s total TH bed number to eight. MHA has hired a new staff member, and reported that they will be able to begin taking referrals again. A conversation occurred about the YAB participating in another direct service project (potentially a resource closet of sorts). The discussion then shifted to the challenge of furnishing a space once housing is secured, with Project Home Again in Andover being highlighted. The CoC then spoke about the Warmer Months Count, and the flexibility we have as this Count is not required by HUD.

The next meeting is on Thursday, July 20th at 4:00.

**Data Evaluation Committee, meets monthly**

The Data Evaluation Committee has started meeting again and is planning to focus on a gaps analysis this year. So far a short questionnaire on needed housing resources has been included in the June 2023 point in time count unsheltered survey and the committee is working on a draft of a similar questionnaire for interim housing guests which will be shared with shelter/interim housing providers for feedback and approval. The committee has also been assisting with point in time count data analysis and planning for an update to HMIS to collect pronouns as part of demographic data.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18th at 1:30pm

**Ranking and Evaluation Committee, meets when needed**

The Ranking and Evaluation Committee has not met since March 1st.

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

The Youth/Young Adult Action Board members continued meeting weekly to work on projects and attended the YYA Homelessness Committee meetings to provide updates. During this reporting period, the YAB worked on various projects, including planning a direct service project to meet the needs of youth in regional housing programs. YAB also started meeting in-person once a month to increase connection & relationship-building. They made progress in writing the script for a video project to educate collaborators on adultism. In April, YAB hosted a Building Bridges meeting with the goal of helping older adult service providers connect with their younger selves in order to build cross-generational relationships. YAB members continued to serve on a committee with CoC members and people with lived experience of homelessness to plan the 2023 Point in time Count.

**CE Committee, meets monthly**

The Coordinated Entry Committee has been meeting in a new iteration, as the Domestic Violence (DV) Expansion Workgroup. This Workgroup is tasked with planning for the expansion of the Coordinated Entry system to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence. Currently, the Workgroup is editing and evaluating a Community Crisis Assessment Tool that providers can administer to all folks they assess for entry into Coordinated Entry. Through collaboration with consultants at Safe Housing Alliance, the Workgroup met on May 12th and June 8th. Both meetings were focused on discussing the Crisis Assessment Tool—overall goals, content, and process. The contract with Safe Housing Alliance is over on June 30th.

**Equity and Inclusion Committee, meets monthly**

The Equity and Inclusion Committee convenes on the third Wednesday of each month. The Committee met in March, April, May, and June. During the March meeting the committee reviewed the most recent version of the YAB-created Youth Anti-retaliation policy in preparation to present the policy at the March 22nd Board meeting, the policy was also presented to the Ranking and Evaluation Committee, to vote on including the use of the policy in next year's scoring. Also, during the March meeting Craigs Doors volunteered to be the Guinee pig for a test run of the Diversity Survey, created by the Equity and Inclusion Committee. In the April meeting, the committee reviewed the responses of the Craigs Doors staff of the test run of the Diversity Survey and made changes to the survey to increase the quantitative data quality we are looking to receive. During the May and June meeting, we continued to review the results of the Diversity Survey as they came in from the greater community. The committee has agreed to send out the survey again, after shortening the explanation letter and sharing initial results in a summarized one-page document.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 20th at 11:00.

**People with Lived Experience Action Board, meets monthly**

The People with Lived Experience (PLE) Action Board convenes on the first Thursday of each month. Since the last CoC Board Meeting, the PLE Action Board has met three times: April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st. The April meeting was spent welcoming a new member, discussing the Agency Diversity Survey (which had just been sent out), and considering becoming more formal and structured (taking up practices such as voting on minutes, etc.). During the May meeting, two new members were welcomed. This time was spent primarily going over the survey responses staff at Craig’s Doors had submitted. Members discussed how cultural and lingual differences can often lead to/contribute to disparities in housing outcomes. The idea of shelters having a participant advocate (“Guest Advocate”) on site was also discussed. The June meeting was spent identifying a plan for the upcoming year, and allowing members space to share their stories. This plan includes creating educational webinars that provide information and guidance on topics such as how to get housed post eviction, how to find housing after being released from jail, how to get all the correct documentation, what to do if you are rejected from housing due to a criminal background. These webinars would be for shelter guests, providers, those working in the social services field, and the greater Western MA community. There is a strong desire to end the stigma around having experienced homelessness, as well as homelessness itself.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6th at 1:00.

**Reimagining Interim Housing Workgroup, meets monthly**

The Reimagining Interim Housing Workgroup meets on the second Friday of each month and has met on April 14th and May 11th (this was a Thursday, because of the 7th Annual Western MA Network to End Homelessness event on May 12th). The group did not meet in June due to CoC staff being out of the office. During the April meeting, the Systemic Approach Iceberg was reviewed. Workgroup members discussed events that exist within the community and the social services sphere (particularly related to shelters). The necessity of sharing and evenly disseminating information was highlighted.

During the May meeting, the Workgroup was informed that the CoC had submitted an RFP to MHSA for funding related to Reimagining Interim Housing. Discussion then shifted back to the Systemic Approach Iceberg, this time investigating patterns. Limited capacity, lack of adequate funding, language barriers, lack of knowledge surrounding the different types of homelessness that can be experienced (family vs. individual, etc.) and more were highlighted. Gilad Meron from Community Action, Coordinator for the Resilience Hub, then asked the Workgroup their thoughts on the role of a Housing Navigator at the Hub—how effective of a resource would that be in getting folks housed, how could they be most helpful to the community, and specifics to consider for different populations.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 14th.

**Landlord Engagement Workgroup, meets monthly**

The Landlord Engagement Workgroup met on Wednesday, June 7th. As this was their first meeting since December, and those in attendance were new, time was spent providing a recap of what the Workgroup had accomplished, highlighting in particular the landlord survey that was sent out. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing current challenges in getting people housed—small amount of housing stock, landlords that are not physically present, market rents being much higher than FMR—and creative solutions. The Workgroup decided that they would like to focus on providing training and resources for Housing Navigators, since they are in direct contact with landlords. The group also decided to meet in a month, rather than three months.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th at 9:00.

**Racial Equity Workgroup, meets when needed**

The Racial Equity Workgroup has not met since January 23rd. Planning continues between Racial Equity partners and the COC to complete two more training courses for the community. These training courses will be on Allyship (Practical) and Exploring Whiteness (Historical).

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 3rd at 3:00p

***Coordinated Entry System Updates:***

* Since April, the Coordinated Entry system as seen the following placements into CoC Housing:
* Transitional Housing (includes YHDP): 13
* There were no new enrollments from April to June 23rd for:
  + APP
  + CHD
  + Construct
  + D/S Hilltown CDC
  + IHS
  + MHA
  + ServiceNet SPC
  + Way Finders
* Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV)
  + # Referred: 72
  + # Issued/In Housing Search: 14
  + # Housed Since April: 11
  + # In application process: 6
* The CoC continues to oversee the referral process for all state Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) and local housing authority EHVs directly acquired by HUD. So far, we have been able to support individuals or families in the referral process for a total of **72** available vouchers. Finding housing has been extremely difficult in this climate, but we are thankful to have supported **54** voucher holders with finding housing so far. To learn more about the EHVs, go here: [Emergency Housing Vouchers | 3 County CoC (communityaction.us)](https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/ehv)
  + DHCD provided a HUD update during check-ins in June 2023:
    - As of right now **720** EHV participants have been housed out of **917** Allocated for Massachusetts. Originally referrals to EHV should be completed prior to the 09/30/2023 date. All those that are in housing search will continue until all 917 vouchers have been housed. This information continues to be updated.
* The CoC, area housing providers, and area victims service providers have been meeting regularly with the Safe Housing Alliance (SHA) formerly known as the National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH), as funded by the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness, to plan for expansion of our coordinated entry system to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence.
  + You can view more about this expansion project here: <https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/coordinated-entry-committee>

***HMIS Lead Updates:***

We have finalized and submitted January PIT count numbers to HUD and put together a report looking at various subpopulations, demographics, and disparities identified in the PIT count. We will continue to develop reports based on the January PIT count with the aim of developing a version for each county and expanding on the work that’s been done. Our 2023 June Count was conducted from June 14th-June 22nd and the results are still in the process of being collected as of the time this board report is being prepared but the results will be shared once they are collected and confirmed.

The HMIS now has the ability to collect and display pronouns as part of client demographics and the pronouns appear in parenthesis next to client names. This change is in place in the training site and is prepared to start being used in the live site but we’ve heard a lot of requests for training around pronouns, so we’d like to wait to turn this on until we’ve held these trainings which are in the process of being scheduled.

There have been 13 HMIS/Green River trainings held since April, including 7 privacy and security trainings, 2 YHDP program trainings, 1 Green River data warehouse EOHHS training, 1 Coordinated Entry in HMIS training, 1 CoC program training, and 1 shelter program training.

**January 2023 PIT Count Data**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Berkshire County** | **Franklin County** | **Hampshire County** | **Three County Combined** |
| **Sheltered Count** | **239** | **86** | **213** | **538** |
| **Unsheltered Count** | **39** | **20** | **25** | **84** |
| **‘Unofficial’ Count** | **25** | **9** | **5** | **39** |
| **Total Count** | **303** | **115** | **243** | **661** |