Community Action Pioneer Valley’s Three County CoC

***Quarterly Board Meeting***

**1:00-3:00pm on Thursday, June 29th, 2023; Held via Zoom**

**Present:** Emma Coles, Three County CoC;Teri Koopman, Three County CoC;Michele Lafleur, Three County CoC;Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC;Katie Dwan, Three County CoC;Janna Tetreault, CAPV;Brad Gordon, BCRHA; Jeff Handler, MOC; Dave Christopolis, Hilltown CDC; Heather Roy, DTA; Erin Forbush, ServiceNet; Emily English, Gandara; Lisa Sirabella, PLE; Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF; Jane Ralph, Construct; Andy Klatka, Eliot;Olivia Bernstein, MHA; Cindy Ray, MassHire; Justine Dodds, Pittsfield; Moira Miller, Louison House; Stacy Parsons; Betsy Shally-Jensen, A Positive Place.

**Introductions**—Brad

**MOC**—Katie and Jeff

* Last week, Katie emailed [summary app](https://commact-my.sharepoint.com/personal/ecoles_communityaction_us/Documents/BoD%20MOC%20Summary%20Memo.docx); preliminary approval vote
  + Appreciate flexibility in approval since so close to deadline (6/30)
* Jeff: MOC currently has projects with CoC in Central MA, run a HOPWA 12 bed scattered site, several ACO contracts (Fallon and C3), just started 90 family shelter in Concord, also have other family shelter in Devens; provide case management, stabilization...extensive experience in housing, understand the housing market; Housing Director will be overseeing the project (is in the area today), have one staff person (Housing Specialist); biggest concern is connecting with landlords and get leases set up (spoke with ServiceNet today), scheduling meeting with CHD
* Katie: if any questions, put in chat. Also reading from email
  + Stacy: where are case management staff coming from? MOC staff or new hires?
    - Jeff: welcome to take on existing staff if interested, do have to advertise the positions, looking to staff within the region, need transitional plan until fully staff
  + Stacy: transition process for participants and stakeholders?
    - Jeff: first order business sit down with existing staff & walk through case by case status of residents, want to focus on those who need a little more support first. Both staff will physically be there over next week or so, get to know property and residents, have been brought up to speed on some more complicated cases, want to understand the relationships not looking to change them, what supports people are getting—what can we continue to provide? What might be more challenging & need work arounds? Getting letter out to residents is key.
  + Lisa: I just moved out of Millers, a lot of work to be done there…physical presence has previously been lacking, not a lot of support from CHD. Millers not great location so hands on is very important.
* Katie: Jeff anything else you want to share?
* Jeff: we appreciate this opportunity, ask for patience, I am available and happy to share contact info, want to be accessible and available
* Katie: want the CoC to be more available as a resource, see this new partner coming on as a good chance to practice that
* Heather: Not a question for Jeff, but wondering what will happen to the units MOC did not take on? (my concern specifically is Our Friends House in Pittsfield).
  + Emma: Louison House is taking them over.

**Board Membership Business**—Brad

* Review of minutes from March 22nd meeting
* Katie shared on screen
* Stacy: update on anti-retaliation policy?
  + Shaundell: YAB creating ‘cover sheet’… Ranking and Eval said next year can be part of scoring process. Waiting for cover sheet from YAB.
* **Board vote**
  + Phil moved to approve
  + Betsy seconded
  + *Vote—all in favor*

**Legislative Updates/Regional Priorities**—Katie

* No updates

**Workgroups & Committees**—CoC Staff

* Coordinated Entry (DV Expansion)—Shaundell
  + Working with SHA to create DV 101 Training that will become our property and go on training site
  + Contract with them ends at end of FY (tomorrow), not yet going to find a new provider to work with, going to wait a few months and see where it stands
  + Salasin has hired Housing Navigator
* Equity and Inclusion—Shaundell
  + Diversity Survey, mandatory for CoC funded projects
    - 55 responses
  + Responses have been used to influence Reimagining Interim Housing Framework work we are doing
  + Shared the one pager Calpurnyia created
  + Need to do another push of the survey, need directors and managers to make sure they are encouraging staff to complete it
* Reimagining Interim Housing
  + We applied for funding from MHSA to expand our TalentLMS (training site) and we were approved for $12,000
    - Will be used to upgrade the site, integrate PLE, and provide Chromebooks
  + The Diversity Survey asks what trainings people would like to see—working with TAC and REP and local agencies (such as CLA) to create and upload trainings that everyone can access
  + Shaundell then explaining the Reimagining Framework and her involvement in the initiative
* Data—Michele
  + PIT Count
    - Submitted the results to HUD and created a report
  + Warmer Months Count
    - First time doing this
    - Set up in similar ways to January count
    - Offered $10 gift cards as well as chance to win $50 gift card per county for those that self-reported
    - Heard from multiple providers about many difficulties they experienced conducting this
    - Only about 20 responses from providers and from self-reporting (only 2 or 3 did)
    - Since not HUD required, still open to accepting survey responses
  + Data Eval Committee
    - Low turnout, canceled June meeting
    - Committee helped a lot with PIT Count report, also helping with gaps analysis (looking at inventory of available housing and shelter compared to the utilization of those resources to see what is needed)
      * Added q to survey about what resources are needed in the area--Overwhelmingly almost all responses say more PSH
  + HMIS
    - Can now include pronouns in Clarity
    - Haven’t turned this feature on yet because many survey respondents requested training on surveys, so want to have that training first
    - Moira: will that be required?
      * Michele: not required by HUD so we haven’t made it so not doing it will impact project scoring … will probably be mandatory field but can always say “data not collected/client refused”
  + 2024 Data Standards
    - Final, happening Oct 1
    - Every other October HUD releases updates to data they ask us to collect
    - Changes
      * HUD creating RRH subtype—"RRH only”
      * Race and Ethnicity—combining into 1 field, adding option for Middle Eastern/North African, adding “Hispanic/Latina/e/o” response option
      * Gender—female becoming “Woman (girl if child)”, male becoming “Man (boy if child)”, gender other than male or female becoming “Nonbinary”, adding new option “culturally specific identity (e.g. two spirit)”
      * Hopefully going to streamline CE data collection process
      * Removing the PSH “wellbeing” questions
      * New translation assistance question
      * PSH required to collect sexual orientation
        + Expectation of back entry
      * Added “Space Force” as option under Military service
    - Going to provide trainings and update all forms to reflect these

**Site** **Monitoring**—Katie

* A little later than usual but should be seeing the emails sent out by tomorrow

**NOFO**—Katie and Teri

* Grant inventory worksheets
* Nothing solid but once GIW are returned from HUD, NOFO usually comes out in 6 weeks; might be a double NOFO published (capital and regular one)

**HUD YHDP Audit**—Janna

* Unfortunately notified that HUD is monitoring MHA’s RRH YHDP (even though they said they wouldn’t monitor pilot project)…got list of all the things they need, have notified MHA, CoC meeting tomorrow and next week. We do have some clarifying questions for HUD but our auditor is on vacation this week, want to make sure we are gathering what they are looking for. Will keep you updated
* Olivia: that was also my understanding (that they wouldn’t audit the pilot)…can we say that?!

**Other things**

* Katie: in person annual meeting? Thoughts?
  + Zoom option available (as transportation is an issue)
* Shaundell: been getting comments/feedback about fractured relationship with police departments…build the CoC’s relationship with police departments so they better understand our role, what we are doing
  + Betsy: I would rather not work with police departments...rather work with alternatives like CRESS
  + Emily: I advocate working with both the police and alternatives
  + Brad: what’s your vision? Have an initial meeting?
    - Shaundell: tomorrow have meeting with Sheriff Department…we already have case conferencing, why can’t we have three county where we are talking with police about re-entry, etc.…situation in Amherst where police went to shelter, wouldn’t show warrant, and disturbed all the guests….next morning when the director approached them, they were not helpful…about having the open line of communication. Situation with a YYA…there’s a common miscommunication with police.
  + Jane: we are definitely pursuing conversation with local law enforcement, one relationship going well, the other is unrealistic expectations on both sides; relationships may help build trust
  + Brad: the Hub has helped
  + Katie: few weeks ago was Greenfield meeting with CSO and community portion of police department, hope will be ongoing convo and relationship but the disconnect was evident…getting law enforcement in each region at the table, maybe the WMNEH city and town collab meeting would be a good place to bring this?
  + Olivia: In Hampden County we have a meeting among homeless service providers and the Springfield police liaison. I can connect you with that person Shaundell if it might be helpful to collaborate with them.
  + Stacy: North Berkshire we've also seen success in working with the re-entry programs Second Chances and Community Justice Center
  + Moira: In Berkshires County there is a Pittsfield hub and a North Adams hub that we work with. Perhaps local agencies should go separately
  + Betsy: So, are we going to vote on building relationships with police as a CoC?
    - Katie: don’t think we need a vote
    - Brad: maybe recognition that it be standing agenda item so it doesn’t get lost…it may be premature, don’t see a need to vote to have conversations because that sets a precedent; if there are policies that come out of those convos that are brought to the Board, should vote on those
    - Stacy: like Brad’s idea of standing agenda item
    - Phil: I don't think we need a vote. I agree with standing agenda item around law enforcement relations for us to determine where and what resources need to be rolled out for maximum impact.
    - Katie: keep on the agenda, our CoC community engagement practices can be clarified, these conversations are important and in each town, region, county the convos will be different.
* Brad: anyone want to be Chair? Also shout out to Louison House for taking on the Berkshire units

**Adjournment**

* Phil moved to adjourn
* Emily seconded
* *Vote—all in favor*