**Coordinated Entry Committee Meeting notes**

Tuesday, August 10th 2021  
**3:00 – 4:30**

**Atendees**:

**Introductions /welcome to new members**

Jeff Lowenstein; Calpurnyia Roberts; Kelsey Wessels; Teri Koopman; Stacy Parsons; Michele LaFleur; Shaundell Diaz; Brooke Murphy

**Committee Membership Check-In**

* Looking for members to co-chair the committee
  + Please email Brooke at [bmurphy@communityaction.us](mailto:bmurphy@communityaction.us)
* Engaging more members with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability
  + Please email us if you know of anyone who is interest in joining this committee or who we can send information to. Will schedule meetings to talk about their interests and fit.

**CE Updates**

* Emergency Housing Vouchers
  + Current situation- Prioritization
* DV providers
* Family providers
* Other: Annual Meeting reminder
* Jeff – making sure to push DHCD

**Homelessness and Housing Instability- What’s going on?**

* What seeing in each county? How will impact CE system?
  + Jeff:
    - Central and Southern Berkshire
    - New moratoriums are something
    - Definitely seeing people who don’t understand.
    - See Notice to Quit and have to be out that day
    - Back rent and back utilities
    - First year that haven’t been able to push out every dollar on fuel assistance
    - Utility companies aren’t shutting people off
    - Until get shut off notices, won’t apply for fuel
    - Worried about utilities shut off
    - Back utility bills can become barrier to getting people into housing- won’t turn on
    - Need assistance with electric bill
    - Actual homebuying market has been crazy, going up and going. Leading to smaller landlords to sell buildings. May be prevention against selling or requirement that keeps new tenants
    - Homeless because owner sold building
    - Heard from Kathy, seeing that the rental market is so hot. Opening out capacity for landlords to become much choosier. Including “slum lords” starting to do credit, CORI checks, in ways never seen
  + Kelsey
    - DIAL/SELF seeing higher utility bills
    - Don’t know if people in the crunch of the pandemic let it go
    - Seeing thousands of dollars
    - YHDP Partner- took a youth to see an apartment and the landlord told her that they had showed the apartment to 28 other people
    - Competition is crazy
    - Can appreciate why landlords hesitant
  + Stacy
    - Berkshire issues
    - Hot housing market
    - Homes are selling for well above market rate
    - Can work in Boston but remote in
    - Apartment search and housing stock is non-existent
    - Cost – subsidy doesn’t even cover it
    - Places people wouldn’t even look at getting rented
    - School – ¾ of students are doubled up,
    - Room rentals becoming much more common
    - Neighbor to Neighbor fund
    - Some of those community based grants
  + Kathy
    - Can’t find housing
    - Even working with landlords that worked for years
    - Had relationships with landlords even struggling with them
    - Sales market
    - New management companies
    - A lot of misinformation and bad advice
  + Calpurnyia
    - Trying to advocate for more hotels and motels to be converted to permanent housing
    - In Holyoke
    - Lots of success with using those spaces, number are also able to transition into housing
  + Kathy
    - Did the hotel/motel model
    - Mostly had good experience with that
* What are the needs around CE?
  + Do people feel like resources are known?
    - ERAP Funding?
    - RAFT Funding for utilities
    - Legal support
    - Yes and….. don’t think that’s the primary issue
      * Taking months to respond to applications
    - More detailed information that this is here
      * Easy to access. Use tutorial
      * This is all the things you’re going to need
    - People being homeless, do not have regular interference or phone
  + RRH – hotel/motel
    - Good idea for this committee to put “oompf” behind
    - MAHASA
  + Kathy – motel group hasn’t been around….
    - Need to get state funded pieces when have a building
    - Need smaller models
  + Stacy – hotel/motel nice but we can’t just park people

**CE Racial Equity Work**

* EHV Prioritization
* Use of SSVF Language
* Data needs
* Comments
  + Calpurnyia
    - Reading – doing something similar
    - Trying to create prioritization that is trying to not discriminate but prioritize it
    - North Carolina- mentioned allowed to transition…. If seeing whites becomes more homeless
  + Jeff
    - Good definition and like adaptability
    - Exciting that HUD is letting us do something
    - As far as the data:
      * Starting with some of disparities identified
      * Adaptation – like to see us serving folks who are moving through the CE and referred to but not served through CE system on a regular basis to try and identify hidden risk factors
      * Critical people not being served by system
      * Doing data validation when doing services

**Landlord Engagement**

* What’s happening now
* Ideas
* Barriers/ Challenges brainstorm
  + FMR
  + Incentives

***Plan for next quarter – schedule date December***

* Hotel/Motel as a rapid response
* Bring data from EHV referrals and prioritization
* Piloting assessment tool