

# Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Sept 5, 2019, 9 – 11, Champlain Housing Trust

Attendees:

- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Steve Lunna, **SSVF@UVM**
- Chris Brzovic, **CCHA/CVOEO**
- Crystal Jones, **BHA**
- Stephanie Bixby, **BHA**
- Stephen Marshall, **Homeless Community**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Prem Linskey, **Resource YouthBuild**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard Center**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Jonathan Farrell, **COTS**
- Meg MacAuslan, **CVOEO**
- Val Russell, **CEDO**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Laura Wilson, **Cathedral Square**
- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Erin Ahearn, **CHCB/ Safe Harbor**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Brian Smith, **DMH**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Jan Demers, **CVOEO**
- Adnan Duracak, **ESD/DCF**
- Geoffrey Pippenger, **DCF/ESD**
- Amy Carmolla, **United Way VT**
- Erica Da Costa, **CCHA**

## *PRELIMINARIES*

- **Travis Poulin / CVOEO:** We still have farm-to-family coupons available for over 60s at CVOEO-CAC.
- **Margaret Bozik/CHT:** Laurentide is almost fully leased up and 2 of the homeless units we're in process on. Garden Apartments is ahead of schedule. 14 units have project based subsidy, 11 with homeless preference.
- **Val Russell/ CEDO:** The CAPER ( Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report) will be posted to the Google Group soon. Please read the section that pertains to your agency. Accepting comments until Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

- **Brian Smith/ DMH:** Clara Martin Center opened up Safe Haven generation 2 for those who are homeless and mentally ill, with particularly challenging needs. We'll also have Washington Mental Health working with Downstreet Housing to demonstrate tiny houses as a possible housing option for this population in Barre.
- **Meghan Morrow Rafter / ICA:** We will have a presentation Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 – coinciding with the regularly scheduled Coordinated Entry Committee meeting. Coordinated Entry business will then take place in the final half hour of a two hour meeting.
- **Stephen Marshall:** It would be helpful to start thinking about the PIT count.

## ***DISCUSSION OF THE MOU with RESOURCE***

- We have guests from **RESOURCE** today. Margaret orchestrated this and created the MOU for Resource.
- We will vote on this today and also vote to approve one to work with **CREATIVE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS** as well. Mark Kenny at CWS is handling that.
- [Here is the text of the MOU.](#)
- **VOTE on the MOU with RESOURCE and a slightly altered one with CWS**
  - **Motion to approve**
  - **Seconded**
  - **No further discussion**
    - **All in favor**
    - **None opposed**
    - **No abstentions**

## ***DISCUSSION OF THE HUD APPLICATION LED BY VAL RUSSELL from CEDO***

- [Here is a handout](#) listing the recommendations of the ranking committee for this year.
- Brief narrative of the process so far:
  - The Ranking Committee ranked the projects according the ranking score sheet and policy.
  - The RFP was published in mid-July and distributed widely (in the paper, town clerks, VHFA listserv, etc.).
  - The Ranking Committee met August 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Applicants were notified of the ranking they received on August 15<sup>th</sup>. And they had an opportunity to submit a request for appeals by August 30<sup>th</sup>. We received no requests for repeats.
  - Applications were due in eSnaps on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - We've received mostly renewal applications.
  - We received one application for a new project from CVOEO for a Coordinated Entry Expansion.
  - Per policy, the renewal C.E. projects and renewal HMIS projects are held harmless in Tier I. They are not scored (given top priority) because they are required by HUD.
  - Everything else was scored and placed into a tier.
  - BHA did request a slight reduction to their grants this year. HUD considers that a "voluntary reallocation" and so those funds can be applied to the new C.E. project.

- Almost all of the projects fit into Tier One with just one project straddling Tier Two.
- The recommendation is to have the Pathways project (which is a combination of 2 projects) lie mostly within Tier 1, and only approximately \$15000 of the project will likely be in Tier 2.
- We've have good luck with Tier 2 projects in the past.
- **AMY/ United Way:** Regarding dollar amount remaining in Tier 2. Should we ask for the maximum amount?
  - **VAL/ CEDO:** The way it works is this: There's a certain amount that you can apply for and 96 percent goes into Tier 1. The remainder 4 percent goes into Tier 2, but it is competitive across the country. There is currently \$52,000 in Tier 2 that we are NOT applying for. In the past we've tried to request the maximum amount but BHA has not been able to use all of theirs so we are honoring their request to not apply for more than can be administered.
  - **VAL:** We cannot open this up again for more projects. But what we can do is re-consider award amounts is people want to do that. But that would push more of the Pathways project down into Tier 2.
- **BRIAN/ DMH:** Also at issue is utilization of shelter plus care and the subsidies that the Housing Authority has.
  - **STEPHANIE/ BHA:** I don't see us utilizing more Shelter Plus Care.
- **VAL:** Every year they do allow bonus projects. These amounts are above and beyond both of the tiers.
- **STEPHEN MARSHALL:** Can we funnel money to the PIT count?
  - **VAL:** Not through HUD. But good idea. Let's talk later.
- **VOTE on the RANKING**
  - **MOTION to accept the recommendations of the Ranking Committee**
  - **SECOND**
  - **No further discussion**
  - **11 in favor**
  - **None opposed**
  - **4 abstentions (you cannot vote if you applied for funding)**
- Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> is when a draft of the final consolidated application has to be posted publicly.
- Review of the consolidated application by the Steering Committee and officers will happen from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## CHALLENGING AREAS OF THE APPLICATION

- How are we collaborating with McKinney Vento providers and school districts? If you know anything about this please reach out to Val.
- Increasing availability of housing for homeless youth. Is anybody besides Spectrum doing that? Please reach out to Val.
  - Question: Transition age youth? Up to 24? Because many people are doing that.

- How service providers are helping people to increase cash income? This year they separated out benefits from earned income. This is NOT just for homeless people who are unemployed. They may be employed but can still be connected to resources to increase income.
  - Amy/ United Way mentioned [Working Bridges](#) and will follow up with Val.
- **STEPHEN:** Are there specific HUD questions around these challenging parts of the application?
  - **VAL/ CEDO:** Under a section titled “Written or formal agreements with early childhood service providers” it asks, “Do you have MOUs or other formal agreements with Headstart, Early Headstart, Early Childhood Providers, etc.?” Last year the answer was yes.
- **STEPHEN:** How to we increase alliances with schools and early childhood service providers?
  - **VAL:** Let’s encourage someone to come to these meetings from the schools (the homeless liaison).
- The application is due to be submitted to HUD before the next Steering Committee. So now we need to vote to give the authority to the Executive Committee to approve the completed application and submit it.
  - **VOTE on the giving authority to the Executive Committee to approve the completed application and submit it**
    - **MOTION to approve**
    - **SECOND**
    - **No further discussion**
    - **All favor**
    - **None opposed**
    - **No abstentions**

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## *A DISCUSSION OF THE CCHA BUDGET*

- Here you can take a look at the [CCHA Statement of Net Assets](#) as of June 30, 2019.
- Here is the [CCHA Statement of Activities](#) as of June 20, 2019.
- Here is a [CCHA Balance Sheet](#) with projected budget.

- **VOTE to approve the FY 2020 budget**
    - **MOTION to approve**
    - **SECOND**
    - **No further discussion**
    - **All favor**
    - **None opposed**
    - **No abstentions**
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## A DISCUSSION OF **RESOURCES** JOB TRAINING OFFERINGS LED BY ANDREW JOPE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- A little over a year ago we started working with the city of Burlington because there is such a tight job market right now especially for the abundant construction jobs. There will be about 500 new jobs when the center of Burlington project (City Place) gets going.
- We are offering **CONSTRUCTION 101** in which students are trained in OSHA 10, NCCER, etc. We have no problem placing people.
- We offer rigorous short-term training and trial placements. And we need referrals to fill these trainings.
- (There is now a link on the CCHA website that takes you to RESOURCE's training page.)
- STEPHEN: Do you have thoughts on how to integrate homeless people?
  - In a cohort there will be about 10 people. It's a pretty small scale so we get to know the trainees and try to tailor services to them.
- Let's recruit at the COTS Daystation, Anew place, Turning Point Center, Food Shelf, the evening dinner held for people who are food insecure ( 70 to 100 people) by the Red Door Church (across from Walgreens). And the FSF program at BHA as well as the Here to Help Clinic and Risknet.
- Are there age limits for your trainings?
  - No. It's everyone 18 and up. Except for our YOUTHBUILD program which is 16 – 24.
- Prem Linskey of Resource gave a brief overview of YOUTHBUILD: We take low income students and teach them both hard and soft skills. We work on construction about half the time: especially shelters and low-income housing. We're now offering in-house high school completion and it can be translated (it's all online). We do have a certain amount of homelessness in our cohorts. We have someone working on job placement. About 20 percent will takes jobs in construction. It's a dynamic program that tries to respond to the needs of the students. We have some people taking the bus down from Milton (transportation can be challenging). We operate 5 days a week and all students are Americorps.
- Chris Brzovic / CVOEO: If you have any people who are presenting as homeless, please connect them with us.

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- Margaret: Whose agencies do equity training (training on bias and promote equity, especially race based)?
    - 14 people raised their hands.
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## *A COORDINATED ENTRY UPDATE LED BY CHRIS BRZOVIC*

For those of you who have not already learned this, we're setting a new schedule for the Community Housing Review Committee meetings. We're going to do case conferencing. We want to focus on people who are AT RISK of chronic homelessness.

- We've restructured the CHRC (Community Housing Review Committee) process – as already described to the Strategic Planning & the Coordinated Entry Committees below:
  - So now we'll be spending 2 of the 4 monthly meetings doing case conferencing. We want to target several populations including people who are at risk of homelessness. No housing providers will be at these meetings. (We've talked through this with Community Solutions.) We'll also be focusing on those who are in Phase Two and not progressing to Phase Three.
  - Then the last meeting of the month we'll be consolidating everything we did from the case conferencing and putting together a list of referrals.
  - One meeting per month (the first Monday) we'll have representatives from the various housing providers attend ( Eric at CS, Stephanie Bixby and Holly from BHA, and Susan at CHT ).
- CE evaluation will be on the agenda next month & on the CE committee meeting for the next few meetings.
- We closed the grant year – so we'll give you an update on that in the coming months.
  - Brief update on numbers in July:
    - 39 newly identified singles and 12 families
    - We made 17 placements for singles and 4 for families
    - Housed 5 chronically homeless singles & identified 5 chronically homeless
    - We're starting to see increased numbers who are returning FROM housing (previously housed): 10 single adults and 2 families. We're not sure why. Are they without subsidy ant supports? Not clear yet.
- **Jeffrey / ESD:** How many are referrals from ESD? (Our numbers have been going up alarmingly.)
- The LEGISLATIVE REPORT for FY2019 for ESD is posted.
  - Homeless unduplicated aggregate households statewide: Up 7 percent
  - Number of nights: Up 37 percent
- **Brian/ DMH:** Can we ask the 10 returning from housing if they have been evicted? This can help people get remedies.
- **Margaret/ CHT:** Does this included anonymous numbers from STEPS?
  - No.
- **Margaret:** We've seen increased failure rates at CHT. For the fiscal year that ended in June, we had 9 formerly homeless households that were evicted for nonpayment, even when, in some cases, they were offered support. 3 households for other reasons.
- **Stephanie/ BHA:** We've seen people not paying their rent as well.
- **Erin / CHCB:** We need a PAYEE program.
- **Brian:** Unless they reject it, it can be very effective at keeping people housed.
- **Erin / CHCB:** IF THE DOCTOR SIGNS OFF, we can do it without consent.
- **Jeffrey:** Is there not enough money or is it money management? These are two different things.
  - **Margaret:** If someone has subsidy, it's usually money management.
- Let's look at the data. What supports have been offered?

- Stephen: Preparation for housing & creating a somewhat stable life needs to be handled before housing.

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### ***AGENDA for next month & the Community Meeting:***

- Let's add agenda item for the next Steering committee: working with children. Jane will reach out to homeless liaisons at schools.
- We have no potential Steering Committee co-chairs yet.
- Community Meeting on Sept 24<sup>th</sup> to be held in the morning at DELTA By Marriott at 8AM.
- Community Meeting Agenda:
  - 1. Progress Update – we're closing in on 200 households experiencing homelessness finding new homes in the last 12 months! And there will be an announcement about progress on veterans experiencing homelessness.
  - 2. Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness in Chittenden County
  - 3. Shared Values Discussion
  - 4. Inclusivity and Transparency of the Local Shelter System
  - 5. Business items
- Elections for Steering Committee seats – we have one vacant seat and are hoping to recruit someone with lived experience. And the following seats are up for re-election:
  - · Chittenden Community Action, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
  - · United Way of Northwest Vermont
  - · STEPS to End Domestic Violence
  - · Community & Economic Development Office, City of Burlington
  - · Spectrum Youth Services
  - · VT Agency of Human Services, Burlington Field District Director
  - · Committee on Temporary Shelter
  - · Burlington Housing Authority
  - · Howard Center
- Election of officers – Co-Chair and Facilitator
- Charter Amendments – we have two proposed amendments at this point: (1) to add a Veterans Committee and (2) to modify the committee participation language to make participation in year-round committees a requirement for steering committee membership.

**Next Meeting: 10/3**

**Please go to [cchavt.org](http://cchavt.org) to find upcoming dates and minutes archives.**