

**Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) COVID Response
Community Group
Gotomeeting on March 18, 2020**

[ONLINE MEETING TIPS: if you have earbuds/ headset, the experience of online meeting will be easier (the sound will be greatly improved). also, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.]

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE LESS ACCURATE THAN NORMAL.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND CORRECTIONS TO:
edacosta@vhfa.org**

Facilitated by JANE HELMSTETTER

1. Update from State Team and work already happening in the Burlington District:

- For those interested and available, we will be meeting again FRIDAY at 3:00. (Meeting Postponed)
- The response team suggests 5 additional sites around the state for moving people currently in shelters who need to be isolated.
- The shelter team is meeting 3 times per week and are trying to move people out of shelters into motels as needed.
- Kevin Pounds will give an update about this on Friday.
- He has also been connecting with Faith-based organizations for assistance
- Regarding the healthcare response, CHCB and UVMHC are both part of this conversation.
- Regarding Emergency Management in the district – Heather shared each town has their own EMD. She will be participating in a roundtable discussion hosted by the regional planning commission for the emergency management directors tomorrow.
- How can we expand on the current group, reach more of the community? Erica will explore the use of Slack. We'll see how it goes. Send a join request to: edacosta@vhfa.org

2. Work/Tasks to be done – creating subgroups discussed – to meet this need. Possible groups and interested members include:

Communications Subgroup -

- Elizabeth Kannard
- Lacey Smith
- Erica

It's still being tested as of this writing, but we're trying out a SLACK group. Send a request to join to edacosta@vhfa.org and you will be added and notified. Once there you will be able to join a CHANNEL for each subgroup.

Organizing Volunteers Subgroup

- Amy Carmola

Food Provision Subgroup

- Amy Carmola (and possibly Katie Davis, from Hunger Free Vermont)

Healthcare Subgroup

- Elizabeth Kannard
- Lindsay
- Heather

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

- The shelter team has begun working on this.

Folks are invited to join any of these subgroups which we can then deploy as tasks are identified by the smaller core group of the HRT (This group is being facilitated by Rita Markley)

Regarding the work of the subgroups – participants provided the following suggestions (Please note – speech is heavily paraphrased)

- Amy Carmola: United Way is trying to compile volunteer opportunities, both formal and informal. If you hear where volunteers are needed, please contact. We have a lot of people asking how they can help.
- Todd Rawlings: Marcela Gange is working on giving direction to volunteers. I'll refer her to Amy.
- Margaret Bozik: Regarding food provision, it's not just food for the shelters, but also the regular meal sites. We need the food sites to stay open or find substitutes.
- Jan Demers: Food at the food shelf is being pre-packaged for breakfast. Then we're having food baskets for people as they come throughout the day. We're going through much more food than we anticipated. We're trying to diversify through CVOEO. Also trying to get groceries out to shut-ins. We MIGHT have more people who can help out with delivery in the coming weeks.
- Stephen Marshall: I have a truck and we can transport things if needed.

3. Need for additional separate space for our Homeless population Two specific needs – space to move those at risk

of contracting the virus and need to shelter in place and those who need a safe space to recover from COVID-19

- Margaret Bozik: Champlain Housing Trust is checking out motel availability. The question is which of these motels would be willing to lease a block of rooms. We are going to shift people around at Harbor Place so we can use one building for isolation — not quarantine — for people who are feeling ill but are not necessarily diagnosed. It's **not** an enforced quarantine. The hospital has talked about putting their 3 rooms there as well which means we'll have about 10 rooms. Food and medical care will have to be delivered.
- We're also looking for a separate congregant site for people who are ill and need to recover. Some discussion regarding location facility needs, size, transportation. Margaret Bozik pointed out the possibility for leasing blocks of motel rooms. The issue of staffing such a project will be difficult. Also – a lead agency would need to be put in place.
- Stephen Marshall: Cross-contamination issues seem important.
- Jonathan Farrell shared the precautions taken by COTS regarding social isolation – the staff has spread out people in the bunk beds. We've moved some of the more vulnerable clients to motels, with supports, to allow for this. We could move to a model like STEPS.
- Margaret Bozik shared the willingness of CHT to be part of the site but that they would not be able to manage the service.

4. Other shared news

- **Healthcare update/** Elizabeth Kannard: Our three largest CHCB clinics are still open but Safe Harbor clinic is closed, with a phone number posted on the door for nursing contact to get triaged before going to a clinic. **802 264 8477**
- **Transportation Practices** : Cots is using cabs and Pathways is using cabs as well.
- **Expanding hours:** Warming shelter will go to 24/7. We'll confirm that.

- **GA restructure has been changed to emergency response.**
Go to the website to find the dates (currently under IMMEDIATE HOUSING).

5. RULES CHANGES REQUIRED/ REQUESTED in time of emergency

- Stephen Marshall: Shutting down bathrooms is causing hardship.
Todd Rawlings: As far as I know, City Hall bathrooms will be left open. I'll find out the hours.
Heather: Do we have a point of contact on the state emergency Operations Center? If not, I'll try to find it.
- Nicole Kubon: ESD should lift 30 day bans. Let's suspend those. Ban violations need to be suspended. We have families with kids who are getting banned. Margaret Bozik shared that sometimes Smoking violations in the motels (which can cause a 30 day ban) are a problem because CHT will get cited by the Health Department.
- Lacey Smith: Also people having to move every 28 days — can we lift this?
Margaret Bozik: There's a bill that would waive the 28 day rule. But everyone's out of town right now. This is for people who have medical issues sent by the hospital. We've been pressing for quick action on this.

WE WILL USE THIS GROUP/MEETING TIME TO SHARE INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM THE STATE, THE SMALLER CORE TEAM WITH THE GREATER CHITTENDEN COMMUNITY AND TO ASSIGN TASKS AND WORK WITH SUBGROUPS. LOOK FOR MEETING INVITE EARLY NEXT WEEK.