

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Coordinated Entry Meeting

8:30 AM August 26, 2020

Online meeting

ATTENDEES:

- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Madeleine Doggett, **COTS**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Steve Lunna, **SSVF@UVM**
- Ciara Kilburn, **Steps**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Emily Taylor, **CHT**
- Josie Curtin, **CHT**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Mike Ohler, **CHT**
- Linda Amante, **CVOEO**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**

DRAFT

Send corrections to
edacosta@vhfa.org

Updates on CE referral process and available resources

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We've begun working through our master-list and identifying referrals for the ESG CARES vouchers (these new vouchers last from a year to a year and a half). We've identified 8 families so far. Total we'll probably have about 12 - 15 families. A lot of the families who are connected with REACH UP have been identified for a special kind of VRS voucher actually so will not be considered for the CARES vouchers. So we're looking at non-REACH UP families which means we're considering about half of the number of families we originally thought we would be. Originally we thought there would be 30 to 35 families. This frees up more CARES vouchers for Tier 2 and Tier 3.
 - ➔ CVOEO is administering the CARES vouchers statewide.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: There will be several providers in Chittenden County providing services. It's not finalized yet but I'll provide updates as I learn.

- Linda Amante/ CVOEO: I assume Pathways' ongoing service providers will be prioritizing people we believe are eligible for Pathways level support. How do we determine which agency is going to be the continuing service agency?
 - Lindsay Mesa: To the extent there can be participant choice in this process, we'll build that in. I think there will be some natural strengths that will match themselves with certain populations.
 - Linda Amante: This is going to be run using HOP parameters so do we need to re-think Tier 2 people because most of those may be between 30 and 50% AMI? Is Sarah open to making amendments on the policies on administration of the vouchers?
 - Chris Brzovic: I'm not sure.
 - Margaret Bozik/ CHT: I think it would be worth asking for amendments on the upper income limits. There's a hard 18 month limit on these vouchers so we don't want to see a wave of people losing their housing at the end.
 - Let's reach out to Sarah to get clarity.
- Margaret Bozik: Does ERS have a permanent voucher at the end?
 - Chris Brzovic: There's no guarantee that I'm aware of.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: For RRH, there's going to be another separate provider for ESG CARES RRH and it's a quarterly reporting that's bundled — ICA will responsible for that reporting. This means that the data has to be even more timely than ever before. We need 3 months worth of data entered by the end of the quarter by the 10th of the month.
 - Anyone who is serving someone who is getting RR CARES money — doesn't matter if it's services or rental subsidy — they have to be in Servicepoint in a timely manner. For the financial data doesn't have to entered into Servicepoint.
- Chris Brzovic: We have updated data through June on the BFZ dashboard. Currently we're at **138 chronically homeless households**. It's a doubling of where we were. It's not clear if these meet the strict HUD definition of homelessness. We've seen an influx into the GA Motel system of individuals who have been homeless for a long time (mostly single adults) who have been couch surfing, for example.
 - *[my computer froze & internet dropped momentarily — missing about 3 minutes here]*

A Discussion of CHT Unit prioritization

- Chris Brzovic: In the last meeting (**see notes here**) we discussed creating a modified prioritization specifically for these CHT units.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We anticipate closing on this property on Sept 24th — it will be called SUSAN'S PLACE. There will be 5 households from - - - - - who are going be offered apartments and 1 person has tenancy status and that person will stay. So that means roughly 6 units are already filled. One wing of the property will be ready for occupancy by October 1st (all one bedrooms) and the other wing (with the two bedrooms) will be available in December. We've applied for 30 vouchers from VSHA.

- Josie Curtin/ CHT: We met with BHA and they've committed 30 tenant-based vouchers to this property — NEDS and mainstream vouchers. It would be nice if they could enter both BHA and CHT processes at the same time. We especially need to see if they owe BHA any money, plus any additional barriers. For the 30 project-based vouchers we've been asked to go through an environmental review first before we are awarded.
- Mike Ohler/ CHT: We're trying to streamline the process so that they don't go through denial and appeal.
 - Linda Amante/ CVOEO: Is your team able to retrieve applications that were turned down because of income?
 - Mike Ohler: If it hasn't been too long, we can retrieve them.
 - ➔ Just for clarity, we're going to have 90 CARES vouchers available on the front end, but not all on Oct 1. They will be distributed over Oct, Nov and Dec — all by the end of year.
- Jason Brill/ VA: Thank you to CHT for honoring Susan, btw.
- Margaret Bozik: We're probably looking at using a limited amount of the CARES vouchers at this particular project. Since VRS is available for families, I think we need to focus the CARES vouchers on the high sustainability people.
 - Chris Brzovic: Yes, that makes sense.
- Emily Taylor/ CHT: The CARES subsidies are going to be time-limited but BHA is providing HCV so I'm wondering if those are coming through the next few months and not all at once if people are leased up with a CARES voucher, is BHA providing those subsidies to new households that don't already have a subsidy or will they be providing them to households to have a CARES subsidy to help them transition rather than waiting 18 months.
 - Jose Curtin/ CHT: I will talk to BHA about that.
- Chris Brzovic: Returning to the issue of prioritization for Susan's Place, currently we run a "unit cue," which means we're putting people on the list who either have the income to qualify or have rental subsidy. In that cue, we follow our standard CoC prioritization. So the question is, what are our goals here? Does it make sense to prioritize by vulnerability for this unit? If we wanted a mixed population, that's one approach.
 - Margaret Bozik: There are 51 one bedrooms and 17 two bedrooms. For the two bedrooms, the question is do we want to have all 17 prioritized by vulnerability? For the 51 one bedrooms we just can't have 51 individuals with highest needs concentrated but for the families it's possible.
- Chris Brzovic: Focusing on the one bedrooms, do we want to go with a lower vulnerability score for everyone or choose certain percentages, or anything else?
 - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: I think it would be easier to dedicate units to non-chronic people.
 - Mike Ohler/ CHT: Running along side of this, we do have a few people in C.E. who have subsidies already and they're going to lose them. I think it's counter productive to let that happen. They have a service provider as well. They want to come to the

building. There's maybe 3 or 4. I think it makes sense to accommodate these people. Beyond that, I'm not sure we really know for sure who is going to prove to be higher needs and who is not. Not in all cases certainly.

- Linda Amante: I agree with you. We want to make sure people don't lose subsidies they have.
 - Margaret Bozik: I agree as well but we still don't want just the people with the top most vulnerable scores.
 - Chris Brzovic: I take your point Mike. It's just a best guess.
- Margaret Bozik: Let's make a recommendation so we can bring it to the Steering Committee.
 - Chris Brzovic: Yes, so currently we're prioritizing chronic and vulnerability scores. Scores of 12 or above are very high needs. People scoring 5 - 10 are meaningfully different. For the 51 units, does it make sense to target lower scores overall, or are we looking for a balance?
 - Jason Brill/VA: I also want to suggest that veterans can be part of this.
 - Margaret Bozik: Here's a stab at a proposal:
 - ✓ **For single adults, 10 of the apartments will get normal prioritization with V.A. scores of 5 - 10 and that this group would include Veterans in the RRH program.**
 - Chris Brzovic: Yes that would potentially work. What about for the remaining 40?
 - Margaret: Just to be clear, we've applied for 30 vouchers from VSHA but that doesn't mean we're going to get them.
 - Stephanie Smith: If they give no vouchers, VSHA was to prioritize for the non-subsidized units — those getting the ESG CARES — in Tier 2, as the lower needs population to go to this project, that would be relatively clean and easy to do. My other thought is that it drastically changes if all or most of the units are going to be subsidized. Could all the BHA units go now and then we'll figure out the second part of the prioritization if we have subsidy then? Or if we don't.
 - Emily Taylor: I just got clarity from BHA — they have 30 mainstream vouchers ready to be issued now. And yes, I think we should use all the BHA vouchers as soon as possible.
 - Chris Brzovic: We'll follow up next month when he have more information.
 - ✓ **Let's go with Margaret's proposal for the first 10 and then say 20 either lower on the VA scale or non-chronic — let's say a VA score of 10 or lower. And then we could see where we're at for the remaining 20.**
 - Mike Ohler: BHA wanted me to remind you to go ahead and do the preliminaries now for anyone who's being considered. Also all of these are going to need to be referred for a local preference.
 - Chris Brzovic: We'll operate on this assumption for now and we'll recommend this to the Steering Committee.

Next Meeting: Sept. 23

Please go to cchavt.org to find a minutes archive, meeting dates, etc.

