

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Steering Committee Meeting August 6, 2020

- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Laura Zeliger, **BHA**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMCMC**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Elaine Soto, **HC**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Elizabeth Kannard, **Safe Harbor**
- Mary Ellen Mendl, **United Way 2-1-1**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Meg MacAuslan, **CVOEO**
- Geoffrey Pippenger, **AHS/DCF**
- Olivia Graffeo-Cohen, **VT Legal Aid**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Lily Sojourner, **AHS/OEO**
- Paul ?
- Daniel Blankenship/ **VSHA**
- Robyn Stattel, **ESD**
- Erica Da Costa, CCHA

DRAFT

Please send corrections to:
edacosta@vhfa.org

VOTE on proposed new HMIS software

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: The HMIS Advisory Committee recommends that both of the Vermont CoCs proceed with having a software review done and start with the RFP process. So ICA and the advisory committee members would be involved in creating the RFP, sending it out and then doing the software review. We would then present it to both CoCs with recommendations.
 - **MOTION: To move forward with the RFP.**
 - **Seconded**
 - **1 Abstention by Megan Morrow Raftery**
 - **0 No Votes**

Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative funds

- Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: **RRHI** (Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative) funds are primarily targeting individuals and families who are experiencing Category 1 literal homelessness or, in rare situations, people who are at risk of homelessness but who were also experiencing literal homelessness from April 1, forward. This is a flexible fund. Only 7 or 8 people have accessed it so far.
 - Laura Zeliger/ BHA: Can this help clean up back rent arrearages or damages?
 - Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: It's possible, if it's directly related to the person not being able to obtain housing.
- Travis Poulin: It can also cover mobile home loan arrears.
- Daniel Blankenship/ VSHA: Rent arrearage can also be paid to the landlord through the VSHA Rental Housing Stabilization Program.

- ➔ Champlain Valley Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative Application Process
- ➔ Rapid Resolution Financial Assistance Application

VOTE on and discussion of Coordinated Entry’s new prioritization order

- Here is the proposal for the revision to the C.E. Prioritization Order as submitted by Stephanie Smith, CVOEO:

Proposal for CCHA - ESG CARES RRH Project Prioritization

Background:

ESG was awarded additional funds through the CARES Act, and a large portion of these funds will be used for a Rapid Rehousing Project, similar to VRS (Vermont Rental Subsidy).

Ninety (90) CARES Rental Assistance Vouchers will be allocated to the Burlington AHS district. This proposal for prioritization is specific to these CARES Rental Assistance Vouchers and does not modify the existing CCHA RRH Prioritization.

All referrals will be made through the CCHA Community Housing Review Committee (CHRC) according to the following order of priority.

Order of Priority:

Tier 1: Families with children

- Then by current RRH prioritization

Tier 2: Households with medium and high Sustainability Assessment scores

- Households currently prioritized for RRH according to the CCHA sustainability assessment

Tier 3: Hyper-Vulnerable Households (65+ and/or has a “Disability, chronic health condition”)

- Then by current RRH prioritization

Tier 4: All other Households

- Then by current RRH prioritization

- Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: Tier 2 is the new one and the one we pushed for because we have 90 year-long vouchers and we feel there are people who could use those and become sustainable. We were concerned that 90 households who, at the end of the year, would need a permanent subsidy would be too much. We felt these households could become long-term sustainable. **We estimate that Tier 1 will have about 35 households, Tier 2 will have about 20, and then there will be about 35 year long vouchers left for Tier 3.** Also, Tier 3 has a lot of very high needs households.
- Stephen Marshall/ Lived Experience: I’m concerned about the people in Tier 3. I’m worried about them being neglected.
 - Stephanie Smith: There are not enough vouchers in any case. We made this decision because we don’t see 90 permanent vouchers being available at the end of a RRH year. So even if they’re more prioritized, they would not likely be able to find or succeed in housing.

- Jane Helmstetter: We just don't have enough resources. Even if we have enough subsidy and enough support, we don't have the housing. In addition, for the hyper vulnerable, living alone in an apartment is often not appropriate housing for them.
- Stephen Marshall: Are there any resources available for very vulnerable people living in a tent right now?
 - Jane Helmstetter: **Vermont Chronic Care Initiative** (linked here)— anyone can make a referral.
 - There are community care beds available for this group with chronic medical conditions. We need to place as many people as possible in those beds. Is there a way we can get information out about vacancies?
 - There's no list of statewide vacancies for these beds unfortunately.
 - **MOTION for New Prioritization as recommended by Coordinated Entry Committee**
 - **SECONDED**
 - **One abstention from Lily Sojourner**
 - **0 NO votes**

◆ Just a reminder that OEO has an RFP out for the services that will accompany the vouchers that will accompany this conversation. Applications are due next week: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/Docs/2021-HOP-CARES-Rapid-Re-housing.pdf>

Discussion of Anti-Racism Initiative

- Jane Helmstetter: A 2019 report was produced addressing racial disparities in homelessness in Chittenden County (linked here).
- Megan Morrow Raftery: ICA did a racial disparities presentation last year because this is something that HUD is starting look at. Is this something that the CoC would like to start looking at in the HMIS data? I need to talk to the reporting team to see what they can do. We won't be able to do census data every month because the census is annual. We can look at, for example, who is in the shelters and who is exiting to permanent housing and who is not. Who's in PSH, etc.
 - Jane Helmstetter/ AHS: Yes, definitely.

Discussion of PSH Grant Application Update

- Laura Zeliger/ BHA: We met last week to plan for the upcoming NOFA to plan for the Shelter+Care grant that typically comes out in August. We have had challenges in the past with the administrative workload, particularly with the monitoring and tracking, both services provided and the tracking of chronic homelessness. We talked about what other options could be if BHA was not the applicant.
- Daniel Blankenship/ VSHA: Word on the street is that the upcoming NOFA will be abbreviated. My understanding is that it will be focused just on renewals and not on reallocations or new types of projects.

Shelter Updates

SPECTRUM

- Will Towne: We've had a significant rise in emergency placements late at night and on the weekends. With our intakes being paused through the pandemic, it opened up some space. We're full now however.

COTS

- Sophia Senning: Our family shelters are full at the new Covid capacity. We're slowly re-opening the rest of our shelters. We are taking in 3 people per week at one per day. Tammy Santamore is at the hotels getting people connected to Coordinated Entry.

SUBCOMMITTEES

VETERANS

- Jason Brill/VA: We have an increase in our Veteran numbers. We are continuing with our regular scrub calls. This past Monday our claim to end Veterans homelessness has been completed and submitted.

FINAL ITEMS

- Travis Poulin: We still have Farmers Markets coupons. Please refer people to CVOEO.
 - Stephen Marshall: The PIT Committee met. The current crisis has given us an amazing opportunity to have as close to a perfect count as possible. We could use this information to calibrate our PIT count. Especially since the couch surfers have, in many cases, become officially homeless and moved into motels.
 - Mary Ellen Mendl/ 2-1-1: We're experiencing a national issue. Some people who are calling with WIFI turned on cannot access 2-1-1. They can also call 802 652 4636.
 - Laura Zeliger/ BHA: We're recruiting for a new director of property management.
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Next Meeting: Sept. 3

Please go to cchavt.org to find