

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Steering Committee Meeting Nov 5, 2020

Online Meeting

ATTENDEES:

- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Geoffrey Pippenger, **DCF**
- Mary Ellen Mendl, **VT 2-1-1**
- Elizabeth Kannard, **CHCB**
- Sarah Russell, **CVOEO**
- Jennifer Hunter, **Cathedral Square**
- Sean Thomas, **HUD State Field Office Director for Vermont**
- Bill Schrecker, **VHFA**
- Faith Foley, **Spectrum**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Todd Rawlings, **CEDO**
- Kevin Pounds, **Anew Place/ Low Barrier Shelter**
- Tammy Santamore, **COTS**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMHC**
- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Al Belluche, **BHA**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Jennie Davis, **BHA**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Amy Woodruff, **Lund**
- Kim Colville, **VCIL**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Amy Carmola, **United Way of NWVT**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF@UVM**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Justine Donahue, **The Family Room**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Karina McNamara, **ICA**
- Nicole Kubon, **Steps**
- Paul Dragon, **CVOEO**
- Jennie Davis, **BHA**
- Erica Da Costa, **CCHA**

DRAFT

Please send corrections to:
edacosta@vhfa.org

PRELIMINARIES

- Kevin Pounds/ Anew Place: We closed on the Champlain Inn and plan to open it December 1st: 33 units.
- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: We are working with partners to establish a daytime warming shelters. No more details yet.
- Will Towne/ Spectrum: The winter youth shelter, ages 18 - 24, is up and running.
- Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: Strategic Planning Committee Meeting will begin again in January. We will be developing legislative proposals to give to Erhard to present to the legislature, so let us know if you have anything for us to consider.

GA Restructuring

- Geoffrey Pippenger/ DCF: This is about Emergency Housing in general rather than just about GA Restructuring. On Friday the 20th of November, we're pulling together a large group of people to talk about lessons learned so far with regards to homelessness, emergency housing, the variety of responses. It will be similar to a shelter de-brief. The Covid Response teams assembled this year are inter-agency teams working together and this is a model to consider moving forward. We also want representatives from as wide a range of people as possible, from all backgrounds.

Racial Equity Project

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We're working with ICA to incorporate race and ethnicity data elements into our Coordinated Entry reports. This is ongoing. We have preliminary reports on exit data, length of time in the system, etc. But working on solutions long term will come after. We will orgnie a work group with BoS.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: The inflow and outflow reports on BFZ are also updated to reflect this data.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We do have a baseline study we did two years ago and it's on the website.

New HMIS Vendor Process

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: We sent out the RFP to **Bitfocus, Foodhold, Ecovia, Caseworthy** and **Wellsky**. We now only know who intends to apply which is everyone except Wellsky. We have not heard from Wellsky at all. They have 45 days to get their information in to us. Chris Brzovic, Linda Amante, Will Towne and one person from Pathways are representing Chittenden in the workgroup around this.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery: I had a request for information from a student at Stony Brook University, who is a journalism senior and wants to write about homelessness in Vermont. I need permission to release information.

- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: Are we going to be able to migrate all of our information to the new system? Are there any increased fees?
 - Meghan Morrow Raftery: Yes to the ability to migrate information, but also yes to increased fees.

Outreach & Membership Committee

- Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: We're looking for people who are interested in being on this committee, please let me know. We now have no members.

VOTE on a minor policy amendment to our PSH prioritization policy

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: This was recommended by our Coordinated Entry Committee. Normally we two prioritization protocols for PSH resources and RRH resources. The reason this hasn't come up before is that we prioritize separate populations for those two sets of resources. PSH list is prioritized by vulnerability and length of time homeless. The RRH list is prioritized by sustainability assessment, which means we look for people who are likely to achieve self-sufficiency within a year. There is rarely or never any overlap in these populations. What happened recently, in our CARES vouchers (made available through CARESACT funding, modeled off of VRS, is up to 15 months, with some support services) some of our households fell into 2 categories (PSH and CARES vouchers) so we made referrals for 2 of these households for a CARES voucher. Pathways does not have the ability to take two more PSH referrals right now. **Our proposal is to allow these households to continue to be prioritized for PSH even after they have been matched with CARES vouchers. Right now we're just talking about 2 households and it's likely to stay at that number.**
 - Nicole Kubon/ Steps: I think this is a great idea. It could be potentially a valuable change moving forward.
 - Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: I think this is a missing piece. It makes good sense.
 - **MOTION:** In order to utilize RRH as a bridge to PSH, when needed households that are referred to RRH assistance will maintain their prioritization status for PSH upon entering a RRH program and will be considered for future PSH vacancies according to the standard PSH prioritization policy.
 - **SECONDED:**
 - **0 NO VOTES**
 - **1 Abstention**

SHELTER UPDATES

- Kevin Pounds/ Low Barrier Shelter: We open on December 1st. Occupancy will be 50. We will be doing intakes on Nov. 29 and 30. Tentatively, we'll have 30 permanent beds, 10 ESD beds and 10 walk-in beds.
 - Kim Colville/VCIL: Thank you Kevin, especially for the ADA accessibility you have implemented.
- Tammy Santamore/ COTS: Our shelter remains full but some of our folks are getting CARES vouchers and so we anticipate some movement there.
- Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: The environment of the Holiday Inn has improved a great deal and we've added additional services. We have crafts, ping pong table, coffee going in the conference room. We have 2 mental health workers on site. Our partnership with Kevin has been great. Census is at 135 right now. We've had as many as 149 previously. It's still scheduled to close at the end of December but we're advocating for it to stay open.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We steadily have 12 - 14 rooms occupied at the Ho-Hum motel since first of October. We're done with renovations of one of the buildings and are now working on renovation of the other building. There are 44 rooms at Harbor Place for ESD guests and 7 for hospital guests. The ESD rooms have been fully occupied.

BHA / UVMC Collaborative Impact Grant

- Jennie Davis: BHA wrote a grant to the UVMC Collaborative Impact grant committee and we were awarded a planning grant for a potential community-wide housing retention network. The grant included CHT and CVOEO and we met them this week to start the planning process. We're here today to try to form an ad-hoc sub-committee. Anyone interested in participating in this committee, please reach out to the chairs (Travis and Liz) to let them know.
 - Margaret Bozik: There are a couple options for where this work could live. It might live with the Strategic Planning Committee, especially since retention is a primary area of attention for Strategic Planning. This would also make it more easily assembled and permanent. Also there really needs to be some kind of linkage with Coordinated Entry.
 - As of this moment, Jen Hunter, Jane Helmstetter and Margaret Bozik expressed interest in being part of this effort.

PIT Committee Update

- Lacey Smith/ BPD: We're just starting the planning to see what could be done. HUD has agreed to provide guidance some time in December for what a modified PIT Count would look like this year. We've agreed that this is a good opportunity to get a more thorough count since we have so many people in motels. But we also recognize we won't be able to use volunteers or do a street count this year. **Next meeting is DECEMBER 9th.**

NOFA Committee Update

- Kim Colville/VCIL: What is the status of the NOFA application?
 - Todd Rawlings/ CEDO: No one knows when the NOFA when be released.
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Go to cchavt.org to find a notes archive, meeting dates, etc.

Next meeting; Dec. 3rd, 2020