

CHITTENDEN COUNTY HOMELESS ALLIANCE (CCHA)

Steering Committee Minutes

December 3, 2020 9:00 – 11:00

ATTENDEES:

- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Amy Carmola, **United Way NWVT**
- Daniel Blankenship, **VSHA**
- Kim Colville, **VCIL**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Jennifer Hunter, **CS**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF@UVM**
- Derek, **AgeWell**
- Elaine Soto, **HC**
- Elizabeth Kannard, **Safe Harbor**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMHC**
- Geoffrey Pippenger, **DCF**
- Jamaica White, **Lund**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Lily Sojourner, **OEO**
- Linda Amante, **CCA**
- Lindsey Mesa, **Pathways**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Mary Ellen Mendl, **2-1-1**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Nicole Kubon, **Steps**
- Olivia Graffeo-Cohen, **Vermont Legal Aid**
- Phillip Snay, **Veterans Inc.**
- Robyn Stattel, **ESD**
- Sarah Russell, **CVOEO**
- Sean Thomas, **HUD** sean.w.thomas@hud.gov
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Sister Pat, **UVMHC**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Paul Dragon, **CVOEO**
- Kevin Pounds, **Anew Place**

DRAFT

Please send corrections
to: edacosta@vhfa.org

PRELIMINARIES

- Spectrum is expanding to St. Albans with a drop in center and they've hired Stephanie Comstock to run it.

UPDATE ON THE STATEWIDE SUMMIT REGARDING LESSONS ABOUT COVID-ERA HOUSING

- Geoffrey Pippenger/ ESD: We hosted a summit last Friday to look at lessons learned from housing people during Covid. The importance of collaboration across sectors stood out. I think of this conversation as a catalyst for future conversations. We hope to produce a white paper based on this meeting.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: One of the most valuable aspects of the meeting was having someone with lived experience in our small group. I hope we make more effort to include lived experience.
- Lacey Smith/ BPD: A takeaway for me was about how Burlington is a microcosm within the state. The “negatives list” was longer for Chittenden County than the rest of the state. Chittenden is distinct and that stood out to me. Also, I didn’t hear from many people doing direct service and I’d like to hear more of that.
- Margaret Bozik: Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard during the pandemic.

A DISCUSSION OF THE USE OF THE MOTELS

- Lily Sojourner/ OEO: Since March, OEO has funded support services (including to motels) about 3.5 million dollars worth of projects which included the Covid relief funds. That funding, however, is not being extended beyond this month. At this point, we’ve sent out invitations to some of our providers to apply for a process whereby we can use FEMA funds for a subset of the projects. FEMA non-congregant, wraparound services funds will be for operational efforts to support people in non-congregant spaces including motels. The proposals are due back this Friday. We’ll write contracts with folks through the end of June. We hope this will continue projects such as the Holiday Inn in Burlington.
 - Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: What is the state thinking about in terms of going back to congregant shelter sites?
 - Lily Sojourner: I don’t have any updates on that to share.
 - Jane Helmstetter/ AHS: Where do we want to focus our energy? On housing or on more congregant shelter?
 - Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We do need to put more energy upstream. “Was in a national meeting yesterday where there was broad agreement that we have to act around prevention, otherwise the inflow will always exceed our ability to house people experiencing homelessness.”
 - Sarah Russell/ CVOEO: “Agree.”
- Lily Sojourner: For the CARES voucher project, we’ve had 38 households lease up and we have over 300 who have vouchers and are looking for an apartment. We’ll keep an eye on how that intervention works.
- Robyn Stattel/ OEO: Motel numbers are going up. Quality Inn in Shelburne was recently added to our group of projects. There are 568 rooms total as of this morning.
- Linda Amante/ CCA: We are seeing a steady stream of people from out of state who are not getting into shelter. Do you have any recommendation for how to deal with that?
 - Robyn Stattel: The out of state status is not the basis of denying anyone.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: Is the Holiday Inn going to continue to be used past the end of December?
 - Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: Yes, hopefully through the end of June but it could end sooner.

NOFA UPDATE

- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: We still have no NOFA updates. It has still not been released. It's usually released in early July.

SHELTER UPDATES

- **ANEW PLACE / Kevin Pounds**
We're 24/ 7 staffed now. Hopefully we'll be at 50 bed capacity soon. It's very helpful if the agencies who will be sending or referring will call first to let us know. Intakes will be 11 - 7 Mondays and 3 - 7 on the other days.
- **Spectrum / Will Towne**
If you have any 18-24 year olds who need emergency housing, send them to our Drop-In at 177 Pearl, have them call 802.324.2934, or send them to the shelter after 6p at 29 Allen St.
- **The Ho-Hum (CHT) / Margaret Bozik**
Our numbers for people recovering from Covid have stabilized at around 8 - 10. The state is also contracting with motel in southern Vermont for a similar population and CHT staff will be working with this project as well.

LAST ITEMS

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: We are scheduling demos for new software review in Jan and Feb. We're slowly going through the RFPs.
- Mary Ellen Mendel and Lacey Smith agreed to serve on Outreach and Membership Committee.

Next Meeting: 1/7

Please go to cchavt.org for meeting dates, minutes, events, etc.