

**Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)**  
Steering Committee Meeting, January 7, 2021, 9:00 AM  
Online meeting

**Attendees:**

- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Kim Colville, **VCIL**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Sarah Russell, **CVOEO**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMC**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard**
- Bill Schrecker, **VHFA**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Paul Dragon, **CVOEO**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Laura Gans, **Vermont Legal Aid**
- Faith Foley, **STEPS to End DV**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Sean Thomas, **HUD**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Jamaica White, **Lund**
- Katie Haley, **Veterans Inc. Regional Manager VT/NH**
- Elizabeth Kanard, **Safe Harbor**
- Amy Carmola, **United Way NWVT**
- Nicole Kubon, **Steps**
- Phillip Snay, **Veterans Inc.**
- Jen Hunter, **Cathedral Square**
- Lily Sojourner, **OEO**
- Mary Ellen Mendl. **VT 2-1-1**

**DRAFT**

Please send corrections to  
edacosta@vhfa.org

**PRELIMINARIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: CHT is in conversation with the State of Vermont about making Harbor Place into a substance-free facility. This would not affect rooms that we rent to the hospital and it would not mean that if guests violated the rules around substance use that they would incur a period of ineligibility — they could go straight to another motel. It would be the entire property. If this pilot looks like it will be successful, perhaps Ho-Hum motel could also become a substance-free environment.
  - Jane Helmstetter/AHS: There is a group at ESD who's been working on this.
  - Sarah Russell/ CVOEO: Is there a need for substance-free housing?

- Margaret Bozik: Some guests would be in recovery and some would simply prefer to be in a substance-free environment. Those two groups do add up.
  - Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: Are Dismas House and other similar facilities full? Does anyone know what the census is for those types of facilities?
  - Margaret Bozik: We were approached by the state to help with this need.
  - Lacey Smith/ BPD: As someone who works with work programs, who actively send people off to treatment and then try to get people into sober housing afterward, that gap there is usually weeks if not longer. There is not enough sober housing so this is great. There's a huge need.
  - Margaret Bozik: We're looking at a potential continuum of recovery housing.
- Lily Sojourner/ OEO: There is a statewide Covid homelessness call this morning for those who can attend.
  - Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: We will be providing our volunteer income tax assistance this year — working out of space in the blue mall (University Mall) so we can have enough distancing. It will begin February 1st. VT 2-1-1 will be taking calls for scheduling appointments for this. We'll also be seeing people here at CVOEO who only have a homestead or renter's rebates to file.
  - Louise Masterson/ ICA: Thank you to everyone who has completed the annual privacy and security training for HMIS. For the ESGCV (ESG Cares Voucher) reporting, the deadline is coming up on the 11th.
  - Marcella Gange/ CEDO: We're moving ahead, with CVOEO, with the daytime warming shelter.
  - Nicole Kubon/ STEPS: "Steps new shelter is open and we are fully occupied! All of our administrative and program services are now based at our new location."

## **CCHA BUDGET**

- Margaret Bozik: Regarding budgeting: we're running a deficit of about 26K. We can keep going on the current funds for roughly another 2 years (June of 2022) but it's clearly time to think about funding on a longer term basis.

## **CARES ACT FUNDS UPDATES**

- Lily Sojourner/ OEO: We funded a few programs through the **Coronavirus Relief Funds**, including RRHI (Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative), additional HOP grants for additional housing navigation, essential services, etc. These funds funded the Holiday Inn shelter. This funding ended in December. There is a new iteration of the CARES act that has passed and the state of Vermont is pausing before making decisions about that funding. At OEO, we're wrapping up programs funded by CARES. Sarah and I would love to see more funding for an RRHI type program, but we don't feel able to discuss more details at this point. There were several projects we were able to continue including the Holiday Inn partly by utilizing FEMA funds. We don't know when this funding will end. Also, CSGV partners (like CVOEO) were

not able to to fully utilize their funding because of a flaw with the technical language, but that issue has been fixed now.

- Jane Helmstetter/ AHS: One of the conversations I've been involved with is that the numbers don't add up when we look at the numbers of people homeless and the number of housing opportunities. Hoping this continues to be part of the discussion

## **PLANNING FOR SERVICE DELIVERY WITHOUT GA MOTELS**

- Travis Poulin, CVOEO: There are two major issues: 1. Economic sustainability and 2. Issues about the best way to deliver these particular supports.
- Margaret Bozik, CHT: We have extended shelter capacity in Chittenden recently and there are some cases in which shelter residency can provide more direct linkages to services. But I'm not sure that additional shelter capacity is going to come any where near to meeting the need. Also, there are reasons why people sometimes need a setting where they can simply close the door.
- *From the chat-box, posted by Margaret quoting the the minutes of the last statewide homeless provider meeting:* "Emergency Housing Transition: There was a question about when this will happen, what it will look like and whether local CoCs should start planning for this. DCF is thinking about the transition in phases – phase 1 will be how we move from COVID GA rules for non-congregate shelter to regular GA rules, and then phase 2 is moving from GA rules to the community-based system. There are a lot of variables that will effect this timeline. We are hearing from partners that they are thinking about it in this way also. Expect that we will be having more conversations together on this in January. Encourage local CoCs to look closely at the coordinated entry data to understand who is in motels now – who will be exiting with a voucher, who will be able to return to stay with family and friends, who would be eligible under GA rules (categorical, vulnerable). And what are the gaps? What are the strategies and resources that we will need to support a phase 1 transition? Many more conversations to come on this."

## **SHELTER UPDATES**

- Kevin Pounds/ Anew Place: As of this week, we have 3 out of 4 floors operational at the low barrier shelter. Our census has been around the mid-40s this week. We have been going through inspections. Mental health crises have been much higher. The CHCB Safe Harbor team has been extremely helpful with this.
- Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: The Holiday Inn has 129 guest today and has been as high as 158. It's great we got this extension through June as well as the FEMA funding. One thing we're working on: we're going to be getting donations for transportation, for identifications and other things we could not put into the FEMA grant. I wrote a letter to Dr. Levine recently about the critical need for shelter staff to be vaccinated. Our director recently performed CPR on someone last week and I hope everyone advocates for vaccines for their frontline staff. We're also partnering with the city to open the **new daytime warming shelter at VFW, 176 South Winooski, hours: 9 - 4, 7 days a week.** We don't know

what the need is yet. We'll have a modest drinks and food items. We'll have an isolation room in case someone isn't feeling well. **We are looking for de-escalation training and mental health 101 training. Any ideas anyone has for us would be appreciated.** We'll open the week of the 18th.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Coordinated Entry Committee:**

- Chris Brzovic/CVOEO: We're having preliminary discussions about prevention. We want to gather more relevant data about households who are at risk in addition to currently homeless. Our priority is going to be in developing comprehensive training. At the CHRC, we're over the hump of referrals to CARES vouchers — we made 90 to CARES vouchers and 60 of those were Susan't Place. For Juniper House (with Cathedral Square) we have 7 referrals to make. It's opening up March 1st. We'll wrap up our referrals for Juniper next week. (Juniper House has 25 project-based units at Juniper House and 70 units total.)

### **PIT Committee:**

- Lacey Smith/ BPD: We decided to do some, though minimal, outreach with Safe Harbor's team. (We won't have volunteers this year.) We imagine this number will be relatively small. We'll follow up with ESD to see how many people are actually on the banned list. And we're meeting next week.
- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: And we're looking at doing outreach at the warming center as well.
- Megan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: Regarding the sheltered PIT count. We sent AHS the paper form, so they are internally planning how to get the internal GA motel information entered into the Google form. We will send the Google form links directly to the agencies who will be inputting. We will also have an unsheltered link and a pre-recorded training link. The date of the PIT Count is the 27th starting at 6PM.

### **NOFA**

- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: No updates.

### **Veterans**

- Steve Lunna/ SSVF@UVM: Currently we have 17 veterans, all of whom are in motels. That is part of a downward trend over the last few months.
- Jason Brill/ VA: If any have any encounters with veteran neighbors, you might relay to them that they can go to [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) and get updates and information about getting the Covid vaccine.

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**NEXT MEETING: Feb 4, 2021**

**Please go to [cchavt.org](http://cchavt.org) for minutes, meeting dates, etc.**