

CHITTENDEN COUNTY HOMELESS ALLIANCE (CCHA)

Steering Committee Minutes

May 6, 2021 9:00 – 11:00AM, Online

ATTENDEES:

- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Emma Beers, **Community Solutions, BFZ**
- Steven Lunna, **SSVF @ UVM**
- Amy Carmola, **United Way NWVT**
- Mo, **COTS**
- Adam Smith, **ICA**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Brian Barrows
- Cameron Shorkey, **Bitfocus**
- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Crystal Jones, **BHA**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard Center**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMCMC**
- Jane Almstetter, **AHS**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Justine Donahue, **The Family Room**
- Karen Boyce, **Veterans Place**
- Kathryn Michalovic, **HUD**
- Kevin Pounds, **ANew Place**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Laura Zeliger, **BHA**
- Lily Sojourner, **OEO**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- MaryEllen Mendl, **2-1-1**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Nicole Kubon, **Steps to End Domestic Violence**
- Paul Dragon, **CVOEO**
- Phillip Snay, **Veterans Inc.**
- Rich Turner
- Rita Markley, **COTS**
- Sarah Russell, **CVOEO**
- Tammy Santamore, **COTS**
- Wanda Hines, **JUMP**
- Will Vilardo, **SSVF @ UVM**
- Bill Schreker, **VHFA**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**

DRAFT

Please send corrections
to: edacosta@vhfa.org

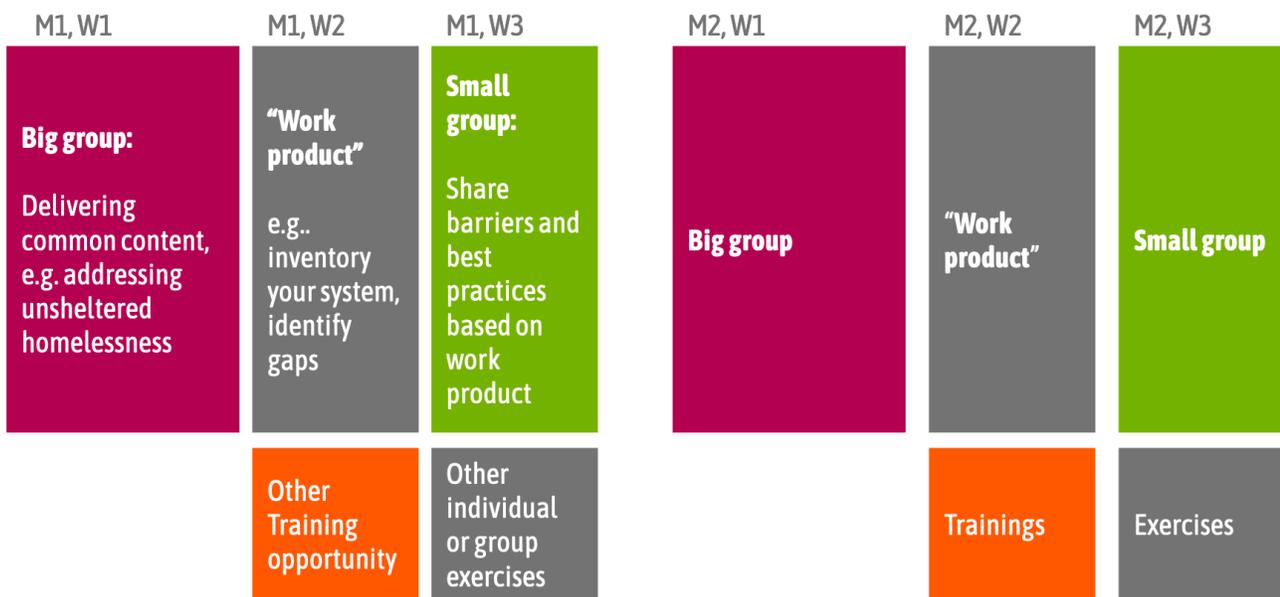
PRELIMINARIES

- Will Towne/ Spectrum: We are looking for a new location for our youth winter warming shelter. We have operated out of St. Joseph’s Cathedral Parish Hall but that cannot continue next year. Let us know if you have any ideas. We are looking for about 10 bed capacity.
- Lily Sojourner/ OEO: Eviction moratorium training today at 11:00.

BUILT FOR ZERO PRESENTATION

- ➔ Presentation by Emma Beers, Community Solutions
- The complete power point can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kMAqUjx0Mx7ewNUo4-vQW8QRP6LLFxPI7VCixZcuy7g/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Highlights from the PROGRAMMING SECTION** (which details future participation for Chittenden COC).

Action Cycle Programming



Time Commitment

Expect to spend about 3 hours / month on the phone with us, and 1-2 hours working on projects with your team.

Improvement team roles

- Improvement Lead
- Data Lead
- Sponsor/Senior Leaders
- Private-Public Funding lead
- Emergency Response Lead
- Key Improvers/Team Members

Who is likely filling those roles

CoC Representative / Key Leader: Person overseeing federal funding related to ending veteran and chronic homelessness

City or County Leader: Person who can wield the influence of a local government executive's office to generate convening power

Local measurement lead responsible for collecting and sharing data: Person with data administrator access and the ability to aggregate and report monthly system performance data

Priority!

These leaders matter most because they control key leverage points

People Overseeing Programs Specifically for Veterans

This may be (but isn't limited to):

VAMC Homeless Program Managers Person overseeing ending veteran homelessness for the medical center as well as VA funded programs.

HUD-VASH Program Manager Person overseeing the HUD-VASH Program for the Medical Center

VA Outreach/Social Workers First responders working directly w homeless vets

SSVF/GPD Program Operators Person overseeing the operation and use of SSFV and or GPD resources at a community based organization

Veteran Service Provider Representatives - Person critical to efforts to end homelessness because of the role they play in the community or the position they hold at a community based organization focused on ending veteran homelessness.

Housing Authority Representatives - Person that oversees the VASH Program from the local Housing Authority.

People Overseeing Programs Specifically for high-need/chronically homeless individuals

This may be (but isn't limited to):

Homeless Service Providers - Person that represents a local organization serving people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Street Outreach Program Administrators - Person that represents an organization leading outreach and engagement of people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing Providers - Person that represents an organization that operates a portfolio of permanent supportive housing units.

Housing Authority Representatives - Person that represents a local housing authority's voucher program that is preferred or specific to people experiencing homelessness.

HOUSING FUNDING UPDATE

Margaret Bozik/ CHT: **First, the GA Workgroup:** Motels are turning back to serving tourists which mean there will be a large drop in rooms available to us. In order to focus our efforts on the most vulnerable, the statewide GA Workgroup came up with a list of new rules that will be in effect until June of 2022. Thank you to Sean Brown in his work with the providers. The new rules include:

- They encompass larger groups (children under 7 will not be ineligible).
- 84 days will be the limit but with extensions will be available to families and people with disabilities.
- Self pay rules will be relaxed a bit.
- New rules will go into effect on July 1st for people currently in the motel system and June 1 for those not currently in the motel system.

A third of the people currently in motels will now be ineligible. That's a statewide estimate so it might be different for our area and just because people might be eligible that does not mean there will be rooms available for them.

In addition, the proposal to shift the GA program to a community based program will not begin to be worked through until the new GA rules are finalized.

Second, The American Rescue Act Funds. The governor, House and Senate all have very different ideas. The governor proposed 90 million from ARPA funds into a fast track for new housing for people exiting homelessness. The Senate said they didn't know if the pipeline is there to support that much money and they didn't know if they wanted single site, segregated housing. They felt mixed income would be preferable. Also waiting for Treasury guidance.

So they doubled the general fund appropriation for affordable housing to be blended with other capital sources like tax credits to produce a substantial amount of new affordable housing over the next 2 to 3 years probably with a set-aside of 25% for homeless households. And a small amount of ARPA money for new shelters and new emergency housing.

The House is in the middle. Feeling more flexible about the ARPA money.

The Governor said he'll veto the budget unless it has substantial ARPA money for new housing.

From our perspective, we're lining up a pipeline to be ready for whatever funding sources are finalized.

Third, the projects we're asking for your approval on. The legislature made an interim appropriation of general fund money to the VHCB for some immediate projects helping to serve people going through homelessness. **We have 3 applications in.**

- Application #1 is in 2 parts. It would immediately convert 20 units at Harbor Place into apartments for people exiting homelessness. The idea would be to add 40 additional tax credit units to that location over the next few years, tear down the single site buildings, build some affordable housing. Second part is to build a new 58 room motel.
- Application #2 would be to convert the Ho-Hum into 20 apartments for people going through homelessness. The timeline would be a little longer since those rooms are needed right now.
- Application #3 would be for something similar to Susan's Place. It would 76 apartments. The rents would be set around tax credit levels. Half the apartments would be reserved for people experiencing homelessness and the other half would be for the general population. People just can't find apartments period (per the recent Vermont Digger article).

We are asking for a vote to approve these applications.

Marcella Gange/ CEDO: Question about service dollars?

Margaret Bozik: I know there's money available for services but most of it will be time limited. The other item in play is to allow Medicaid to fund tenant supports. Also the state's Medicare plan needs to be submitted in June. Others may be able to speak to this issue.

Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: People are going to be leaving the Holiday Inn by the end of June. We talked to Lily about using our HI funds for campers, tents, other things. We are urgently trying to find space. And if we can get people direct cash payments this would be at least something.

- **VOTE:**
 - **MOTION: TO SUPPORT THE CHT APPLICATIONS**
 - **Seconded**
 - **ALL YES, except for one Abstention (Margaret)**
 - **MOTION PASSES**

HOP GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Paul Dragon/ CVOEO: We are planning on putting under the innovation section two outreach positions. It would be an extension of our housing advocate team. That's the only substantive change. We've had over 500 individuals come to our daytime warming shelter which is more than we imagined and we learned a lot there. We're not done with our budget yet.
- Rita Markley/ COTS: We are applying for our renewal for the Housing Resource Center. We may be seeking to extend our motel outreach positions but likely not out of this funding.
- BHA representative: We are asking for more this time around. We are looking for 4 FTEs: Two prevention retention, on RRH and one innovation position: landlord recruitment, liaison and housing search. We see the issue that people lose their vouchers because they can't find housing as a huge problem. Also applying to be a financial assist site.
- Will Towne/ Spectrum: We're renewing our dollar amount that funds our shelter and our transitional housing which we are going to be applying for as RRH this time around.
- Kevin Pounds/ ANEW Place: We're apply to fund the low barrier facility. The biggest change is the fact that it will be year round now.
- Nicole Kubon/ Steps: We'll be applying for RRH and prevention amounts and a larger amount for our new shelter.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: We will be renewing the same amount the last time which supports staffing.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: We'll be applying for additional RRH funds.

Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: The form you need to send me asks when you presented to the COC so I will list today as the day. Please get me those forms. Grant applications due May 20th so the 14th would be the date to get me your forms.

BITFOCUS OFFERED A PRESENTATION FOCUSED ON DATA MIGRATION

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: The BoS has voted to go with Bitfocus.
- The complete powerpoint presentation by Cameron Shorkey can be found on the CCHA website here: <http://www.cchavt.org/bitfocus-data-migration-presentation/>

VOTE:

- **MOTION TO ACCEPT BITFOCUS**
- **SECONDED**
- **4 Absentions**
- **MOTION PASSED**

SHELTER UPDATES:

- Kevin Pounds/ Anew Place: We're going to a year round low barrier shelter. We have vaccinations going on.
- Will Towne/ Spectrum: Our housing programs are full and we have a waitlist. We're working on vaccinations.
- Tammy Santamore/ COTS: Family shelter does have openings. We're also working on vaccinations. We're working on helping people make plans to exit the motels.
 - Kevin Pounds/ Anew Place: We have a few beds open at Anew Place just FYI.
- Paul Dragon/ CVOEO/ Holiday Inn: We're doing a lot of transition planning. Numbers are steadily decreasing. Our biggest fear is that folks are going to wait until the very end. Daytime warming shelter is closed. Feeding Chittenden brought hot meals every day which has been amazing.

SEARS PLACE SITE

- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: Lacey Smith has been working really hard to help clean up the Sears Place site. We have been making sure there are port-o-potties. It fluctuates between 10 and 20 people right now on any given day.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: Coordinated Entry is working on rolling out the "Consumer Survey."

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: You can find a PIT COUNT REPORT on the CCHA website here: <http://www.cchavt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-Chittenden-PIT-Presentation.pdf>

Next Meeting: June 3, 2021

cchavt.org