

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 2019, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Attendees:

- Chris Brzovic, **CCHA/CVOEO**
- Stephanie Smith, **STEPS to End Domestic Violence**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Steve Lunna, **SSA@UVM**
- Linda Amate, **CVOEO**
- Caitlin Ettenborough, **ICA**
- Elaine Soto, **HC**
- Tameila Thygesen, **Veterans Inc.**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Erin Ahearn, **CHCB/ Safe Harbor**
- Renada Walters, **Veterans Inc.**
- Will Towne, **SPECTRUM**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Erica Da Costa, **CCHA**

A DISCUSSION PROPOSED VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT CHANGES

- Chris Brzovic brought in a list of proposed changes. After discussion, the final changes are listed below the discussion **in yellow (not verbatim but close)** alongside the original/previous version of the question in the SINGLES V.A.
- Stephen Marshall noted that since the HUD definition of unsheltered does not always reflect the reality, that we should collect both definitions of “unsheltered.” People in a motel, for example, are considered “sheltered.” Let’s consider having 2 sheltered categories on the form.
- ICA responded that we can add questions to the HMIS report, but we can’t take any away, so, yes, we can add something to capture this.
 - Let’s recommend this.
 - Who will formulate the data element question about this?
 - HMIS will check on what Balance of State asks.
- Just for everyone’s information, SSVF will be rolling out a program (Rapid Resolution) for people who are NOT going through Coordinated Entry.
- Perhaps we should create a separate assessment in the future for people who are less vulnerable (couch surfing).

AS IT EXISTS

I. Where do you sleep most frequently? (Check one.)

Housed/Couch-Surfing Self-Pay Hotel

- Shelters Transitional Housing Safe Haven
 Outdoors **Other (specify):** **Refused**

REVISION: “safe haven” is eliminated (it’s a HUD category) and “self-pay” is eliminated since it’s irrelevant for our purposes

AS IT EXISTS

4. In the past six months, how many times have you...

f) Stayed one or more nights in a holding cell, jail or prison, whether that was a short-term stay like the drunk tank, a longer stay for a more serious offense, or anything in between?

REVISION: “Stayed one or more nights in a prison or jail, regardless of charges.”

AS IT EXISTS

5. Have you been attacked or beaten up since you’ve become homeless?

REVISION: “Have you been physically attacked or beaten up since you’ve become homeless?”

AS IT EXISTS

9. Do you ever do any of the following: exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, share a needle, or anything that you might consider to be risky?

REVISION: “Do you ever do anything that you or others consider risky including: exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, or share a needle?”

AS IT EXISTS

11. Do you have any income from a job, under the table work, a pension, inheritance, government benefits, or any other sources?

REVISION: add: “excluding general assistance/GA?” since this might be interpreted as “government benefits.”

AS IT EXISTS

12. Do you have any planned activities, other than just surviving, that make you feel happy and fulfilled?

REVISION: “Do you engage in any activities or hobbies that currently engage in – other than meeting your basic needs – that make you feel happy?”

AS IT EXISTS

14. Do you think that conflict with family or friends, a relationship breakdown, or an unhealthy or abusive relationship may have led to your eviction or current homelessness in any way?

REVISION: “Do you think that conflict with family, friends, a breakup or an unhealthy or abusive partner relationship, may have led to your homelessness?”

AS IT EXISTS

17. If there was space available in a program that specifically assists people that live with HIV or AIDS, would that be of interest to you?

REVISION: “Have you ever been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS?”

AS IT EXISTS

20. *FOR ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH RESPONDENTS ONLY:*
Are you currently pregnant?

REVISION: [remove “FOR ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH RESPONDENTS ONLY”]

AS IT EXISTS

21. If you drink or use drugs, has your drinking or drug use led to your being kicked out of an apartment or program where you were staying in the past?
22. Will drinking or drug use make it difficult for you to stay housed or afford your housing?

REVISION: replace with the four following questions PLUS observation:

- “Have you ever had problems with drug or alcohol use, have you abused drugs or alcohol or been told that you do?”
 - “Have you ever used injection drugs or shots in the last six months?”
 - “Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol problems and returned to drinking or using drugs?”
 - “Have you blacked out because of alcohol or drug use in the past month?”
 - **OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms or problematic alcohol or drug use?”
-

AS IT EXISTS

23. Have you ever had trouble maintaining your housing, or been kicked out of an apartment, shelter program, or other place you were staying because of:
- a) A mental health issue or concern?
- b) A past head injury?
- c) A learning disability, developmental disability, or other impairment?
24. Do you have any mental health issues, cognitive impairments, or brain injuries that would make it hard for you to live independently because you’d need help?

REVISION: Replace with the following:

- “Have you ever been taken to a hospital against your will for a mental health reason?”

- “Have you ever gone to the emergency room because they weren’t feeling 100% well emotionally or because of their nerves? “
- “Have you been diagnosed with any of the following mental health conditions:
 - [Add list here TBD: The major conditions and a fill-in.]”
- “Have you had a serious brain injury or head trauma?”
- “Have you ever been told they have a learning disability or developmental disability?”
- “Do you have any problems concentrating and/or remembering things?”
- “OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK: Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms of severe, persistent mental illness or severely compromised cognitive functioning?”

AS IT EXISTS

26. *YES or NO*: Has your current period of homelessness been Yes No Refused caused by an experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse, or by any other trauma you have experienced?

REVISION: Remove “YES or NO” and remove “current period of.”

CONSUMER CARD UPDATE

- There have been some disagreements from front-line staff about the utility of the 2 cards.
- Their use is not mandated.
- These two cards – one indicates “Navigator Assessment Pending” – and one indicates “Navigator Assigned” – are intended to help the client themselves know that they’ve been assessed. They are intentionally distinct from business cards. They will be more easily identifiable to contacts at access hubs (like CHCB) and hopefully will help prevent duplicate paperwork.
- Front-line staff notes that one problem that has arisen is that clients think the cards indicate guaranteed housing.
- CVOEO will give them out on a “trial basis.”

NEXT MEETING: May 22

Please go to cchavt.org to find the minutes archive.