

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Coordinated Entry Meeting, 8:30 AM June 24, 2020

Online meeting

ATTENDEES:

DRAFT

- Thomas Moore, **UVM**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Emily Taylor, **CHT**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF@UVM**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Nicole Kubon, **STEPS**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Linda Amante, **CVOEO**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Kira Kilburn (**sp?**), **Steps**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Audrey, **Community Health Team Social Worker**

PRELIMINARIES

- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: CHT put in an application to purchase 3 hotels, two of which would eventually become 100 new apartments and one would be a new shelter. We're waiting to hear from the VHCB.

Update on the GA Emergency Motel Process led by Chris Brzovic

- By last count (and it shifts daily), there are 95 new assessments completed (this is a slight undercount) which leaves us with about 188 in Coordinated Entry. We're still still right around 400 total guests.
- ESD is changing their rules and are now requiring everyone to be re-authorized every two weeks to stay in the motels. They are also now required to connect with services. We have been feeling the crunch.
- There are a lot of staff going to the motels to do assessments and COTS will be hiring new staff for this purpose.
- We're behind on assessments but we're going as fast as we can. ESD needs to be made aware that the guests are in fact connecting with us but we don't have capacity right now.

- In addition, while we can connect them to the system, we do not have the service capacity at this time. Hopefully the new housing navigators at COTS will be able to help with this.
- Lacey Smith/ ESD: Because of the the required renewals every 2 weeks, there is a very short window for doing actual housing navigation. I only am able to meet with them 3 or 4 times during that window to do housing navigation. All other effort is put toward getting renewals.
- Audrey/ Steps: Thank you to Lacey and and we also want to let the the community health team workers know that we can help with follow up calls and making sure they're connecting with referrals.
- Nicole Kubon/ Steps: We have a confidentiality challenge. We might consider asking guests, "Are you working with Steps or would you benefit from working with Steps? If so, here is Steps' hotline." I'm noticing that there is some duplication on the list because of the confidentiality issues. You can also reach out to Kira to help bridge that connection with people.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: It sounds like the only entity that has complete information about everyone who's been in motels in Chittenden is ESD. Is that correct?
 - Chris Brzovic: Yes but they shared it with Coordinated Entry.
 - Margaret Bozik: It would be very helpful to be able to say, Since the crisis hit, here are the people in motels because they didn't have housing and here is a profile of the population.
 - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: I have been keeping a full list of everyone who's ever been in motels. We have a very small number of families. 30 at most.
 - Nicole Kubon/ Steps: I think ESD would be able to provide this information as well.
- Chris Brzovic: It's hard to get ahead of this because we are overwhelmed with crisis management and it's impossible to think long term about where Coordinated Entry is and is going.
- Stephen Marshall/ Lived Experience: We have the most realistic estimate of the number of people who are homeless that we've ever had. I wonder if this new data will capture the number of people who are couch surfing?
 - Chris Brzovic: We are collecting that data, yes.

Discussion of Prioritization

- Chris Brzovic: We've been discussing instituting a formal Veterans prioritization. We're so close to functional zero for Veterans that we'd like to move that over the line.
- Steve Lunna/ SSVF @ UVM: In line with our goal to reach functional zero, we've sent in an application to USICH. We'll see if it's approved.
 - We don't want to take resources away from others because our folks do usually need one bedrooms and I know there's limited availability.
- Chris Brzovic: At CHR, We've done a lot of work moving through our phase 3 list. Almost everyone on that list who's eligible for a NED has been referred for a NED at this point. If you're not eligible, it becomes much trickier. As long as Veterans are moving through to phase 3, a formal prioritization for Veterans wouldn't change much. However, one-bedrooms are scarce so does this mean a prioritization for units as well?

- Steve Lunna: Prior to Covid, we were at 6 Veterans. After Covid, we're at about 10. So we're not talking big numbers.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: How many of these are connected with SSVF?
 - Of the 6 in our last update, 4 were with SSVF and 2 with the VA.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: Can we have a refresher on permanent subsidy status? If people only have temporary subsidy, that becomes more of something to be concerned about.
 - Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: We provide limited financial assistance available based on month-to-month income of the client. The benefit of the SSVF program is that there are a lot of resources available to Veterans that are not necessarily available to the rest of the population.
- Chris Brzovic: We are doing ongoing Veterans case conferencing in CHR.

Discussion of Families in Motels

- Chris Brzovic: The percentage of families in the motels is very low. Right now it's about 10. AHS has a push to end family homelessness, in part by using VRS (Vermont Rental Subsidy—a time limited subsidy) which I have concerns about. I feel we should work toward connecting families with more sustainable solutions in terms of ongoing permanent subsidy.
- Margaret Bozik: I agree. Can we get a picture of how many families are going to need light support versus more intensive long term supports with maybe three categories of support?
 - Are there any vacancies in the family supportive housing right now?
 - Lindsay Mesa: I've heard there are not, but this is not confirmed.
 - Chris Brzovic: All our families are connected to Reach Up.

The Work of Coordinated Entry Going Forward

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: Right now, we're just doing crisis management. Stephanie and I are also working on and scheduling a comprehensive training of all of our processes for late August or September. But we need to review our Coordinated Entry policies in the near future. And we need to think about a variety of issues, for example, clients who are unable to move forward through the phases. The open question here is, where would you like to see us focus our work moving forward?
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: A gaps analysis would be very helpful.
 - Chris Brzovic: The big one that comes to mind right now are chronically homeless single adults who need PSH but are low on vulnerability scale such that we don't have the ability to refer them to PSH. I could bring reports from CHR to this committee and we could discuss this group together to work toward filling these gaps.
 - Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: Pathways has service openings in Chittenden County if we could address the subsidy component.
 - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: There are multiple people on this list who aren't eligible for mainstream resources and the discussion around not continuing the grant at BHA has been a serious worry because people seem to think that this is not a population that exists in Chittenden and it definitely is.

- Margaret Bozik: It would be great to address it in this way: We have these numbers of people in Chittenden County, this is what they need and this is what is standing in the way. Also, it would be helpful to get to quality data status on the BFZ dashboard.
- Thomas Moore/ UVMMC: It's also important to keep thinking about how medically complex people fit into coordinated entry.
- Chris Brzovic: We are also going to need an annual evaluation this year. We should probably set up a working group around this. I cannot personally be involved but members of the C.E. committee can be. There is also very limited guidance available from HUD. I can share the HUD guidance.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: It might make sense to start by demonstrating what with did with the evaluation that Greg Hessel did last year and then also looking at what BoS is doing and at what some of the evaluation models are at BFZ.
- Group Consensus: Let's do this evaluation during this meeting time — in other words, this work will take place during the regular C.E. Committee meeting times instead of carving out a new time meeting time.

FINAL ITEMS

- Margaret Bozik: If we have a large number of new housing units that come online, let's plan for how to fill the new apartments from the master list and ask whether the current prioritization plan is the best way to do that.

Next Meeting: July 22

Please go to cchavt.org to find meeting dates, events, CCHA forms, etc.