

# Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Coordinated Entry Meeting, 8:30 AM July 22, 2020

Online meeting

ATTENDEES:

- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Elizabeth Kanard, **Safe Harbor/ CHCB**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Josie Curtin, **CHT**
- Sarah Phillips, **OEO**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Lily Sojourner, **OEO**
- Elaine Soto, **HC**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Madeleine Doggett, **COTS**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Patricia McKittrick
- Adam Frownie, **Safe Recovery**
- Mike Ohler, **CHT**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Tammy Santamore, **COTS**
- Alison Harte, **Pathways**
- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Jason Brill, **V.A.**

**DRAFT**

Send corrections to  
[edacosta@vhfa.org](mailto:edacosta@vhfa.org)

- **Unless quote marks are used, all speech is paraphrased.**

## A Discussion of New ESG CARES RRH Prioritization

- Sarah Phillips/ OEO: What we've proposed — and what the Coalition to End Homelessness is moving forward with — is that you use your current RRH prioritization but move families to TIER ONE and for TIER TWO you move to the top people who are 65 or older or have chronic conditions and then the remainder remains the same. RRH, like VRS (Vermont Rental Subsidy), are successful when households graduate from time limited subsidy because

they become self-sustaining by increasing income or they go to a permanent housing voucher.

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: Our sustainability assessment is geared toward gleaning people who are medium and high sustainability for purposes of RRH. (Our sustainability assessment is due for a revision.)
  - As of a few days ago we have **406 households** on our master list.
    - Tier 1: **35 families** — and there are some very high needs families included
    - Tier 2: **111 individuals, 17 are elderly** — among the elderly, 7 have high service needs, 7 report substance use issues as well as chronic health conditions.
    - **94 total non-elderly with chronic health conditions.** 50 of the non-elderly are chronically homeless and 39 of the non-chronically homeless are tri-morbid. And PSH is the level of intervention we need for these households.
      - Only 11 of these don't have some level of high needs.
    - We want to do this in a way that is thoughtful. We don't want these households to cycle back into homeless.
- Sarah Phillips/ OEO: Looking at Tier 2 according to RRH prioritization — the top of that list are going to be medium to high sustainability to begin with. Using RRH as a bridge subsidy to a longer term housing voucher, including PSH, is a practice that HUD does promote and we do it in other programs and we have examples of doing that successfully. UVM-SSVF is an example of that. What would we need to do to be able to do that? We also want to know how to put these vouchers into place as quickly as possible.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: What's going to happen to Shelter+Care in Chittenden is a conversation we've been having recently. All of our Shelter+Care right now are "Dedicated Plus," which means we are required to prioritize all our Shelter+Care resources for people who are exiting chronic homelessness. And those enrolled in RRH can keep their chronic status as long as they were documented as chronic prior to enrollment. People could theoretically access this resource and still be eligible for Shelter+Care.
- Adam Frownie/ Safe Recovery: Our partnership with BHA and WHA [audio dropped].... to have this be a bridge to an agreed upon subsidy in the future [audio dropped]....The unknown after the VRS ends is challenging. It's hard to support clients toward sustainability in one year's time. It takes more than a year for most folks to get to sustainability. [audio dropped]....
- Chris Brzovic: My proposal for a slight modification. If we were to look for medium and high sustainability households first in Tiers 1 and 2, which are not many, we would miss some households that would really be able to achieve sustainability in a year. This would also reduce the number of households in Tier 3 who have been trying hard to become sustainable and find options. We now have roughly 20 households that are medium and high sustainability who are not in Tiers 2 or 3. So they would essentially be left out if we adopted

this new prioritization. After using the available vouchers for Tier 1, we would have about 35 vouchers remaining for the hyper vulnerable in Tier 2 and the remaining Tiers.

- Sarah Phillips: It's very important to our leadership that families be prioritized first. I think this prioritization achieves your goal, Chris.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: Thinking about our primary goal with this additional funding. I wonder if our intention is to keep our pre-Covid community identified goals or is it to keep people safe who are more vulnerable to Covid? I'm very cautious of using the wrong resource and have people end up without PSH. But maybe the goal has shifted.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: Sarah, I think flipping Tier 1 and Tier 2 would be fine because we'll still be serving both groups. I do think this makes a lot more sense to not target this resource to people who need a lot of service support because we just don't have it. BHA has committed to providing up to 30 vouchers for permanent housing opportunities. I don't know if they have bridge subsidy to provide at the end of the VRS. Though it's possible they have some FUVs. Also VSHA said originally that they would come in on the end of where subsidy was needed and then they said that they were not going to be providing any subsidy to Chittenden County. They have since backed off of this a bit. We do need to understand if the state housing authority is going to be a resource at the end of VRS in Chittenden County.
  - Sarah Phillips: Yes, VSHA is willing to be in Chittenden County and they also want to see the Chittenden housing authorities step up. Also, just to clarify, people are able to transition off the subsidy after 9 months of successful tenancy.
- Alison Harte/ Pathways: "What about Rapid Resolution funding for those who are considered good candidates for RRH? They could get rental assistance + 12 months of VRS - right Sarah?"
  - Chris Brzovic: We would consider that where appropriate, but it's very short term. In terms of a move-on to VRS, are there additional vouchers through VRS?
    - Sarah Phillips: The Rapid Resolution funds (the shorter term assistance) will end at the end of December and wouldn't have a move-on preference. For people who don't need a year-long voucher, they might benefit. Also we have carved out ESG funds to be able to provide housing retention for 18 months. Our goal would be that Chittenden would see enough new service providers to carry a caseload of 1 to 20. These services would be available to all households who have a voucher.
- Margaret Bozik: What is our current capacity for serving people who would normally be served in PSH? Enough for 35 households?
  - Lindsay Mesa: No, we can't serve 35 households with current capacity. Right now we have 4 more openings in Chittenden County.
    - Margaret Bozik: I think we want to be very careful about serving people with staff who may not be experienced with this population and who may not be permanent because relationship building is crucial for this group.
      - Lindsay Mesa: I would agree.

- Sarah Phillips: ESG can only be used for RRH. But the individual service funds for a household can be more intensive, home-based. I don't think the highest need households are going to rise to the top of the list with this new prioritization. Regarding the language of the proposed new prioritization, "Can I suggest "households whose situations are medium/ high sustainability" vs. sustainable households."
- **VOTE TO RECOMMEND THE CURRENT PROPOSAL FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO VOTE ON**
  - **MOTION**
  - **SECONDED**
  - **1 Abstention from Stephen Marshall**
  - **0 No votes**

## **A Discussion of Prioritization for upcoming CHT units**

- Josie Curtin/ CHT: We have a great opportunity to have 68 new apartments, possibly in October: 51 one-bedrooms and 17 two-bedrooms. And BHA will provide up to 30 vouchers. We're still working on getting more vouchers possibly from VSHA. We'll be working through the C.E. process to get those apartments filled and they need to be filled by the end of the year. We'll have space for meeting rooms. We'll have a resident services provider that we are staffing. It's local and it's on a bus route.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: The idea is that over time people would be able to transfer to other apartments if they choose to do that so that we don't have permanently 68 high needs residents all in the same place.
  - We're considering potentially modifying our priorities because we know that we don't have service capacity to serve 68 high needs households. And we also need to fill these units very quickly.
- Chris Brzovic: The way we currently run our referral process to the CHT units involves making sure that it's from a pool of people who have subsidy or can afford the rent. We have RRH clients, SSVF clients, people who are getting a NED or other vouchers. This limits the pool of people in the cue. So as people get subsidy, they'll be added to the cue for these units. Within that sub-list, we use our conventional prioritization process. That's how we do it now.
- Jason Brill/ V.A.: We're very close to ending Veteran homelessness in Chittenden County. We were wondering what it would look like to include a Veteran prioritization.
  - Chris Brzovic: Particularly in the context of these CHT units.

- Margaret Bozik: We can place potentially 17 families in two bedrooms but we would want to know that there was some kind of permanent subsidy at the end of the temporary RRH subsidy. In terms of the one bedrooms, assuming mostly single adults, will we start with RRH high sustainability single adults (to the degree that there are many of these)? And is there enough service capacity for both groups?
- Sarah Phillips/ OEO: I'm definitely willing to work with CHT and BHA to try to get a hard and firm commitment for move-on vouchers.
  - Margaret Bozik: Great. We'll need a commitment from VSHA as well.
- Josie Curtin/ CHT: As soon as we get word that we have funding, Mike can start sending Chris the number of units we have and we'll work through our normal process.
- Chris Brzovic: Because we're going to be limited to people who have vouchers, I'm not sure we need to do a lot of prioritization work here.
  - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: The people we're proposing in the Tier 2 proposal — medium and high sustainability — would be relatively low needs so we could say we would prioritize them for this.
    - Margaret Bozik: Yes, that works well with our desire to have more mixed levels of need.
      - Chris Brzovic: That's about 20 individuals with lower needs, which would leave about 45 or so that have medium and high level of needs.
        - Jason Brill: Regarding the group that Stephanie just mentioned, if SSVF clients could also be included in consideration.
          - Mike Ohler/CHT: Yes, I've already been having conversations with SSVF. Also we plan to have an on-site service provider in place before people move in.
- Chris Brzovic: How are we going to prioritize for the BHA vouchers?
  - Margaret Bozik: I don't know that BHA is going to have all 30 vouchers available in October. So let's loop BHA into the conversation.

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**NEXT MEETING: August 26**

**Go to [chavt.org](http://chavt.org) to find a minutes archive, meeting dates, etc.**