

# Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

## Coordinated Entry Meeting, October 28, 2020, 8:30 AM Online meeting

### ATTENDEES:

- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Emily Taylor, **CHT**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Thomas Moore, **UVM**
- Elizabeth Kannard, **Safe Harbor**
- Ciara Kilburn, **Steps**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF @ UVM**
- Christina Brown, **Spectrum**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard**
- Linda Amante, **CVOEO**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Leia Falco
- Mike Ohler, **CHT**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Svetlana Zhexembeyeva, **BHA**

**DRAFT**

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

### PRELIMINARIES

- Will Towne/ SPECTRUM: We will soon open the warming shelter with a capacity of seven (normally higher, but this number submits to Covid restrictions).
- Stephen Marshall: HUD requires a PIT Count. Our first PIT Count planning meeting is today.

### DISCUSSION ABOUT CARES VOUCHERS PARTICIPANTS FOR FUTURE REFERRALS (since CARES VOUCHERS are time-limited to a year)

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: Right now we have **587 households** on our master-list. (We haven't had the time to do an inactive check so this number may be slightly high.) We have **203 chronic households, 26 veterans, and 57 families**. We have 400 households in ESD motels. We're continuing to see high numbers.
  - **Updates on Susan's Place:** To date for the subsidized units, with BHA subsidies, we've made a total of 34 referrals, 6 were withdrawn or ineligible, so now we have a total of 28 who are good to go. We've never made this number of referrals before in such a short time. Eventually we'll do a debrief about the process.
  - We've made one referral for a 2-bedroom (a family), projected placement/opening on Nov. 15th.
- Mike Ohler/ CHT: And 6 had pre-existing HCVs.
- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: For the second wave (unsubsidized units and VHSA project based units), we'd like to know what the project based nature is of the subsidies and whether we're going to be limited to referring people from the CARES/ RRH programs, using those as a bridge to permanent subsidies.
  - Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We will have 14 project based units. Those units will be permanently dedicated to formerly homeless households. There will be some 2-bedrooms, but we're not sure about the mix right now. The project based units will be NEDs.
- Emily Taylor/ CHT: Question about the CARES vouchers. If someone is on the unit cue with a CARES voucher, if they're referred to a project-based unit, can that CARES voucher be "recycled," so to speak, to someone else?
  - Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: It depends on the timing. Because of the hard stop date of March 22nd for the CARES vouchers, it depends on when households get leased up. There's also potential for the state to change the guidance for how they're administering the vouchers.
- Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: If you're pulling from the unit cue, they might have only done the CARES voucher application but no other application. They might not have necessary documents. They might have a lot of barriers. We might have to skip over some people.
  - Chris Brzovic: I'm not sure. Maybe it's as simple as going back to our broader phase 3 list once we run through everyone else (on the modified prioritization) who is ready. Stephanie and I will work through some of the logistics and we'll bring these questions back to the next C.E. meeting in November.

## CHRC UPDATES

- Chris Brzovic: We've only had time to work on Susan's Place and CARES vouchers program. It's been all consuming. We've made our referrals to Susan's Place. And we've made our 95 referrals (90 plus 5 backups) to the CARES voucher program. On actual applications, we're slightly behind but there will be a flurry of applications this week.

- There's a new Cathedral Square project, **Juniper House**, which they're taking 7 referrals from C.E. for homeless households. Lease ups will be for February 1st.
- With CHT and their Rental Rehab program (CARES funded), my understanding is that they're going to be accepting 3 applications per unit. CARES deadline is in December to have the units up to code, so we're not really sure how many units we're going to see. Potentially 16 units from throughout the county. The majority are going to go to families. There is, as it appears now, only one 1-bedroom.
  - Margaret Bozik: It's possible there may be more than 16 units throughout Chittenden County. Possibly as many as 32 units.

## **CARES VOUCHERS PARTICIPANTS IN COORDINATED ENTRY**

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We have identified 4 households that are document ready and Pathways says they are able to take 2 referrals. The other two are being referred to CARES and the question here now is what's the plan when the vouchers lapse. They will maintain their eligibility for PSH so we can hopefully use the CARES vouchers as a bridge and then move them to PSH after a year. But we don't have a policy around this yet. I want to visit this issue now.
  - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: One of the households is ineligible for mainstream resources and therefore would be homeless after a year without PSH.
- Chris Brzovic: The policy might be that they would maintain their position on the priority list even though they have been placed in housing with CARES or RRH. They stay on the list even after placement and after being exited from C.E.. This is one suggestion but there are other ways of doing it.
  - Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: If someone was in a lease agreement with RRH and they came up for PSH, it wouldn't be that hard. But if they came up for a project based unit at another location then questions would arise about their lease agreement and if they could get out of it. Or if they even wanted to go to a new location.
- Svetlana Zhexembeyeva/ BHA: Out of this 95 referrals to the CARES program, do you have any people on SSI or SSDI? It could be concerning that they would not be able to increase income.
  - Chris Brzovic: Yes, this is a larger issue.
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- Lindsay Mesa: It sounds like our options are to amend our policy so people don't get pulled off the master-list. Or periodically pull a report of people who were taken off the master-list.
- Margaret Bozik: Under HUD rules, are people in RRH programs eligible for PSH and other permanent subsidy?
  - Chris Brzovic & Lindsay Mesa: Yes.
    - Margaret Bozik: I think it makes sense to amend our policy. Let's have a vote today so we can put it to our Steering Committee.

- Svetlana Zhexembeyeva/ BHA: Is there any data that could be pulled from HMIS about about how clients who were chronic (or needed PSH), but are placed in RRH, end up returning to homelessness?
  - Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: I think we can do something like that. It has been increasingly difficult to deal with those people supporting our Servicepoint (the HMIS software), just FYI. If we switch to a new HMIS software, this may become easier.
- Jason Brill/ VA: If we move forward with this proposal, how does this implicate the list? I'm concerned that we will have people on the list who are not homeless.
  - Chris Brzovic: I think it's best to exit them from HMIS and then just manually keep them on the PSH list.
    - **VOTE** on the following [which Chris sent out in its final form after the meeting but during the meeting it was roughly the same. See the final form below]:

**"The CE committee recommends the following amendment to the CE-PSH prioritization policy:**

Proposed CE-PSH Policy Amendment

Purpose: To use Rapid Rehousing assistance as a bridge to Permanent Supportive Housing when necessary.

Policy: Households that are prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) assistance and also referred to Rapid Rehousing (RRH) assistance will maintain their prioritization status for PSH upon entering a RRH program, and they will be considered for future PSH vacancies according to the standard PSH prioritization policy.

Implementation protocol: Households enrolled in a RRH program will be exited from Coordinated Entry in Service Point (HMIS) once they are housed, and they will be manually added to the PSH priority list to maintain their current priority status outside of HMIS."

**MOTION:** I'm going to move that we make this recommendation to the Steering Committee.

- ✓ **SECONDED.**
- ✓ **None opposed.**
- ✓ **None abstained.**

- Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: I think BHA said they were going to have a prioritization for these households.
  - Svetlana Zhexembeyeva/ BHA: I haven't heard about a commitment from BHA. But I'll talk to our team.
- Chris Brzovic: Lindsay, is there any discussion of a potential for a move-on preference for some of the CARES households to permanent subsidy with BHA or VSHA.
  - Lindsay Mesa: Nothing yet.

- Margaret Bozik: This might be a good item for the December Steering Committee meeting — that we recommend the housing authorities consider a move-on preference. And we might want to do it together with Balance of State because it's going to be a statewide issue.
- Svetlana Zhexembeyeva: It might be good to get the data on numbers of people on fixed income.
- Chris Brzovic: Maybe this could blend with a discussion about prevention. I'd like to look at other communities and what they're doing.
  - Marget Bozik: This prevention/ retention conversation has good timing because BHA does a have a planning grant from the hospital to work on that and working with them on this could position us to apply for an implementation grant from the hospital.
  - Chris Brzovic: Let's look at what Coordinated Entry prevention work looks like in other communities.
- Margaret Bozik: One item to start thinking about, not necessarily an agenda item quite yet: The state is going to pursue its goal of transitioning the motel program away from the state and to the communities by July 1st (seven months from now). This seems unrealistic. Assuming we need to move forward with conversations anyway, in a non-pandemic situation, what is the need beyond shelter-capacity. How many motel rooms would we need if shelters were functioning in a normal way?

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✳ **Next Meeting: November 18th (moved a week earlier than normal)**

✳ **The December meeting date will be moved to December 16th.**

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