

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Coordinated Entry Meeting, Dec 16, 2020, 8:30 AM

Online meeting

ATTENDEES:

- Stephanie Smith, **CVOEO**
- Svetlana Zhexembeyeva, **BHA**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF @ UVM**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Elizabeth Kannard, **Safe Harbor**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Sophia Senning, **COTS**
- Thomas Moore, **UVMCMC**
- Ciara Kilburn, **Steps**
- Emily Taylor, **CHT**
- Thomas Moore, **UVMCMC**
- Mike Ohler, **CHT**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Erica Da Costa, **CCHA**

DRAFT

Send corrections to
edacosta@vhfa.org

PRELIMINARIES

- Nicole Kubon/ Steps: Our goal is to have 19 households moved into our new shelter by the 30th. We are currently identifying people in the motel system. We do have a waitlist ongoing.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: The ground rules on the CARES ACT money are shifting under our feet and there's a lot of pressure to fill Susan's Place by Dec. 30th. Stephanie do you mind giving us an update on Susan's Place?
 - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: Regarding Susan's Place, we have referrals to fill every apartment.

A DISCUSSION OF DATA ON CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS & RETURNS

- Margaret Bozik/CHT: Do we have data on first time homeless versus returns to homelessness?

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: We can pull reports with this data but I will have to talk to my team about how to do it specifically for one provider (Chittenden Coordinated Entry).
 - Margaret Bozik: This would be a starting point to be able to assess the need and to help inform intervention. We want to know about people who return to homelessness who ARE engaged as well as those who return but are NOT engaged. It would also be nice to know about those who are precariously housed but I don't know of any data sources for this.
 - Does the Housing Review Team keep track of back rent assistance applications that were denied?
 - Yes, but it would only include people who have applied for assistance.
 - Margaret Bozik: Cares Act back rent assistance applications might provide some kind of picture if we could access this. Do we want to capture this in HMIS? Also what kind of assistance are available: financial, social supports but what are the gaps?
 - Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: One thing we see is people becoming disabled, their income goes down dramatically and they become homeless as a result.
 - Meghan Morrow Raftery: Are you looking for the cause of homelessness? We can reach out to our counterparts regarding using a survey in HMIS to determine causes of homelessness. I don't know if anyone else does such a survey, but I can check.
 - Stephanie Smith: I would want to get feedback from frontline people at the CHRC first.
 - Margaret Bozik: So perhaps Meghan could bring whatever she finds to the CHRC and then to this committee (Coordinated Entry) and then as a recommendation to the Steering Committee.
 - Linda Amante/ CVOEO: This will only capture one segment of the population. We should also include prevention. We anticipate a large increase in HOP requests to prevent people from becoming homeless. We do enter back rent assistance data into HMIS. So I think it would be important to include this group as well. Denials don't get captured in HMIS however. Though we do record it in our internal database.
 - Margaret Bozik: Should we capture the people who don't receive assistance in HMIS?
 - Sophia Senning/ COTS: We wouldn't have the capacity to enter denial data in HMIS.
 - Margaret: I think it might be useful to capture this data somehow. This would support our effort to go to the legislature and argue for an expansion of the back rent program. This data combined the **Vermont Legal Aid study** and a recent study published about return on investment when evictions are prevented (from a social impact perspective). **Here's a link to the study.**
 - Stephanie: Legal Aid might be a good place to look for this type of data.
 - Marcella Gange/ CEDO: We have a landlord's review body for when tenants leave property and aren't refunded a deposit and they might keep some of this type of data.
 - The landlord's association might keep some sort of data of this type as well.

- Margaret Bozik: It might be interesting to solicit landlords for being part of a group to help prevent turnover. The city used to convene an annual landlord's meeting. Maybe after the current crisis we could re-visit this.
 - Marcella Gange: I'll check back on that.
- Mike Ohler/ CHT: BHA used to co-sponsor a landlord dinner with CEDO and it was really effective. Each year we would focus on something different. It was very well attended.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery: We will pull a report that shows returns to homelessness due to Covid and shows racial disparities data. We wouldn't be able to see first time homelessness on this report, however. [the exact nature/contents of this upcoming report should be double checked with Meghan — it was hard to capture]
- Margaret Bozik: Would we be able to capture first time homelessness going forward?
 - Meghan Morrow Raftery: Possibly. I'll investigate.
- Margaret Bozik: Thomas, is there anything that you would find interesting or useful in terms of prevention or retention data?
 - Thomas Moore/ UVMC: I'll get back to you on that.
- Stephanie Smith/ CVOEO: **So we'll be looking for denial information from internal databases from CVOEO and COTS.**

NEXT MEETING: Jan 27, 2021

Please go to cchavt.org to find meeting minutes, upcoming dates, etc.