

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 28, 2021 8:30 - 10:00 AM, Gotomeeting

Attendees:

Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
Brian Barrows, **VA**
Ciara Kilburn, **Steps**
Deac Decarreau, **WHA**
Elizabeth Kannard, **Safe Harbor/ CHCB**
Emily Taylor, **CHT**
Jason Brill, **VA**
Linda Amante, **CVOEO**
Louise Masterson, **ICA**
Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
Margaret Bozi, **CHT**
Sofia Senning, **COTS**
Stephen Lunna, **SSVF @ UVM**
Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
Will Towne, **Spectrum**

DRAFT

please send corrections to
edacosta@vhfa.org

PRELIMINARIES

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: I'm leaving this position to go to graduate school in Philadelphia. Leaving some time in June. [Congrats Chris! Your departure is a big loss.]

DISCUSSION THE "CONSUMER SURVEY"

- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We got feedback from the CHRC on this. We're randomly selecting 100 households to offer this to — with incentives (\$25 gift card).
- Margaret/ CHT: This survey is coming close on the heels of the GA survey as well as ESD notifying people about the change of ESD rules. That's a lot for people to take in. We might want explain why this survey is different and what the benefit of answering it would be.
- Marcella/ CEDO: Have we double checked with anyone regarding the gender identity question?
 - Chris Brzovic: We'll do that.
- Stephen Marshall: Regarding the questions about Covid impacts, I just want to encourage a reduction in redundancy. I also don't feel respondents will be able to accurately assess whether they lost their job due to the pandemic or not.
- Marcella/ CEDO: We do want to know what the impact of the pandemic was on the employment and housing.
- Regarding the question about discrimination, perhaps we can use a slightly more person-centered language.
- Chris Brzovic: This might be the beginning of an iterative process, depending on how it goes.

Here is the finalized version completed after this discussion.

DISCUSSION OF BEACON APARTMENTS

- Chris Brzovic: We've been working with CHRC to identify referrals, but technically in the MOU, Coordinated Entry doesn't figure into this. We've been talking about where C.E. fits in and how to prioritize. And what to do if there's no subsidy attached. So the question here is how does Beacon Apartments fit into the CHRC process, the referral process and how do we prioritize for this property?
- Elizabeth Kannard/ Safe Harbor: How it's working now is that CHRC is making the referrals and then we are introducing each prospective tenant to Alison Boyle who is the on-site case manager. Out of the last 4 referrals, 2 people said they wanted to live there (and 2 didn't) and so those 2 applied through CHT. This seems to be working well. We don't pay too much attention to what kind of subsidy they have or even if they have one. We just treat everyone as if they are PSH.
- Margaret Bozik/ CHT: We are noticing that it's taking a lot of time to fill these units which is frustrating because apartments are sitting empty so anything we can do to speed up this process would be great.
- Chris Brzovic: If there is a way we can attach some kind of subsidy in CHRC, then it opens up a different population we can refer to Beacon. If we're relying on people who have subsidy already, it's limiting our options for referrals. Should we be pursuing subsidy for these units?
- Margaret Bozik: We could ask about project-basing some NEDS (this was done at Susan's Place). Historically some tenants have been served by NEDS which is a good option because they can take the subsidy with them if they leave. So it might make sense to raise this issue with BHA. Maybe you **(Chris) and Elizabeth and Mike could be part of a discussion with BHA about this. [Marcella Gange and Jason Brill also expressed interest. Liz was also suggested.]**
- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: If CEDO is going to be taking over the administration of the four PSH grants, what is the issue with siting people under those PSH vouchers?
 - Elizabeth Kannard: In recent history, because of the difficulties administering the PSH grants, it was easier to get people NEDS vouchers.
- Margaret Bozik: Currently the PSH resource gets wasted.
- Jason Brill/ VA: I would like to participate in a discussion about this as well, thinking about how to possibly dedicating a unit to HUD VASH.

CHAT BOX

9:30 AM

Brian Barrows to Everyone

Shelter Plus Care, as in the Howard Program?

9:31 AM

Margaret Bozik to Everyone

Howard doesn't participate in Shelter Plus Care anymore, they use Department of Mental Health vouchers, NEDS and others. they withdrew from SPC because of the admin burden.

9:32 AM

Brian Barrows to Everyone

Thank you for answering...I did work with that program frequently in a previous position, thank you for the knowledge!

9:33 AM

Margaret Bozik to Everyone

VASH clients would be great, Jason!

9:34 AM

Jason Brill to Everyone

Thanks...feel free to just reach out and let me know what a next step might be to think about dedicated VASH to Beacon

9:40 AM

Louise Masterson to Everyone

Hi all - ICA is happy to have conversations about this also. If there are dedicated beds, we would need to figure out how that gets reported. Along with if units are going to have certain types of funding.

9:48 AM

Linda Amante to Everyone

I'd like to get clarification from ESD - I have heard some discussion on radio news about eligibility, but I'd like to see it in print from ESD/OEO and or the State of VT

- Chris Brzovic: In the meantime we'll just continue making referrals through C.E. for those who have subsidy.

FUTURE C.E MEETINGS

- Chris Brzovic: Two discussions that will need to be had in the near or medium future: a prevention and retention discussion and the re-structuring of Economic Services.
- Margaret Bozik: Reviewing the C.E. list to see who is going to lose motel eligibility is work that needs to be done. So we can identify the guests who need help with exiting the motels.
 - Chris Brzovic: I think that work will live in the CHRC meetings. I know that those discussions are already happening internally at various sites.
 - Marcella Gange: Is each motel being serviced by one specific agency right now?
 - Sophia Senning/ COTS: There's a lot of crossover. Most of the motels are being serviced by multiple agencies.
 - Jason Brill/VA: Would ICA be able to help with is?
 - Margaret Bozik: We don't capture every piece of information needed for this purpose, so for example, if someone is pregnant.

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2021

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