

# Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)

Steering Committee Meeting, April 1, 2021, 9AM

Online meeting

## ATTENDEES:

- Travis Poulin, **CVOEO**
- Jane Helmstetter, **AHS**
- Tracey Sweeney, **VA**
- Bill Schrecker, **VHFA**
- Chelsea Alsofrom, **Pathways**
- Crystal Jones, **BHA**
- Emily Higgins, **DOC**
- Stephen Marshall, **Lived Experience**
- Heidi Sistare, **VA**
- Kathryn Michalovic
- Laura Zeliger, **BHA**
- Lindsay Mesa, **Pathways**
- Meghan Morrow Raftery, **ICA**
- Nicole Kubon, **Steps**
- Rita Markeley, **COTS**
- Amy Carmola, **UW NWVT**
- Chris Brzovic, **CVOEO**
- Elaine Soto, **Howard Center**
- Erin Armstrong, **UVMCMC**
- Jason Brill, **VA**
- Jennifer Hunter, **CS**
- Kevin Pounds, **Anew Place**
- Louise Masterson, **ICA**
- Stephen Lunna, **SSVF @ UVM**
- Lily Sojourner, **OEO**
- MaryEllen Mendl, **VT 2-1-1**
- Paul Dragon, **CVOEO**
- Sarah Russell, **CVOEO**
- Wanda Hines, **JUMP**
- Tammy Santamore, **COTS**
- Sean Thomas, **HUD**
- Will Towne, **Spectrum**
- Margaret Bozik, **CHT**
- Marcella Gange, **CEDO**
- Liz Whitmore, **BHA**
- Lacey Smith, **BPD**

**DRAFT**

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

## PRELIMINARIES

- Lily Sojourner/ OEO: VSHA is having a webinar on Tuesday about the Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- Amy Carmola/ United Ways: A 30K grant was made to CCHA. We are making a similar grant to the Franklin Grand Isle Housing Review team.
- Marcella Gange/ CEDO: We have a ventilation improvement grant **posted on our site**. It's up to 10k.
- Emily Higgins/ DOC: We're now reviewing transitional housing applications.
- Tracey Sweeney/ VA: We're looking to expand our transitional housing program for, in particular: 1. Chronic mentally ill 2. Elders 3. families, 4. Someone 5. Terminally ill. Stipulations include: you must apply for at least 5 beds and you cannot mix the populations in your numbers. We pay for a per diem for the case management. Collaborations are welcome. It cannot be congregate living.

## DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN CCHA GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

- You can view the **proposed edits here**.
- The Ad-hoc DEI committee would like to share this link with the Steering Committee; it outlines specific and expansive HUD guidance on the incorporation of racial equity into CE policies and procedures.
  - <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Advancing-Racial-Equity-through-Assessments-and-Prioritization.pdf>
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: We had some ideas around the assertiveness of the language used.
- The formal vote will not take place until the September community meeting. Further edits will be made between now and then and they will be circulated.

## PIT COUNT UPDATE

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: We want to thank the people working on the GA motel data. That was a very heavy lift. We are almost finished with the HMIS data and will start on the non-HMIS data. HUD has surprisingly not yet opened the HDX which is where we enter this data. We'll present all of that to you soon.

## Vermont Bill H.429

- Travis Poulin/ CVOEO: The state has been working for a number of years to solicit feedback to renovate the GA motel program. The newest bill to address this issue (which can be found here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0439/H-0439%20As%20Introduced.pdf>) specifies the following:

“(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall convene a General Assistance working group for the purposes of reaching agreement on a plan to transition from expanded emergency housing to a sustainable emergency housing program by the end of fiscal year 2022. In developing this plan, the working group shall consider the prioritization of vulnerable populations, including those facing catastrophic situations.”

CCHA has one person to place on that committee and we’re putting forth Margaret Bozik to represent us. We’d like to vote on her representation now.

**VOTE on MARGARET BOZIK REPRESENTING CCHA ON THE G.A. WORKING GROUP:**

- None opposed.
- One Abstention( Margaret)

Margaret Bozik/ CHT: Rita and Paul will also be on this working group. Our first meeting is this afternoon. We’ll have an interim report done by the end of April.

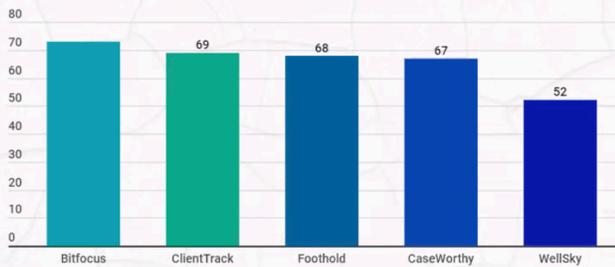
**SWITCH FROM SERVICEPOINT (Wellsky) TO A NEW VENDOR/ SOFTWARE FOR HMIS**

- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: Servicepoint is no longer willing to provide us with support around any of our reporting capabilities. So the **VT HMIS Advisory Committee**, after reviewing scoring and having an in-depth discussions over a number of months, is recommending that both the Chittenden CoC and VT BoS CoC move forward with switching from the current HMIS vendor and software, WellSky Community Services (ServicePoint), to a new vendor and software, **Bitfocus Clarity**.
  - We invited five HMIS vendors to present to our committee. These are the 5 being used the most throughout the country.
  - There were 10 demos which was about 25 hours of participation. We split them up between user experience and reporting.
  - Bitfocus got a 73 out of 76 (see below).

## The Work Devoted to Results

The Committee members reviewed the RFP that was sent to the vendors, created and reviewed a scoring rubric, dedicated around 25 hours to participate in ten demos, used the rubric to score each vendor, reviewed results with ICA and had an in-depth conversation about which vendor would be the best for both CoCs.

### RFP Scores



### Information looked at in the RFP

Scope of Services - Hosting and Maintenance	End User Training Site
Technical Support	Demonstration Site
System Security and Privacy	Outrages in Past Year
End User Security and Privacy	Planned System Updates
System Administration	Demonstration Site for System Updates or Changes
Data Collection	Comparable Database
Data Quality Tools	Data Migration
Coordinated Entry	Summary of Costs
Usability and Other Features	Additional Feature
API, ODBC or Direct Database Connection	

- Rita Markley/ COTS: Was any consideration given to the investment made by other state agencies into software we are already using (Foothold)?
- Meghan Morrow Raftery/ ICA: Yes we did consider this. We need state-wide and COC-wide implementation and Foothold does not have any statewide systems in place. They are great for individual agencies and for Medicaid billing, but they have dramatically increased cost — without any added services or features — and they have not increased market share but actually has lost. They also seemed not to know that HUD had released the reporting specs for CEAPR. These are all big red flags.
  - Rita Markley: Wellsky/ Servicepoint promised us the moon and didn't deliver.
  - Chelsea Alsofrom/ Pathways: I echo Rita's concerns.
- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We did a very comprehensive review of each vendor's software. I thought ICA did a great job of leading this process.
- Will Towne/ Spectrum: We are also a Foothold user at Spectrum. But I felt the red-flags laid out by Meghan and Adam were significant and was eventually swayed toward Bitfocus.
- Lindsay Mesa/ Pathways: This is a major decision for Pathways. We were hoping to transition all of our work to the new software. But I heard that there was some doubt around the ability to import data.
- Jane Helmstetter/ AHS: The continuum made a decision to put together a workgroup and they put a huge number of hours and this is their recommendation. We are also taking into

consideration the Chittenden COC as well as Balance of State. This needs to include everyone.

- Margaret Bozik: I would echo what Jane said but also mention that there is a proposal to expand Medicaid billing for housing support services. Wondering if this was taken into consideration during the process?
- Jane Helmstetter: Should we postpone the vote to allow for more discussion?
- Chris Brzovic/ CVOEO: We invested a huge amount of time in this process — and we agreed would prioritize the end user. The final decision should be honored.
  - Rita Markley: At COTS, we just didn't have the capacity for attending the meetings during a stressful year and I don't remember any updates.
- Meghan Morrow Raftery: What are the benefits of postponing this vote?
  - Kevin Pounds/ Anew Place: I think it's fair to let Pathways and COTS discuss this further among their own agencies.
  - Will Towne/ Spectrum: Ongoing import of data is a huge issue. If that is not absolutely clear that we will be able to do that, I might consider changing my vote. I'd like some clarity on that issue.
  - Elaine Soto/ Howard: I'm in favor of postponing the vote.

**>>>> VOTE POSTPONED <<<<<<**

### **Shelter Updates**

- Champlain Inn Shelter (Kevin Pounds, Anew Place): No new updates.
- Spectrum Youth Shelter, Spectrum (Will Towne): Today is the last day of the warming shelter which is unfortunate timing but we're making sure no one is sleeping outside.
- Waystation Shelter, Committee on Temporary Shelter (Tammy Santamore): We have 2 male bed openings.
- Holiday Inn and Warming Shelter, CVOEO (Paul Dragon): We have 129 households at the Holiday Inn. Restrictions have been lifted. The daytime warming shelter has seen over 300 people come through. It closes on April 30th.
- Harbor Place (Robyn Stattel): We are a substance free site as of this point. It's a slow and steady transition. Turning Point has been a great partner in getting this up and running so quickly.

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**[cchavt.org](http://cchavt.org)**

**Next Meeting May 6, 2021**