

CCHA – Coordinated Entry Committee
October 27, 2021
8:30 –

Attendees

Stephanie Smith (CVOEO)	Lindsay Mesa (Pathways Vermont)
Brian Barrows (VA)	Louise Masterson (ICA)
Ciara Kilburn (STEPS)	Madeleine Doggett (CHCB)
Elaine Soto (Howard Center)	Marcella Gange (CEDO)
Emily Taylor (Champlain Housing Trust)	Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust)
Jason Brill (VA)	Meghan Morrow-Raftery (ICA)
Lacey Smith (BPD)	Mike Ohler (Champlain Housing Trust)
Linda Amante (Chittenden Community Action, CVOEO)	Sophia Senning (COTS) Will Towne (Spectrum)

Updates & Announcements

- Coordinated Entry update – Stephanie
 - o Advocates are at or over capacity which has slightly delayed CE referrals.
 - o Linda – CVOEO has 4 advocates all at capacity. To address this need, advocates are closing cases for households who are not actively engaging. Community is seeing stress on staffing, which limits the number of households experiencing homelessness we can serve at a time.
 - o There are ### households on the Master List currently. Chittenden County would need 26 full time advocates to maintain a caseload of 25 households and ensure all households on the Master List were connected. The County currently has 16 advocates between CVOEO, COTS, STEPS, VA, COTS Motel Outreach, Spectrum, and Safe Harbor Clinic. COTS Motel Outreach team is funded for 8 positions and have 2 on staff; STEPS is funded for 4 and has 1 on staff.
 - o Marcella: Is the staffing issue related to recruitment and retention or funding?
 - Stephanie mentions challenging of recruiting for temporary positions at lower pay rates, resulting in challenges with retention as well.
 - o Margaret mentions that even if the County was fully staffed, the challenge is the lack of housing for households to move into.
 - o Linda: Other capacity challenges are related to mental health needs, which are beyond the capacity of some agencies.
 - Elaine reminded the group to always call Howard Center’s Access and Intake line to screen for services: (802) 488-6000
 - o Lindsay is wondering if the group needs to consider a process or resources offered to households who are waiting for assignment so they can begin to move through the phases.
 - o Linda will reach out to ESD and get clarity of how ESD is handling the “pause” in GA housing as it relates to applicant expectations with connecting to Coordinated Entry.

Vulnerability Assessment

- Lindsay – Significant data shows the VI-SPDAT does not accurately capture vulnerability of single individual BIPOC members. CCHA’s vulnerability assessment is adapted from the VI-SPDAT. Is it time for CCHA to align our assessment process with racial equity goals and values to better

represent the community. This conversation is happening parallel to a discussion with the state of VT about data sharing between CoCs.

- Jason adds that the VT Coalition to End Homelessness is also reviewing their assessment tools which could present an opportunity to review and adapt Chittenden CoC's assessment tools at the same time or by using a similar process.
- Margaret: Chittenden CoC initially had a different assessment tool which made sense at the time, but it's time to look at a new tool. Wondering if Built for Zero would be able to provide any insight into tools other communities are using?
- Jason will follow up with Built for Zero. VCEH is in the early stages of these conversations. A small group is meeting to review VCEH's CE documents and will hopefully have a timeline on the project soon and something to transition to in the spring.
 - o Meghan also says she can contact other communities for feedback.
- Stephanie is advocating that the front line staff conducting these assessments have adequate input in any changes that come to the process. Previous challenges included wording of questions, specific categories (medical complexities), and individual discomfort with disclosure. The assessment was recently revised due to this feedback from advocates and since has shown more accurate reporting.
- Emily is wondering if there are reports yet of BIPOC members on the Chittenden CoC Master List that can be reviewed and compared with chronic status and input from advocates about whether or not the numerical score is an accurate reflection of vulnerability to better inform our county's discussion on this.
 - o Margaret says the racial disparity reports will be out soon. Meghan sent them in the chat and can send them to the group for review.
- Stephanie is asking the group to review studies on the data coming from the VI-SPDAT on racial disparity and inequality, other tools being used, and feedback from frontline staff.
- Jason is adding curiosity about the Chittenden group having parallel conversations regarding this CoC's assessment tools, similar to conversations being held with the VCEH, to eventually adopt a statewide tool.
 - o Meghan says this would be beneficial in terms of data sharing, funding requests, etc.
 - o Lacey agrees with Jason's idea to have parallel conversations, as do Marcella, Margaret, and Elaine.