

**Chittenden County Homeless Alliance
Strategic Planning Meeting Summary
September 2022**

Brief Overview of Planning Process

Shareholders and other partners will be asked to co-create the next five-year strategic plan for the Alliance. It will begin by gathering information through some combination of focus groups, surveys and interviews that ask people to share:

- Their thoughts and concerns about current conditions
- Their aspiration about what they would like to see change
- Thoughts on what role(s) the Alliance could play in supporting change

Summary of discussion about interests, needs and expectations of strategic plan and process (in no particular order):

- Strategic plan must address capacity and transition issues in terms of both human (staffing and capacity) and financial resources
- Governance structure – what is working, what is not – need transition plan for co-chairs. Are there other examples of governance structure they should explore? Does this include organizational models as well? (Noted that BoS is now an independent non-profit organization and has a director and staff – how did that go?) Ways to navigate conflict.
- Large turnover of leadership (does this include loss of institution memory?) Brings up lots of questions about transition plans from everything from leadership positions to sense of ‘floundering’ when there is turnover or change. What needs to be passed along.
- What systems are in place or need to be in place to hold the Alliance? Who holds and how are things held with no staff? (documentarian)
- What does sustainability mean?
- Orientation for new staff and agencies
- Consistent messaging and advocacy points
- What is the role/work of the Steering Committee – is everyone clear about it – does everyone have something to do?
- Is there a clear understanding of mutual benefits – value of network in supporting the shared mission of individual partners? Is there a mutual understanding about why everyone is there? (Is this part of defining or refining intersectionality of your work?)
- What is unique to the Alliance - what cannot be done without it? What is its value?
- How does the Alliance connect with other ‘similar’ networks or coalitions?
- Does the name still work?

Emerging Themes: governance, operations, value, and engagement

Noted Accomplishments/Assets:

- COVID response
- Coordinated Entry

- PIT count
- CDBG allocation process
- People keep coming/ long term investment among partners and willingness to keep trying to make it work
- Housing Review Committee
- Shared mission and framework that aligns purposes

Current Staffing:

Co-Chairs, facilitator, officers, and committee chairs

Coordinator

HMIS lead and vendor

Committees

Collaborative applicant

Fiscal agent

Next Steps:

Ponders – (beginning to focus strategic planning process)

What are the controlling documents that provide under-pinning for strategic planning process?

- Governance Charter
- Strategic Planning Framework and Common Measures
- Other?

Who (by sector) do you want/need to hear from, why do you want to hear from them and what do you hope to learn from them?

What information and data needs to be shared with each group to set the stage/context for deeper conversations?

- What do they need to know about the Alliance itself?
- What data do they need to see to get a sense of current conditions?

Beyond what is on the website – (PIT Count, Coordinated Entry Assessment and Racial Disparities Report) what other evaluations or data is available?

Do you have thoughts or concerns about how current steering committee members, non-voting members, and committee members are included in the initial information gathering phase of the planning process (as shareholders)?

What thoughts have you had about surveying some or all of the groups identified above to determine how satisfied they are with the Alliance?