

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Coordinated Entry Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023
8:30AM – 10:00AM

NOTES

Introductions and Announcements

- Spectrum Warming shelter is now open! – Will Towne
- Steps now has its own hotel pool! – Ciara Kilburn

Coordinated Entry Updates – Stephanie Smith, CVOEO

- We are working on Prevention CE assessments as well as policies and procedures
 - Stephanie is meeting with different agencies to discuss draft of vulnerability assessments
 - We need to have done by March Steering Committee

NEDDE MOU – Stephanie Smith, CVOEO

- This is for Nedde's entire portfolio, the MOU is almost exactly the same as our past MOU for Webster House
- 6 Tax Credit Units
 - WHA may be providing subsidy for some units
- Sarah Russell proposed changing last section so that either Nedde or CCHA may modify the MOU with mutual agreement or terminate the MOU with 30 days' notice to the CE System Director.
- Stephanie made motion to accept the MOU with proposed changes
 - Sarah Russell seconded the motion
 - Vote results (voting was conducted in Zoom meeting chat)
 - (7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 abstentions):
 - Will Towne, Spectrum: Aye
 - Sarah Russell, CEDO: Aye
 - Ciara Kilburn, Steps: Aye
 - Elaine Soto, Howard Center: Aye
 - Lindsay Mesa, Pathways: Aye
 - Sophia Senning, COTS: Aye
 - Jason Brill, VA/VVCH: Aye

Discussion on Champlain Valley School District Participating in CE – Jennie Davis, CVSD

- Jennie Davis is in a new housing navigator role with Champlain Valley School District
 - As this is a new position, there has been a lot of learning about how her role fits into housing work already in place in Chittenden.
 - Jennie has felt the best course of action for the families she is working with is for them to be in Coordinated Entry
 - Jennie wants to be more directly connected to CE in order to best serve the families she is working with.
 - Ciara Kilburn, Steps: Have other school districts been invited to participate in Coordinated Entry?
 - Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: We can invite them, but I am not sure that they have the capacity to provide case management.
 - Sarah Russell, CEDO: Reach out and education about CE may be helpful.
 - Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: How would the school district's privacy standards work with the Coordinated Entry release of information? With Howard Center, our release of information had to be made HIPA compliant.

Proposal to Continue Veteran Preference – Jason Brill, VA/VVCH

- Topic Introduction by Jason Brill
 - Our goal was to increase outflow of Vets to permanent housing by increasing housing rate.
- Discussion:
 - Paul Dragon, CVOEO: Why was this not done with the balance of state?
 - Jason: We had to start somewhere, the Chittenden Veteran population was low, felt obtainable to reach functional zero.
 - Sarah Russel, CEDO: The CE Committee was tasked with how to implement Veteran prioritization, not whether or not to approve it,
 - Ciara Kilburn, Steps: I noticed in your graphs, there was an increase in inflow of Veterans experiencing homelessness in Chittenden. Why did the inflow increase?
 - Jason: We are not sure. Stephanie and I developed Veteran inflow questionnaire to be completed with Vets who are new to the area to try to understand inflow.
 - Lindsay Mesa, Pathways: It makes sense to approve an extension for the prioritization for us to see the intended outcomes. I want to understand why the graphs look like we were housing more Vets before?
 - Jason: There was a learning curve for us on taking advantage of these prioritization. Before the prioritization, it was rare for a Vet to be a referral for a housing opportunity through CE, so case managers were not used to moving clients through the Housing Navigation Phases.
 - Will Towne, Spectrum: I agree with Lindsay that it makes sense to extent the prioritization. Makes sense there was a learning curve. A few months does not seem like enough time especially considering the learning curve.
 - Ciara Kilburn, Steps: I am not sure I feel comfortable with leaving domestic violence survivors on the back burner while Veterans continue to be prioritized over them.
 - Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: Yes, this is a hyper prioritization, meaning a Vet with a very low vulnerability score is being prioritized over the highest scoring chronic

households on our list. I sometimes feel uncomfortable referring Vets to housing opportunities over these high need households.

- Linda Amante, CVOEO: (via chat) I am concerned about chronically homeless households that are not housed due to Vet preference.
- Will Towne, Spectrum: If we are unwilling to prioritize populations, we could lose buy-in from other agencies because their clients never rise to the top of our list for referrals to housing opportunities.
- Sarah Russel, CEDO: I want to reiterate that the Steering Committee is the place to raise concerns about whether or not the prioritization should continue to be implemented.
- Jason: I had the same concerns when this was decided; when you prioritize, someone else is not prioritized. I understand your concerns. I want to echo Sarah that these concerns should be brought up at the CoC level. We can still gain valuable information from this prioritization. We could figure out what is working and bring that to other parts of our work.
- Ciara Kilburn, Steps: How long do we keep extending this prioritization if we keep not meeting functional zero?
 - Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: What should be our measure of success or for continuing the preference. I'm not sure if other communities have preferences like this. If this happens again, when do we end the preference? We need benchmarks.
 - Will Vilardo, Spectrum: At what point do we move on to another population? Revisiting Build for Zero may be a good idea for strategies.
 - Sarah Russell, CEDO: I've noticed that lots of households are in Phase 3, but there is a bottle neck at access to housing opportunities. It may be helpful to look at data on how long it takes populations to be housing ready.
 - Paul Dragon, CVOEO: It may be helpful to have an outside consultant come in to help provide a measure for success. Could we consider extending the preference with an evaluation period?
 - Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: We could vote on that.
 - Paul: I would suggest that we evaluate if CCHA can have someone come in.
- Stephanie Smith, CVOEO: Voting will take place via email.