



## CCHA Steering Committee

October 6, 2023 – 4:30-6:30pm

Location: Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

Sarah Russell, Chanel Bastian, CEDO; Travis Poulin, CVOEO; Jane Helmstetter, Facilitator; Susan Elliot, Town of Shelburne; William Vilardo, SSVF at UVM; Will Towne, Spectrum Youth and Family Services; Terry Kalahar, Howard Center; Jennie Davis, Champlain Valley School District; Molly Shriver-Blake, Nora Aronds, Pathways; Kristina James, Economic Services Division; Stephanie Bixby, Burlington Housing Authority; Amber Burke, Vermont Legal Aid; Tayler Grimes, Ari Kisler, Office of Economic Opportunity; Elaine Soto, Howard Center; Jen Hunter, Cathedral Square; Geena Zrek, LUND; Caty Mara, Lacey Smith, Community Liaisons, BPD; Jason Brill, Veterans Affairs; Thomas Moore, Justin Graham, UVM; Erin Roelke, AgeWell; Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Agency of Human Services; Virginia Finn, ANEW Place; Erhard Mahnke, Sen. Sander's Office; Amy Carmola, United Way of Northwest VT; Jonathan Farrell, COTS; Cory Swartoht, Kyle Maskell, Katelyn Lamberoch, Darryl Galloway, Cara Paquet, Cynthia Rubin, Alan Rubin, Ari Work, Moshia Hunter-Wade, Rob Warner Jr, Eliza Roberts, Andre Clark, Eugene Blake, Nlark Simmors, Ernest Mitchell, Andrea S., CWL Jr, Mitchell White, Colleen Fredette, Shaun Littlefield, Brian Bowles, Felicia Fil, Mark Flynn, Heather Furtado, Stephen Pacheco, Ada Reed, Gina Truskewski, Jacoby Blanford, Alfred Gaudet, Nicholas Peters, Penny, Kimmy, Community Members

1. Introductions and Announcements // Jane Helmstetter, CCHA Facilitator
2. CCHA Slate of Voting Membership // Presenter: Sarah Russell, CEDO\*, CCHA Co-Chair
  - a. \*VOTE\* Warned: Approve Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Voting Membership slate for 2023-2025.
  - b. Jane Helmstetter made a motion to vote to approve, seconded by Travis Poulin. The motion carried with 21 votes aye
3. CCHA Executive Committee // Sarah Russell, CEDO, CCHA Co-Chair
  - a. \*VOTE\* Warned: Approve the following nominations for the Chittenden County Homeless
    - i. Sarah Russell made a motion to nominate Taylor Thibault for the vacant co-chair position. The motion was seconded by Travis Poulin, and with 24 votes aye, 1 abstention, the motion carried
    - ii. Alliance Executive Committee:
      1. Marcella Gange, CEDO: Collaborative Applicant (term: 2023-2024)
      2. Travis Poulin, CVOEO\*\*: Treasurer (term: 2023-2024)
      3. Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Agency of Human Services: Secretary and Co-Facilitator (term 2023-2024)
      4. Jane Helmstetter, Community Member: Co-Facilitator (term: 2023-2024)
      5. Nominations for CCHA Co-Chair (term: 2023-2026)
  - b. Will Towne made a motion to vote to approve the board as presented, seconded by Travis Poulin. With 23 votes aye, 1 abstention, the motion carried
4. CCHA Governance Charter // Sarah Russell, CEDO, CCHA Co-Chair, Jason Brill, Veterans' Administration
  - a. Voting on changes made at last meeting and request the approved appendix be added to the governance charter
  - b. \*VOTE Warned\*: Approve updates to the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Governance Charter.



- i. Will Towne made a motion to vote to approve the updates. The motion was seconded by Virginia Finn and with 26 votes aye, 1 abstention, the motion carried
  5. Unsheltered Homelessness // Sarah Russell, CEDO, CCHA Co-Chair, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, AHS\*\*\* Field Services Director
    - a. Group of stakeholders met due to rapid increase in unsheltered folks and need for expanded services
      - i. Increase shelter options using a harm reduction approach
      - ii. Expand access to healthcare
        1. Mobile primary care access and field based options
      - iii. Strengthen and redeploy outreach services
      - iv. Expand medical respite capacity
      - v. Continue to expand access to perm supportive housing
    - b. Advocate that uses of state funding include overdose prevention centers and access to increased residential treatment services
6. Open Forum
  - a. Due to the importance of holding time for open forum, this item was moved up in the agenda
  - Using abandoned buildings as shelter space
  - Daystation should have 3 meals a day
  - Article re: state funding for folks to build their own tiny homes, what is status or update of this program? > [More information on this program Vermont Housing Improvement Program](#)
  - Lack of available housing units/ spaces for low-income and homeless folks
  - Issue of reliance on landlords for housing, lack of section 8 available units, issues with untrustworthy/ uncompassionate landlords, too much burden on renters to protect their housing and rental reputations
  - What kinds of programs are available for home ownership/ home building for folks who are homeless to lessen burden of reliance on landlords
  - Annual PIT Count, scientific methodology falls short and is unreliable
    - Many people don't want to be counted, provides an inaccurate count, especially around folks living in their cars, etc.
    - Many folks will not fill out coordinated entry assessment due to burden and lack of incentive
    - Many folks are being forced out of Vermont due to cost
  - Homeless community often treated as a monolith despite all having different issues and backgrounds
    - Working poor is very much included in this group but often left out
  - Feeding Chittenden hours are not helpful for folks working daytime hours
  - Housing Access for people with disabilities, would like folks with disabilities to be included in planning, finding that they are facing the same gaps repeatedly
  - More jobs and housing and day shelters, rental prices are way out of range for most folks, even for a studio
    - Process of final a rental is often too difficult to engage with for many homeless folks
  - Mental health and substance use issues are a barrier to stable housing, as shown by the motel pandemic program. Housing first doesn't work for everyone, including those who are managing sobriety and mental health



- Law enforcement will sometimes receive calls for welfare checks on people which leads to LEO “looking for prosecutable” offenses, often removing drivers licenses which is a huge barrier and setback for people
  - Availability of Narcan, increased awareness of locations?
  - Not enough aftercare/ sober houses for people entering recovery/ leaving residential rehabs
  - Downtown traffic being lost to social issues
  - Lack of places to get food in the evening/ dinner time
  - Ask that the city reconsider encampment policy
7. Opiate Settlement Committee // Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health
    - a. Each state is receiving money from the national Opiate settlement and each are creating different processes around logistics and usage. Vermont created a committee
    - b. See [powerpoint](#) for more info
  8. Coordinated Entry (CE) Data Review // Stephanie Smith, Coordinated Entry, CCHA; CE Committee Co-Chair
    - a. Due to the absence of the presenter this item was skipped, however the [presentation](#) has been posted with the minutes
  9. HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) // Marcella Gange, CEDO, CCHA Collaborative Applicant
    - a. Due to the absence of the presenter this item was skipped
  10. Strategic Planning Committee Update // Nicole Kubon, Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair/Steps to End Domestic Violence, Sarah Russell, Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair/CEDO
    - a. Due to the importance of holding time for open forum, this item was moved to the next meeting’s agenda
  11. CCHA Bi-Annual Financial Report // Travis Poulin, CVOEO; CCHA Treasurer
    - a. Out of the UW grant provided to CVOEO on behalf of the CCHA, we have \$14,667 remaining (of the original \$30,000). We have provided assistance to 30 different households utilizing flexible UW funding since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
    - b. [VHFA CCHA Financial Report](#)