

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 1, 2024  
Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

**Agenda**

1. **Introductions and Announcements** 10 mins  
Travis Poulin, CVOEO – 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.  
Stephanie Kacanich, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors; Lucy Novelline – United Way, Working Bridges; Megan Bridges, United Way; Jason Brill, Department of Veterans Affairs – 1. placed approximately 4,700 homeless veterans (national) into permanent housing. 2. 96% (national) have retained housing. 3. Engaged 40,000 veterans (national) who are unsheltered to services. The national rates of veteran homelessness have declined by 52% since 2010 (down 4% in the last 3 years); Terry C, Howard Center; Matt Hagberg, Pride Center; Ciara Kilburn, Steps to End Domestic Violence; Meghan Masterson, KidSafe Collaborative – serving as the Executive Director effective January 1<sup>st</sup>; Taylor Thibault, CHT; Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Agency of Human Services; Jane Helmstetter, Will Towne, Spectrum; Stephanie Bixby, BHA; David McKay, Terri Kingeter, ANEW Place; Johnathan Farrell, COTS; Molly Shriver-Blake, Pathways Vermont; Erin Cleere, Ari Kisler, OEO; Sarah Russell, CEDO; Meghan Morrow-Raftery ICA
  
2. **Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) – CCHA Agreement** 10 mins  
**\*VOTE Warned\***  
*The CCHA Coordinated Entry Committee recommends approval of the CCHA-VSHA MOU to provide referrals to two mobile home units within VSHA’s housing portfolio.*  
2 Amendments: 1. Add VSHA Attachment A to the MOU. 2. Match the language in section 8 to be consistent with all other VSHA MOUs.  
Motion by: Travis Poulin  
Second by: Caty Mara  
Approved: 15  
Abstaining: 1
  
3. **Point in Time (PIT) Count Debrief** 10 mins  
Ari Kisler, VT State Office of Economic Opportunity  
Meghan Morrow-Raftery, Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)
  - In the middle of cleaning data
  - Significant planning with the Outreach teams. The feedback received from team was positive.
  
4. **Housing Opportunity Grant Program Presentation** 10 mins
  - CEDO: Elmwood Community Shelter and Burlington Overnight Warming Shelter (Sarah Russell). Sarah deferred to Taylor/CHT for Elmwood overview as they are operating partner. Sarah provided the following info regarding the Warming Shelter:
    - Routinely sheltering 34-36 people per night
    - 22 program beds, 10 walk-in beds
    - Served 106 people since 1/25
    - Successful in relationship building with guests.
    - Nurses coming to the Warming Shelter 5 nights/week
  - CEDO/CHT: Elmwood Community Shelter (Taylor Thibault). Tracking referrals to mental health support for substance use and treatment support for medical care, legal services and employment, education and training. FY’23: 2 for mental health support, 4 for substance use

*\*Community Economic Development Office*

*\*\*Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity*

*\*\*\*Committee on Temporary Shelter*

*\*\*\*\*Champlain Housing Trust*

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and treatment, 5 for medical care, 2 for legal services, 5 for education and training. FY'24: 3 for mental health support, 6 for substance use, 6 for medical care, 2 for legal services, 6 for employment, education and training.

- 32 discharges (26 involuntary exits, 2 have moved into permanent housing, 4 voluntary exits)
- Partnered with CEDO to provide skilled nursing at Elmwood (3 days/week) that has been very successful. It's a pilot project with VT Dept. of Health
- Steps to End Domestic Violence (Ciara Kilburn)
  - Struggling with how to support folks in motels
  - Back in December hired housing advocates tasked with customer outreach
  - Challenges this year with shelters - the sizes of the rooms impacting turnover times
  - HUD money helping fund the motel rooms.
  - July '23 – Dec '23: moved 77 households into permanent housing
  - Emergency housing since Jan '23 – Dec '23 served 450 people

**5. Shelter Updates**

20 mins

Travis Poulin, CVOEO\*\*: Champlain Inn:

- 26 ongoing beds, 12 warming shelter beds
- Meals continue to be provided
- Renovations will start late February.

Terri Kingeter, ANew: Community House:

- Continuing services at the facility on North St. but for a much smaller number of people at this time; please continue to submit applications for the waitlist.
- Having staffing issues – actively searching for an Executive Director, and a Program Manager.

Jonathan Farrell, COTS\*\*\*

Daystation:

- Self-serve breakfast, connecting guests with services.
- Oct '23 – Dec '23 served 608 unique individuals
- 36% of guests are unhoused, 25% from the Waystation, 10% from the Warming Shelter, 8% from the Emergency motels, 7% are housed, the remainder are 1-offs that are staying with friends, at the Champlain Inn, or are out of town. Seeing more drop-offs from the UVM Medical Center.

Waystation:

- Oct '23 – Dec '23 served 70 unique individuals (13 chronically homeless, 14 permanent housing placements)
- 36 beds (28 for individuals who identify as males, 8 for individuals who identify as females). All currently full.

Smith House:

- 7 beds currently full

Family Shelter:

- Oct '23 – Dec '23 had 17 households stay there (2 are chronically homeless): 19 adults and 35 children.
- 5 Permanent housing placements

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- Average stay: 6 months
- 15 rooms in 2 locations are currently full but anticipating 9 moving out in the next 4-5 weeks
- Seeing an increase in families seeking asylum

Motel Outreach:

- Working with 83 households in Chittenden County motels (112 adults, 63 children)
- 19 permanent housing placements

Taylor Thibault, CHT\*\*\*\*: Elmwood Community Shelter

- Please see prior update; applications accepted for waitlist

Will Towne, Spectrum Youth and Family Services

- Seeing a higher number of youths experiencing psychosis
- Substance use counselors at the drop-in center in Burlington and St. Albans
- Open Housing programs are full
- Renaming the Warming Shelter to the Nightly Shelter

**7. Housing and Homeless Council** 10 mins

Will Towne, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, CCHA HHC Representative

- Formed at the Governor's request to respond to homelessness and the housing crisis in the state.
- Tasked with creating a Tactical Action Plan: prevention & housing development
- The need for more flexible funding
- A recommendation to add an increase in contingency funding and general housing assistance funds
- A recommendation around creating more substance use disorder stabilization allocations
- A recommendation to explore an extended definition for "at risk for homelessness", and an increase in funding to provide services
- A better model for mental health support
- A common housing application might be difficult to put in practice due to different funding sources

**8. Coordinated Entry and Built for Zero Data Review** 15 mins

Stephanie Smith, Coordinated Entry, CCHA; CE Committee Co-Chair

Data will be sent out with the minutes and posted on the CCHA website.

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