

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)
Regular Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:00am – 11am
Location: Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

Introductions and Announcements

Present: Jane Helmstetter- community member, Ari Kisler- DCF OEO, Abby Irwin- DCF OEO, Allyssa Patini- VHFA, Kristina James- ESD, Jonathan Farrell- COTS, Emily Korkosz- Turning Point, Megan Morrow-Raftery- ICA, Ciara Kilburn- STEPS, Jason Brill- VA, Lilly Sojourner- DCF OEO, Jess Graff- Franklin Grand Isle Community Action/VT BoS, Louise Masterson- ICA, Sarah Russell- CEDO, Taylor Thibault- Champlain Housing Trust, Marcella Gange- CEDO, Matt Hagberg- Pride Center, Will Towne- Spectrum, Stephanie Bixby- BHA, Erin Rolke- Age Well, Terry Kalahar- Howard Center, Megan Bridges- United Way of NE VT, Virginia Finn- ANew, Katy Mara- BPD, Stephanie Smith- CCHA CE/CVOEO, Adnan Duracak- VT DMH, Molly Shriver-Blake- Pathways, Travis Poulin- CVOEO, Barbara Highland- Community member, Jennie Davis- CVSD, Howard Neuman- community member, Beverly Bogette- VT Early Learning Alliance, Lucy Nobile, Shawna Brayer, Chris Brzovic- CCHA/CE Consultant, Brandon Studler- Ascend Housing, Kristin Bolton- Cathedral Square, Sukie Robinson- Community Member, Robin Eddleman- Community Member, Sonja Paulson- Working Bridges

1. Announcements

BHA cannot accept cell phone photos for documentation.

2. Strategic Planning Feedback Session

The Strategic Planning Committee conducted a Prioritization process to assess six strategies that derived from the strategic planning forums/feedback:

Red dots- most urgent

Blue dots- closest to your work

Green dots- make you curious

In small groups, we discussed:

Why is this strategy important to us?

Does this strategy align with our mission?

Support and advocate for a system-wide workforce and professional development plan

Is this important to us?

The Strategic Planning Proposals:

- Improve availability, timeliness and use of data to drive practice and make decisions.
- Ensure service delivery system improvement is driven by people with lived experience
- Model a Culture of continuous Improvement
- Strengthen Deepen and Broaden Active Participation
- Develop adequate statewide resources

The SP Committee will review prioritization and use information to inform sequencing of CCHA's Strategic Plan. Results will be reported out at next month's Steering Committee meeting.

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3. Meeting of CE Partners

****Suspended CCHA Steering Committee meeting and opened the CCHA CES Partnership Meeting****

Reviewed the attached draft of the Partnership Agreement; changes included:

- Lund was added as an access point
- CVSD, CEDO were added as Assessment Partners
- VCHIP and Easter Seals were removed
- HopeWorks has been moved from an Assessment Partner to an Access Point

Taylor Thibaut made the motion to approve the CCHA Partnership Agreement as presented

Sarah Russell presented a friendly amendment to approve the CCHA Partnership Agreement with edits; Taylor accepted; Sarah seconded the motion

Vote: 16 Approved, 0 Abstain, 0 Denied

4. Coordinated Entry has come up with a Reciprocal Release

****The Steering Committee Resumed****

Purpose is to have a reciprocal release that a client can sign for all CE partners to give information to an entity that is not part of the partnership agreement.

Current practice is messy as it uses various releases- this will streamline this process

Will Towne moved to approve the partnership agreement; Sarah Russell seconded motion

Vote: Approve- 20, 0 Abstain, 0 Denied

Kristen moved to approve the CE Reciprocal Release as presented; Molly seconded to approve the Reciprocal Release

Vote: Approve 18, 0 Abstain, 0 Denied

5. Balance of State and Homeless and Housing Alliance of VT (HHAV) - Jess Graff

Merges Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition to make one organization (HHAV). They are in the process of hiring and Executive Director- verbal acceptance of offer of position. HHAV will have 3 positions- Executive Director, CoC Program Director, Administrative Director

First membership meeting is November 14th

HHAV will focus on legislative priorities, advocacy, education and training. The work will overlap as the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont will be the collaborative Applicant for the Balance of State CoC.

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Other meeting attendees who attend HHAV meetings- Will Vilardo, Lily Sojourner, Ari Kisler, Jason Brill, and Molly from Pathways

Question- How can Chittenden County be further represented within the HHAV?

They will let us know as they move forward

6. Coordinated Entry (CE) Data Review

Chris Brzovic- formerly the CE Administrator here in Chittenden County, now working as a consultant to support data integrity

*Please see Power Point (attached)

CCHA participates in Built for Zero; discussion of impact of SOV Transitional Housing Program on Chronicity; system is doing well in not returning families to Homelessness and we are moving more veterans into housing over time.

PSH- recent spike but overall reduction in moving people into housing

All subpopulations have seen a decreasing trend in moving people into housing in 2023; over time, it is taking longer to move people into housing

Coordinated Entry- see attached slides

Are these trendlines the same as the balance of state-

Yes, in general we are seeing an increase in families

Question- are these families engaged with Reach Up? Unsure

7. AHS/ESD Updates

Please review PowerPoint (attached) for updates (we did not get to this agenda item)

8. Shelter Updates

COTS Update: October 2022- September 2023 COTS Fiscal Year

DayStation

- 365 days a year, noontime meal, showers, laundry, connection to services, and regular community partner visits from BHA, CHCB, Turning Point, VA, Working Fields, Dr. Pepper Keurig (job opportunities), Opportunities Credit Union.
- **515** unique visitors July through September 2023
- Average per day 63 with a high of 80.
- Of those guests:
 - 63% unsheltered (outside)
 - 22% Waystation Guests
 - 5% housed, coming for support and community.
 - 5% Champlain Inn Guests

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- 2% couch surfing
- 2% motel
- 1% Anew Place

Waystation Shelter

- 183 unique individuals
- 42 Chronically Homeless
- 30 permanent housing placements.
- 36 beds, currently full

Smith House Step-Up Shelter

- 25 Unique individuals
- 18 intakes during COTS FY '23
- 13 permanent housing placements
- 7 beds, currently full

Family Shelters

- 29 Households
- 7 Chronically Homeless households
- 35 Adults 53 kids
- 15 permanent housing placements (average stay 6 months)
- 15 rooms, currently full – 16 families on the waitlist

Motel Outreach

- 173 Households
- 212 adults 87 kids
- 44 permanent housing placements
- Currently working with 76 households in motels; 50 of those June cohort

ANEW Place

ANEW Place completed the transfer of the Champlain Inn on Oct 2. CVOEO took over the operation and CHT is now the owner of the property.

Our Community House on North St continues as a sober living shelter. We are processing referrals as they come in – we reach out to the referred individual when we anticipate an available bed. Our current referral list is 15 referrals long.

We are excited to be hosting our third Celebration of Trees at the U Mall. Starting on November 24th, folks can view over 25 decorated Christmas which are being raffled off.

Burlington Temporary Overnight Winter Shelter

176 South Winooski Ave., Burlington

December 15th – March 15th Open nightly: 5pm – 8am, 7 days per week

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Shelter will operate for adults-only using low-barrier model; 30 beds total (possibility for 10 overflow during extreme cold weather. First-come-first serve on opening night; 20 program/permanent beds will be assigned on 2nd night of operation; 10 night-to-night beds will be maintained season-long. Formal announcement will be sent to the CCHA Google group (and posted widely) in the coming weeks.

Elmwood Community Shelter Update

The Elmwood Community Shelter (Pods) current waiting list is as follows:

Single Occupancy Waiting List: 123 individuals

Double Occupancy Waiting List: 23 households

According to our last updates majority of these folks are living in a space not meant for human habitation

We are meeting with our referral team to fill one vacancy tomorrow. Average length of stay is 164 days per last months data.

If you are working with an individual(s) that is on our waiting list, please have them call our office to update their contact information. If someone does not get back to us to claim a unit within 24 hrs. we move on to the next person in line. If the individual does not reach out within 72 hrs. of us offering them a unit, we put them at the bottom of our waiting list.

Elmwood Desk Phone # 802-209-5286

Spectrum Shelter Updates:

We need staff... We are hiring for both our existing shelter, and our Warming Shelter, which we hope to open soon and keep open year-round. It will be 10 beds and located at 179 S Winooski Ave below Turning Point. We continue to see high levels of acuity in the youth we serve, and more youth than usual staying outside.

Council on Housing and Homelessness Update:

Scope of work: By December 31, 2023, the Council shall deliver to the Governor a Tactical Action Plan outlining annual strategies, specific tactics and measurable annual performance metrics to ensure affordable housing options exist for all Vermonters, at all income levels. This Tactical Action Plan shall include a reasonable inventory of public and private sector rehabilitation and development in Vermont; annual achievable targets for meeting the need for supply and affordability in all 14 counties with

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priority given to the counties that have experienced the most significant demographic declines; proposals to expedite revitalization of our housing supply; specific and measurable interventions to reduce the number of Vermonters becoming homeless each year; and plans to achieve specific, clearly defined and measurable annual performance metrics for all key strategies, tactics or plans.

The Council has divided into 2 subcommittees (Housing Development, and Homelessness Prevention) which are meeting at least weekly to achieve the above goals. As a member of the Prevention subcommittee, we have been doing intensive information gathering over the last month or so, meeting with many community partners, federal entities, and state officials to better understand what resources exist and what the gaps are. Throughout this process, we have been tracking potential recommendations and our next step is to dive deeper into those to compile the final list.

Meeting notes, agendas, and recordings are available [here](#).