



## CCHA Steering Committee

December 7, 2023 – 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Location: Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

Sarah Russell, Marcella Gange, Andre Clark, Ana-Maria Robu CEDO; Travis Poulin, Paul Dragon, Stephanie Smith, CVOEO; Jane Helmstetter, Facilitator; Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Agency of Human Services; Jen Hunter, Cathedral Square; Jennie Davis, Champlain Valley School District; Caty Mara, BPD CSL; Meghan Morrow Raftery ICA HMIS; Maya Thompson Safe Harbor; Miranda Gray, Monika Maduras, ESD; Lindsay Mesa, Pathways Vermont; Beverly Boget, VT Early Childhood Alliance; Virginia Finn Anew Place; Jason Brill, VA; Terry Kalahar, Howard Ct; Stephanie Bixby, BHA; Will Towne, Spectrum; Ciara Kilburn, STEPS; Jonathan Farrell, COTS; Taylor Thibault, CHT;

UVM?

### 1. **Introductions and Announcements** // Jane Helmstetter, CCHA Facilitator

- BPD is seeing increasing numbers of families seeking asylum.
  - A Venezuelan family does not qualify for ESD housing. Any ideas are welcomed by the department.
- SSFV hiring case managers – services are not expected to be delayed.

### 2. **Strategic Planning Feedback Session:** Sarah Russell, CEDO\*, Strategic Planning Co-Chair

- Prioritization exercise last month
- Strategic Planning Committee is reviewing the notes and determining sequencing and governance structure.
- Submitted a LOI to The Community Health Investment Committee for a Planning grant.
  - Request for \$40k.
  - 9-month grant planning period – the goal to make CCHA sustainable in years to come
  - At the end of the 9-month planning period, CCHA could apply for 3-years of funding through The Community Health Investment Committee
- The need to build staffing capacity to implement ideas shared in the prioritization exercise
- The Strategic Planning Committee is welcoming feedback
  - more info can be found here [CCHA Committees](#), reach out to Sarah Russell or Nicole Kuban with questions
  - virtual meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 2-3:30 p.m.

### 3. **Point in Time Count and Economic Services Data (ESD) Request**

Meghan Morrow-Raftery, Institute for Community Alliances

- Point in Time – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of January (24<sup>th</sup>)
- HMIS (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing) – coming out of Clarity
  - Possibly looking at 1 custom Report vs multiple
- ESD Motel – entering in clients for 1 day
  - Reporting will be from HMIS but named non-HMIS beds

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- ESD does not track data on chronic disability
  - asking Coordinated Entry for a status update – older data roll over into the new enrollment for the 1-night.
  - Ironing out the workflow of HMIS

What does that look like for a local stand point (coordinated entry, service providers)?

- A status update should be done periodically to make sure the date is correct
- Status update looking at disability and the chronic determination questions – race, ethnicity, date of birth, do they have a disability, and are they chronic.
- A status update report will be created – a list of who doesn't have a most recent one in 90 days
- The longest period to roll over – 1 year or 90 days is being discussed
- Suggestion to do a status update every 60 days – 90 days – or 6 months

Is there a report that indicates when the status was last updated?

- The reporting team will create one
- Request to agencies for update – please look at it.

Talk about the training, and when the information is expected to be available on the ICA website?

- Scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for HMIS/ non-HMIS – statewide
- Written surveys on Google form
- Possible live training
- The training will be available online
- Will include a knowledge-based article, and HMIS/ non-HMIS (unsheltered) info
- Housing Inventory Count – emergency shelter, transitional housing will be done with the Point In Time, but any other housing with or without services dedicated to those experiencing homelessness (not section 8) need to be on the HIC.

#### 4. Updates from Department of Children and Families

Miranda Gray, Deputy Commissioner, ESD [General & Emergency Assistance Program](#)

- Plans for April 1<sup>st</sup> – transition from motels to four large congregate shelters across the state

What is the estimated number of rooms available for the Adverse Weather Conditions this winter?

- Motel room capacity – anticipating 1,500 rooms statewide
- previous week highest count – 1400

What is the anticipated cost savings to staffing a shelter vs running the motel program?

- Engaging with motel owners about becoming a shelter and have more services on site

Are communities able to weigh-in on the statewide conversations?

- Ideas and thoughts are welcomed
- Listening sessions were done in the past. In present – send an email to Miranda

People are not maintaining their housing. A lack of engagement from people facing evictions. How to engage people to stay in their housing? How do we prevent people from slipping into homelessness?

- The housing task force is engaging in these conversations.
  - Coming up with a action plan around preventing homelessness (due at the end of December)
  - Looking at various things – expanding funds for HOP, looking at the utilization of contingency management funds that are available through the Dept of Mental Health.
- Integrate a listening session into an upcoming community meeting to include people with lived experiences.

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- Wait times for client services were reduced from 5-6 hours to 30 minutes

**5. Housing Opportunity Grant Program Presentation**

CVOEO\*\*: Travis Poulin and Linda Amante

- Currently scheduling appointments 3-4 weeks out from when phone calls are returned

**6. Shelter Updates**

Paul Dragon, CVOEO: Champlain Inn, Community Resource Center

- Renovation put off until February
- The goal – 40 people
- Bottom floor is not habitable
- Current population – 24 residents, 4-5 have chronic mental health conditions
- Low barrier, pets allowed, 24/7, good staffing capacity
- Age range served 18+

Community Resource Center

- Seeing on average of 120 people/ daily – high of 185
- Expanding the resource center – renovations thanks to the CDBG grant – seating 20 people now
- Phase 2 – expanding the footprint of the center
- Half of the people coming in are unsheltered
- Provide hot meals, vet clinics, phones, housing advocacy
- Extended hours – until 4 p.m. during the winter season
- Population shift:
  - Older Vermonters coming in
  - 30% with disability

Virginia Finn, Anew: Community House

- Taking this season to step back and recover
- The Community House:
  - Is a sober shelter
  - Currently have 11 people in-house, agreed to take in 2 more
  - Not taking additional people until the end of January
  - In the process of hiring a new executive director

Jonathan Farrell, COTS\*\*\*: Waystation and Family Shelters, Daystation

Daystation

- Substance free space
- Hot lunch served daily
- Showers, laundry, connection to services
- Community partners come to the Day Station to connect with people at the station
- July through September has seen 515 unique visitors; daily average – 63/65 up to 85-90 on holidays. Of those guests: 63% are unsheltered, 22% overnight- shelter, 5% are recently housed and are coming for support and meals, 2% are couch-surfing, 2% from motels
- New security measures – locking the door and buzzing people in due to past intense behavior

Waystation

- Substance free space

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- Visitors are working on a housing plan with a housing navigator during their stay
- Last fiscal year served 183 unique individuals
  - 42 chronic homeless
  - 36 successful housing placements
- Congregate shelter with 36 beds currently full

#### Smith House

- Step-up shelter with 7 rooms
- Last fiscal year served 25 unique individuals – 13 graduated and moved into permanent housing

#### Family Shelter

- Last fiscal year served 29 households
  - 7 chronically homeless
  - 35 adults & 53 children
  - 15 placed in permanent housing
- Main St. location capacity– 10; Firehouse location capacity – 5; Total = 15 rooms
- Average stay – 6 months
- All 15 rooms are currently full

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

- Low barrier shelter
- 35 beds currently full, 116 on the waitlist, 24 households want double occupancy
- Current average length of stay is higher – 161 days
- Served 63 individuals so far, 55 separate households, exited 29 – 23 for cause, 6 households left for alternative housing, 3 for permanent housing
- Seeing 5-6 people daily

#### Will Towne, Spectrum Youth and Family Services

- Seeing increase need, behavioral issues, safety concerns
- Actively hiring for the warming shelter
  - Year-round shelter
- Increased need for tents and sleeping bags in youth population
- Expanding staff capacity but serving some of the guests will be difficult due to concerning behavior and safety precautions
- Applied and received funds from Division of Substance Use (Department of Health) to embed substance use councilors in the dropping center and the shelter programs (15hrs/week)
- Drop-in Center on Pearl St extended hours – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., 7 days/ week, closed for 1hr at 2 p.m. for staff meetings
- 16 beds all full – additional 10 beds for the warming shelter
- For the existing program the referral form is on the website. No referral for the warming shelter

#### Ciara Kilburn, Steps to End Domestic Violence Shelter

- Celebrating 3 years
- 21 unit shelter
  - households have their own unit (studios, 1-bedroom, 2-2 bedroom units)
- average stay of 6-7 months
- pulling directly from the motels when there are openings

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- staffed 24/7
- locked down facility, good security
- no longer a confidential location but have processes in place for abusive partners that might show up

Sarah Russell, CEDO: Winter Warming Shelter

- anybody can come, not just for veterans
- 18+, low barrier, pet friendly, secure storage on-site
- Congregate model – 30 beds with dividers
- Temporary shelter from December 15 – March 15
- Andre Clark will be managing the operations at the shelter
- Check-in beginning at 5 p.m., check-out 8 a.m.
- 20 program beds, 10 beds night-to-night first come-first serve

What type of connection with services are available for guests?

- Referring folks to servicing that are not offered on-site
- Staff will have the capacity to do coordinated entry assessments
- Utilizing HMIS to track beds
- Secured some funding to have a nurse at the shelter

What is the check-in process for the night-to-night beds?

- Check in from 5 p.m. until curfew at 8 p.m.
- A new waitlist every day, if someone doesn't show by 8 p.m. will reach out to the next person on the list

## 7. [Coordinated Entry and Built for Zero Data Review](#)

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

Is there a context for increased numbers in youth?

- The pandemic was hard on youth mental health
- Landlords are more averse to renting to youth
- Can't access motels
- Entry level jobs – not being able to afford housing
- Direct cash pilot program at Spectrum 3 months ago and 5 out of 10 have secured permanent housing

Do the increased numbers represent new individuals or returned individuals to homelessness?

- Most inflow are not returns
- Most families are first time homeless
- Spectrum served over 1,400 youth last year

A group of people across the state who meet to make recommendations around reimagining the General Assistance program. What are the key areas to be aware of?

Beverly

- Sub-committee of the Housing and Homeless Alliance of Vermont
- Inform and shape the HHAV policy
- What would we like Emergency Funding to look like?
- Highly unlikely to find shelter capacity that is not congregate
- Would like to work and partner with policy makers how to improve the program

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# Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

*Working to End Homelessness*

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How can people contribute to the conversation?

- Funnel the voice of one group to another
- There will be opportunity for 1 off conversations

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