

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
July 21, 2015
Minutes

Attendees: Connie Sandahl, NEKYS; Kelly Greaves, ESD; Aliceanne Lavalley, SSVF/VVS; Ailon Merwonji, VNADSV; Brian Smith, DMH; Holly Olio, NCSS; Tracy Collier, Capstone; Dawn Butterfield, Capstone; Chris Dalley, DCF-ESD/GA; Sarah Phillips, OEO; Calvin Smith, VCRHYP; Kathy Metras, NEKCA; Pat Burke, SEVCA; Knowles Wentworth, HCRS; Daniel Blankenship, VSHA; Sara Kobylenski, Upper Valley Haven; Tara Fitzgerald, HPC; Ashley Greenfield, HPS; Elizabeth Eddy, BROCC; Lucie Fortier, Groundworks Drop in; Tracey Sweeney, VA; Jeanne Montross, HOPE; Renee Weeks, Rebecka, Pathways; Phone-Whitney Nichols, advocate; Marie, NKHS; Jennifer, ICA

Announcement-Chris reports that ESD is working on an unduplicated list of temp housing recipients that should be available in August.

Minutes: Kathy Metras moved to accept. Dawn Butterfield seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: The final year end report will be provided in August.

Coordinated Entry Committee: The committee is currently developing benchmarks to determine if local coc's have implemented a Coordinated Entry process

They are also working on measurable outcomes to determine CE effectiveness.

Washington County has disseminated a screening tool and has gotten positive feedback on it.

COC Structure: Sara posed a question to the group about their thoughts on the current structure and proposed structure.

- Most members voiced the importance of voices of all local coc's
- Recognized that each local coc has their own culture

After much discussion the synopsis was that we should look at having the current table with the level of commitment with partners.

Question: What should the Steering Committee look like?

Response: We should regroup-maybe the steering committee design needs to change

The big group should be the decision making entity.

Sarah P. with help from others will review the standing rules to determine what we are able to do. We will follow up with this discussion in August.

NOFA: The NOFA isn't out yet, however preliminary notifications have stated that a larger amount will have to be placed in tier 2 this year and the process will be more competitive this year.

The ranking committee will recommend what projects are submitted to HUD.

HUD is not viewing Transitional Housing as a priority with the exception of three specific populations: Youth, DV and SA.

There are federal goals to end homelessness with the following populations: Vets by 2016 and families by 2020.

Local CoC's will be asked to review their projects and decide if they want to reapply, reallocate or retool. Daniel will provide some guidance.

The ranking tool will be distributed at the August meeting for folks to review.

Question was posed: What's the state's plan to continue to fund agencies to serve people if/when we receive HUD cuts? Retooling, reallocating etc, will result in less funding in some areas creating a void in services while increasing in other areas.

Simply moving dollars around is not the answer to eliminating homelessness.

Recommendation: Let's try to get a handle on the numbers of folks who will no longer be served if cuts are enacted.

How many projects are reallocated, How many are at risk?

Let's get this information to the Governor's Poverty Council by late September/Early October

Senator Sanders' office is willing to take the CoC's old letter or a new letter to the new HUD Secretary.

NOFA Timeline: 60-90 days from time of release

HMIS-Chittenden COC-Looking to adopt new software by October, with an RFP for Administrator
Should both Continuua use ICA and have shared governance?

Question: who would "own" our data?

Answer: we do; it's our data.

Sarah moved that we would coordinate shared HMIS governance with Chittenden if they move to do so. Rebeka seconded.

The group decided to have each local COC weigh in on this and send their vote in.

VSHA- there are some current updates in available vouchers. Review their website regularly to stay updated.

ICA-If aren't getting the newsletter, let Jennifer at ICA know. There is a link to the helpdesk at the helpingtohousevt.org website.

Prepared by Jan Rossier, Secretary