**Hartford & NHCEH Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday August 31, 2017**

**Present:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **AGENCY / ORGANIZATION** | **E-MAIL** |
| Linda Anderson | Capstone Community Action | landerson@capstonevt.org |
| Lynn Boyle | AHS | Lynn.boyle@vermont.gov |
| Pat Burke | SEVCA | Pburke@sevca.org |
| Corbin Burstein | Pathways Vermont | corbin@pathwaysvermont.org |
| Megan Chapman | HCRS | mchapman@hcrs.org |
| Faye Grearson | Twin Pines Housing Trust | Faye.grearson@tphtrust.org |
| Karen Lipinczyk | WISE | Karen@wiseuv.org |
| Renee Weeks | Upper Valley Haven | rweeks@uppervalleyhaven.org |

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 am in Room 170 at the State Office Building at 118 Prospect Street in White River Junction.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

* June 29th meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote with addition of Pat Burke to list of people present
* July 27th meeting minutes passed by unanimous vote with addition of Pat Burke to list of people present

1. **Email regarding grant opportunity:**

* Deadline for application is October 18. $500-$2500 that the CoC could apply for to use for strategic planning projects.
* Discussion: might have been more useful if committees were more advanced in their planning.  Still have time to consider, money may be available through later rounds of funding.
* Possible uses: Renee identified seasonal gap; Haven not open on the weekend for daytime warming. LISTEN now doing Saturday meal. Could grant money be used to fund that space for daytime warming? Renee to follow up with LISTEN.

1. **Work Group Development**

* Group was concerned that the projects we had chosen needed clearer outcomes / goals as well as the issue of time. It was determined that we will use part of each CoC meeting to work on our project(s). Discussed original ideas:
  + Coordinated Communication Project followed by Community building meeting - bringing people from diverse backgrounds to the table, define how homelessness affects them, engage in finding solutions.
    - Challenge: Group felt outcomes / goals were nebulous and were working on setting up a process to engage the community instead of directly working toward solutions.
* Group brainstormed other possible projects that felt more concrete:
  + Instead of a community meeting we could Identify people to invite from new sectors (business, religious groups, non-profit, town/city, hospital) to the CoC meeting and brainstorm with them about the challenges homelessness poses for them and possible solutions.
    - Challenge: this also didn’t offer a clear concrete outcome
    - Challenge: large geographical area, diverse and widespread community
  + Landlord summit: frameworks exist for this. Lamoille has offered half-day training with speakers, housing training for landlords. Landlords don't know what can be done, wait too long
    - Challenge: What is in it for them – education about what is available, what we do, how to access. This type of project has had varied amounts of success in different regions.
  + Supports: transportation seems to be a universal issue. Could we work with churches / find retired people for evenings, weekends who could assist with transportation?
    - Challenge: liability – could we work with Stagecoach to cover volunteer insurance. They need more volunteer drivers.
  + Luke Dodge created a report from CoCs around the state. Recommendations for local CoCs. Should we look at that to get more cohesive ideas?
  + Tyler, Brattleboro project, increased housing stock. Town, Thompson Trust provided funding. Not necessarily homeless impact other than preventing.
  + SROs? Is there data showing need? Boarding house concept.  Harbor Place, through Fletcher Allen a possible model?
    - Challenge - Need for onsite staff, intensive support. Connie from Windham/Windsor Trust, talk with Twin Pines Housing Trust? (Great River Terrace).
    - Bridge and Main will have 4 new units for homeless. Is there money?
* Action: Group chose to investigate 2 options further – transportation and SROs. We will invite Stagecoach to discuss possible partnerships (Karen L. will extend invitation for October meeting). We will also invite Andrew Winter from Twin Pines to discuss possibilities for SROs (Faye G. will extend invitation for October meeting).

1. **VCEH/Coordinated Entry**

* Working on prioritization issue, taking feedback on assessment tool.
* Luke Dodge info should be on website now
* 2018 dues are due now
* Suggestions to aid in advocacy - Invite local representatives/legislators to a local CoC meeting?
  + Purpose: Meet and greet, establish relationship
  + Challenge: Need to plan message, focus before legislative session
* Joint VAHC/VCEH/ meeting September 13 at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, Randolph
* Questions re: rental assistance, VAWA (how to incorporate). Need for training?

1. **Updates:**

* SEVCA moving next to Twin Pines, Holiday Drive. September 15.
* Pathways receiving Shelter + Care vouchers for southern part of the state
  + May be soon if HUD funding comes through
  + Referrals through HMIS Coordinated Entry
  + Assessments can be done through Pathways/automated
* WISE: Coalition got large grant, initial rents, housing advocates to assist with moves to

reduce stays. NH survivors are eligible.

**Next Meetings:**

* *Thursday September 28 – Sara Phillips, OEO - Coordinated Entry*
* *Thursday October 26 tentative – Stagecoach & Andrew Winter, Twin Pines Housing*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Faye Grearson

*w/ edits by Linda Anderson*