**VCEH Coordinated Entry Committee**

**Agenda**

**April 18, 2017, 12:30 – 3pm**

**Randolph**

*Attendees:*

Sarah Phillips, DCF - OEO; Jason Brill & Jim Bastien, VA; Heather Burrows, Groundworks; Doug Sinclair, Charter House; Renee Weeks, Upper Valley Haven; Brian Smith, DMH; dawn butterfield, Capstone; Kara Casey, VNADSV; Pete Kellerman, John Graham; Sarah Grandchamp and Deb Hall, Homeless Prevention Center; Ari Kesler, VCRHYP; Caitlin Edinborough, ICA HMIS; Rebecca Gural, UVM SSVF; Ashley Lowe, DCF – Economic Services; Amos Meacham, Pathways; Joe LeClair, Samaritan House.

*Outstanding Items:*

* edit ROI for one year expiration
* draft HRT guidance
* confirm local lead contacts (have some, need more)
* draft workgroup tasks (based on HUD CE checklist)

**Update from the Veterans Committee**

* How is this group operating? How do we see the Veteran’s Coordinated Entry work and the VCEH-wide Coordinated Entry work coming together? Does it need to be connected or is it a standalone thing?

The Veteran’s committee started meeting about 18 months ago; the main work of this committee has been to develop processes and policies around a statewide by-name list for serving homeless Veterans. This group focused for a while on getting a statewide list into HMIS; but first, has started using an excel list outside of HMIS.

All VA-funded programs are participating in HMIS now. There’s a case conference protocol and a weekly case conference review of the list. There is no standard Release of Information.

USICH has provided a “benchmark” tool to help CoCs determine when they have ended Veteran’s homelessness.

205 HUD VASH Vouchers; 95% are in use; 89% are already leased-up/housed.

VA manages the master list; it is sent to the group reviewing the list; they can add people or make updates; the VA updates the master list and resends to the group; the case conference call – and conferencing is prioritized – CH, unsheltered/literally homeless, then transitional housing. 80+ folks on the list; 75% are in transitional housing (GrantPerDiem or GPD program). Folks are pulled off the list when they are housed, when they have been offered services but refused, when they are not engaged/unreachable, etc; so the list fluctuates.

HUD VASH is a Section 8 voucher program that includes housing services – it is a Permanent Supportive Housing Program that strives to use housing first principles. All clients need to be “VA health eligible”, as well as literally homeless and having a need for case management services. There’s a VA clinical screening tool that VA case managers are using, an abbreviated VI-SPDAT that looks at current housing, housing needs and functional abilities, support systems, mental health and substance abuse needs, and financial needs. The VASH case manager team at the VA reviews all of the applications for VASH using program and clinical eligibility.

The Veteran’s Committee will be working with a new TA consultant from TAC.

There was discussion about the ways that CE works for Veterans to ensure that all Veterans have access to Vet-specific and non-Vet specific housing resources. The group discussed how Veterans gain access to both sets of resources through coordinated entry (e.g., the assessment asks about Veteran status), the potential to use the same housing assessment for Veterans and the benefits for the client in doing so, the need for non-VA partners to gain consent to release information, and how prioritization for PSH may be able to align between the Veteran statewide list and the local PSH prioritization lists. There are still questions to answer about how a statewide committee works with 2 different CoC prioritization and CE processes.

**Next Step** – The Veteran’s Committee will review the VCEH assessment tool at next meeting.

**PSH Access & Prioritization**

* Debrief VCEH board meeting

The VCEH board approved the PSH policy on access and prioritization with one change. “HH member with HIV/AIDS” was changed to be a “HH member with a chronic health condition that is disabling”. This was based on a recommendation by Melany Mondello (TAC Consultant). Since it was a question the committee had posed to local CoCs for discussion, board members felt comfortable amending the document in this way.

* Outstanding questions from local CoCs

There was some discussion that the length of time someone is homeless (current episode or over lifetime) may not be weighted enough.

There was also still some concern that HH with multiple people (families) would naturally be weighted more heavily – though there is not consensus on whether this is problematic or not.

There was again discussion on whether folks can make exceptions to the prioritization criteria as established at the local CoC. The prioritization criteria is new and being field tested – **we discussed asking local CoCs to keep exceptions to the prioritization criteria rare, only be consensus of local providers, and to bring all exceptions to the statewide committee for discussion and consideration.**

There was some discussion on whether and how the PSH prioritization would or could be used for prioritization of Rapid Re-housing. The intention is not to prioritize the same households for Rapid Re-housing. The Rapid Re-housing workgroup will draft standards on access, referral and prioritization for RRH.

* Feedback from Melany Mondello, TAC

Melany provided some suggested changes to tighten the language, as well as using the explicit HUD PSH prioritization guidance language in the VCEH policy. As using this guidance was the intent of the group, this should be fine. Sarah will keep Melany’s edits, track other suggested changes, and the CE Committee will revisit the PSH standards at the June or July meeting to make revisions.

**Local CE Implementation**

* + Where, if at all, are people stuck?

The group did some problem-solving about how to help agreement signatories (usually EDs) understood coordinated entry as much as frontline staff and program managers. Most folks had partnership agreements underway.

**Schedule Workgroups**

**Convening this month:**

* **Policies & Guidance in addressing the needs of those fleeing/attempting to flee DV/SV**
  + Kara, Laurel, Sarah P, TBD DV/SV shelter
    - Kara will convene
* **Rapid Re-housing - Access, Referral & Prioritization**
  + Daniel, Sarah P, Deb, Joe
    - April 25th, 12:30, Waterbury – Deb will confirm with Daniel.
* **Assessment Tool, Tracking, Training**
  + Amos, Sarah G, dawn, Sarah P, Brian
    - Thursday, May 4th, 2pm at Capstone – dawn will get room
* **HMIS/DATA MANAGEMENT for CE Implementation**
  + Meghan, Sarah P, Doug, Ari, Karena (UVH)
    - Wednesday, May 10th, 2pm at Essex Junction – Caitlin will convene.

*To be convened – Still assigning members:*

* Emergency Shelter & Street Outreach – Access & Referral
  + Renee Weeks, Brian Smith, Sarah P
* CE Grievance/Appeal Process
  + Renee Weeks
* CE Evaluation
  + Renee Weeks
* Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions
* Training
* Prevention – Access, Referral & Prioritization
  + Ari K,