

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 3:00PM – 4:30PM

Champlain Housing Trust, 88 King Street, Burlington, VT – 2nd floor conference room

Present: Jane Helmstetter (VT Agency of Human Services, meeting chair), Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont), Amy Carmola (United Way of Northwest Vermont), Jan Demers (Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity), Kevin Pounds (ANew Place), Stephen Marshal (Community of Homeless), Marcy Esbjerg (Community & Economic Development Office, City of Burlington), Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust), Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance, meeting note taker), Erin Ahearn (Safe Harbor Health Center), and Emily Higgins (Office of Economic Opportunity) via speakerphone.

Minutes

Today, Amy Carmola (United Way of Northwest Vermont) is facilitating the conversation about a draft document called the “Outline of Mutually Reinforcing Activities” that Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust) created. The outline is meant to lay out what it would take to “make homelessness rare and brief” in our community (prevent homelessness, house/rehouse the homeless quickly, and keep people as safe as possible while they are unhoused).

Goal for today’s discussion: Get this to the “next draft” phase and be feeling good about the outline so that we can share it with the CCHA Steering Committee.

This is the discussion format we will be using today:

- 1.) Agree? Clarifying questions?
- 2.) Introductions
- 3.) Context
- 4.) Quiet Review
- 5.) Top → Bottom, piece by piece
 - Clarify? Add?
 - Remove? Change?

Suggestion to add a 4th green box: “Know and engage the community’s homeless and precariously housed population.” This would cover people in camps, in shelters, and couch surfing. Inclusion is important.

Or, do we just want to re-word Box 3?

Do we need to define “unhoused” more clearly?

Colors/levels on the outline might stand for:

Gold = main goal

Green = sub-goals/categories/conditions

Blue = strategies/activities

Orange = resources/activities

But no, it's not decided yet what the colors stand for. Blue and orange are very similar.

Under "Keep people housed," suggestion to add something about helping people who are having trouble with their mortgage payments. Some people are ineligible for rent assistance, yet they also don't have enough money to pay.

There are some people who can only be helped by "unrestricted money" (flexible funds without strict criteria) because they don't quite fit the criteria of other programs.

"Other supportive services" basically means "case management." ("Case management" is now an unpopular term because people don't like feeling like "cases" that need to be "managed.") Change "other" to "individual." "Individual supportive services." For example, it could be help for people with disabilities, people suffering from domestic violence, someone who needs help with a hoarding problem, someone who just got divorced after many years of marriage and needs help, etc. The services needed to keep yourself happy, keep your landlord happy, keep your neighbors happy. Helping people figure out what is going on in their life that jeopardizes their housing, and how they can overcome it (e.g. substance abuse, dealing drugs, people not working with their reach-up worker, etc.).

We are running out of meeting time, and are about half-way through. We will continue reviewing this at our June 2017 meeting. As homework, the committee should review the outline and come to the next meeting ready to give our thoughts on what, if anything, needs to be tweaked on the outline. Think about individual people and how they would (or wouldn't) be able to move through this outline. Would they have a smooth path, or are there gaps?

Add as an underlying practice: use standardized assessments for coordinated entry, for keeping people housed, etc.

I took a photo of the whiteboard brainstorm. (See photo on next page.)

6.) Loop Back up – anything else? (*We didn't get this far.*)

- contents?

- connections?

7.) Finalize and confirm agreement (*We didn't get this far.*)

8.) IF TIME: Whose work? (*We didn't get this far.*)

Next CCHA Strategic Planning Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM, at Champlain Housing Trust, 88 King Street, Burlington, VT – 2nd floor conference room.

FIRST NEXT

Goal: Final draft + feeling good about "map"

Next step: Share final draft with Steering Committee

HOMEWORK

- Spend time w/ document
- Lens of individuals
- Make re-distributing Orange Resources/Activities
- Green? Categories/Conditions
- ? Strategies/Activities

1) Agree? Clarifying Qs?

2) Introductions

3) Context - Remember importance of this step

4) Quiet Review

5) TOP -> BOTTOM, piece by piece

- Clarify? - Add?
- Remove? - Change?

Loop Back UP - Anything else?

- Content?
- connections?

Finalize + Confirm Agreement

IF TIME: Whose work?

4:30 END

Map of Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Aspirational - make sure aspiration to serve

Questions

GREEN LEVER = Add a fourth box somewhere: Know + engage

Broader theme =

System Resilience + Excellence

Client-Centered / Driven

Changes: Help with mortgage, back rent, utilities is available

Financial Counseling (Education)

Evolutional Shifts

Add to Bottom? "Standardized Assessment" at all doors

Change "other" to "individualized support"

· Precariously housed + couch-surfing

· Inexpensive shelter

· 1) Add inclusion

· 2) Parse out Box 3

· smoother path stay outdoors

· NO? too much like "case management"