

VCEH Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2015 * Randolph, VT

Present: Sara Kobylenski (Upper Valley Haven), Daniel Blankenship (VT State Housing Authority), Gilan Merwanji (VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence), Holly Olio (NW Counseling & Support Services), Aliceanne Lavalley (VT Veteran Services-SSVF), Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust), Elizabeth Eddy (BROC), Tracy Sweeney (VA Medical Center), Ashley Greenfield (Homeless Prevention Center), Willa Davidian (VT Housing & Conservation Board), Emily Clever (Winston Prouty), Whitney Nichols (Consumer Advocate), Kathy Metras (NE Kingdom Community Action), Sarah Phillips (AHS-Office of Economic Opportunity), Dawn Butterfield (Capstone Community Action), Tracy Collier (Capstone Community Action), Shaun Gilpin (Dept. of Housing & Community Development), Brian Smith (Dept. of Mental Health), Renee Sarao (VCEH-VISTA), Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez (Pathways Vermont), Jeanne Montross (Helping to Overcome Poverty's Effects)

Updates: Brian discussed DMH involvement with mental health projects funded by the HUD CoC Program and the impact of recent HUD priorities. Sara requests a written summary from DMH so the VCEH can act accordingly.

July Minutes: Kathy motions to accept, Sarah seconds, no discussion, all in favor, Willa abstains.

Treasurer's Report (see attachment): Dawn provided verbal update to accompany hard copy treasurer's report; the single agency dues structure seems to be working well; OEO donated \$1500 for VCEH's portion of the VISTA position as VCEH did not have funds at the time; Tracy recommends that a cover sheet be developed to accompany the member dues invoice to explain the purpose (i.e. helps the coalition, VCEH member voting privilege, etc.).

Committee Updates:

- **NOFA Updates-** Daniel provided handouts (see attachments) from the project selection process & VCEH policy from two years ago when there was a full CoC NOFA application; outlined federal HUD distribution of funds; VCEH needs to review and approve a new policy & process when the NOFA is released; local CoCs were provided a chart of CoC projects and have reviewed & prioritized for funding; a new BoS-wide CoC project chart will updated and provided to VCEH; establishment of a Ranking Team is the next step with the hardest part being for them to determine how to rank (and make cuts if needed for a placement to Tier 2 which may or may not be funded); this year's local CoC input helps alleviate the concerns from Ranking Teams and make the ranking process easier than in previous years; Daniel reviewed list of members, including Tracy Sweeney (VA) who is a new volunteer this year; not sure if we need to implement a "Hybrid Approach" which reduced a certain number of lower ranking projects with those funds reallocated into a new project (two years ago those funds were reallocated into a new Shelter+Care project in Rutland); last year CoCs had to put at least 5% of funds into Tier 2 but this year HUD has said it will be higher; some strategic management of the tiers will still be needed; reviewed the policy & process from two years ago (i.e. HUD wants to fund housing not services, project voluntarily reduction, former Services Only projects

reallocated to Rapid Rehousing, geographic distribution-no CoC project in Lamoille, PIT count average over 5 years-which was similar to VT211 data for literal homeless); Vermont is getting more than HUD baseline for CoC funding; sequestration also impacted BoS as part of the 5% cut; updated CoC on status of the reallocated S+C Rutland project with recent HUD-approved amendment from sponsor-based rental assistance to tenant-based; reviewed options for agencies to submit an appeal to the Ranking Team or HUD if they didn't like the decisions that were made; reviewing the ranking tool and needs assessment chart; reviewed decisions of the Steering Committee (will add to VCEH website), Next step is to review ranking tool, wait for actual NOFA release; Sara referenced Brian's previous advocacy for CoC-funded mental health transitional housing projects; Daniel will set up a meeting (go-to) with Sarah to review the policy and ranking tool.

- **Veterans Updates:** HUD/USICH survey of CoC planning to End Veteran homelessness: Daniel asked questions/received responses from the group for the survey (attached) about a veteran subcommittee, registry, referrals, connecting to services, etc.
- **HMIS updates:**
 - Margaret announced the Chittenden CoC vote to select ICA as HMIS Lead/Administrator, ServicePoint as HMIS software and joint implementation with VT BoS CoC with shared governance.
 - Daniel said next steps was getting vote from local CoCs, of 9 responding all voted yes; Federal Homeless Programs that need to be included in VT HMIS are: HUD ESG/COC, VA SSVF, HHS PATH, HHS RHYP and HUD HOPWA(?). Shared governance will allow economies of scale with 2 staff statewide (.6FTE for Chittenden); ICA has a CoC HMIS grant and Chittenden is looking at potential reallocation of CoC funds.
 - *Test site that ICA can view is not the same site as they are sending new users to see. Test site is glitch and it freezes. Info seems to be saved when it freezes but user not informed so double data entry is happening.
 - When will the new ICA VT staff get here? How long should it take a new user to get trained? ShelterPoint training is part of training but not relevant to all users.
- **Nominating Committee:** There are more nominees than slots for the new CoC Board structure, July/August votes tabled until nominees from new entities.
- **Standing Rules:** Reviewed track changes/revisions; Membership & Board Representation; Brian wants to add DMH as its own voting member; VOTE to accept changes, as amended: Dawn moved, Whitney seconded, all in favor, passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Blankenship