

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 2016

St. John's Church, Randolph, VT

Present: Joyce Cloutier, Vets Inc; MaryEllen Mendl, VT211; Kara Casey, VT Network; Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez, Pathways Vermont; Jim Bastien, VA; Sara Kobylenski, Upper Valley Haven; Renee Weeks, Upper Valley Haven; Jennifer Hollar, VHCB; Peter Kellerman, John Graham Shelter; Shaun Gilpin, DHCD; Kelly Greaves, DCF-ESD; Sarah Phillips, OEO; Sandy Paritz, VLA; Daniel Blankenship, VSHA; Bethany Pombar, VCRHYP; Geoffrey Pippenger, DCF-ESD; Robert Ostermeyer, FGICA/CVOEO; Margaret Bozik, CHT; Maura Collins, VHFA; Brooke Jenkins, Good Sam. Haven; Ashley Greenfield, HPC; Connie Sandahl, NEKYS; Meghan Morrow, ICA; By Phone: Whitney Nichols, Advocate; Jennifer Allen, ICA; Erhard Mahnke, VAHC; Pat Burke, SEVCA; Elizabeth Eddy, BROC

The meeting was called to order at 10 AM by MaryEllen Mendl. Introductions were made, and several announcements were included. Maura Collins noted the November 15, 2016 "save the date" for the housing conference, which will have at least one track on service enriched housing. Margaret Bozik commented on the VCEH inquiry about the letter from Chittenden Continuum to AHS about codifying CWE as a rule and lowering the sanction from 30 days to 7; she will share the letter. Rebekah Lawrence-Gomez announced that SSVF will be launching a website. Sarah Phillips announced that the legislature appropriated \$40K to produce a Roadmap to Ending Homelessness with matching funding from VHCB of \$5K; VHFA of \$5K; VCF of \$25K and NeighborWorks. The report to the legislature is due in January 2017. A committee has been established to guide the process.

The Minutes of April 2016 were moved, seconded and approved. The treasurer's report was that stipends for consumer members had been increased to \$200. It was noted that one consumer seat is open as Will Eberle has resigned from the Board. Kara Casey is the new representative of the VT Network. An error in the dues list was noted; WCYSB listing is really dues from VCRHYP.

The HMIS report was the next item on the agenda, with Rebekah Lawrence-Gomez reporting for the Advisory Committee. Bethany Pombar asked about the target number of members for the Committee and duration of terms, Meghan Morrow says limited interest in the group means the current members have discussed those issues but not proposed answers. The present minimum expected is one from each local continuum group. The list of members from January is the most current. The matter of the Committee Charter was addressed, with approval voted with one person abstaining. In the other dimension of the HMIS report, Sara Kobylenski noted that the Co-Chairs will coordinate with the Chittenden Continuum Chairs to review the HMIS lead, ICA, as they approach one year of work in Vermont. It was noted that attention should also be given to the size, composition and term limits of the Advisory Committee.

Jim Bastien reported on the Veterans Committee. He noted there is a work team and a policy team. The overall purpose is to end Veterans Homelessness in 2016. Their two key tools are the "by name" list and case conferencing every two weeks. In an important step the VA national office has determined that no release of information is needed for all agencies to share data via HMIS, unless drug, alcohol or sickle cell anemia issues are involved. This means one single release of information form (one to receive information and one to share information) will suffice. Jim will distribute the approved form to all

agencies which will then allow for case conferences to occur. He notes that participating in HMIS allows for this communication, and encourages all groups to participate in Service Point.

Sarah Phillips next reported on the Coordinated Entry Workgroup. Attention has been paid to the HUD guidance on permanent supportive housing, with particular attention to prioritization. Work has also taken place on the local continuum Coordinated Entry MOUs. The language has needed attention as the Agency of Administration has determined that State departments cannot sign on to MOUs but can sign on to partnership agreements. Rutland and Washington Counties still continue as pilots. Margaret Bozik asked about variants of release forms, with reference back to the previous Veterans conversation. Sarah replied that the overall Coordinated Entry work is the base and the Veterans work layers on top of it. Eventually the goal will be to have one universal release of information.

Erhard Mahnke reported from the Legislative Committee. He noted his role in the legislature, and recognized Karen Lafayette from the Low Income Advocacy Council. He referred to the summary report he submitted previously [on the VCEH website]. Of note is that this is the ninth straight year of budget shortfalls. Three specific policy matters were noted for attention: 1) landlord tenant law changes; 2) GA rules in cold weather exception including the number of days of sanction; and 3) new federal guidance on offenders and record checks vis a vis housing.

Meghan Morrow presented the ICA/HMIS report. She shared that data quality is definitely improving around the state. She asked that she be informed about turn over in personnel for management of licenses as well as to be sure she keeps up with training needs.

NOFA was addressed briefly by Daniel Blankenship. The PIT and Housing Inventory charts have been submitted to HUD. The registration for the next NOFA has been released, and VSHA has responded as our Collaborative Applicant. He has been working with various providers around the state to help us collectively be positioned as strongly as possible for the next round. There are some issues and conditions to be addressed with recently awarded grants and some amended grant activities and questions from NEKCA, Bennington County and TPHT in Windsor County. In looking forward, he notes that current projects and reallocations are moving forward, and for the next round he anticipates focus on systemic response to homelessness; data collection; strategic addressing of homelessness; and a housing first approach. Daniel passed out the annual VT information packet and walked through each element of it. He noted especially that Rapid Rehousing is a very low barrier opportunity, but recipients can still be excluded from other permanent voucher programs. Maura Collins noted that sometimes barriers to access can be overcome through having a landlord liaison. Three such positions have been funded through HOP grants, in Brattleboro, Rutland and in the counties served by Capstone. Pathways also has experience with this.

The next meeting will be on June 21, 2016 with attention to Collective Impact and possible staffing for VCEH.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Kobylenski

Scribe du jour