

Hartford Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 29, 2016

Present:

NAME	AGENCY / ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL
Linda Anderson	Capstone Community Action	landerson@capstonevt.org
Brandyn Arnold	AHS	brandyn.arnold@partner.vermont.gov
Ben Dana	HCRS	bdana@hcrs.org
Lisa Delegato	Community Health Team – Gifford	ldelegato@giffordmed.org
Jennifer Fontaine	Upper Valley Haven	Jfontaine#uppervalleyhaven.org
Faye Grearson	Twin Pines Housing Trust	Faye.grearson@tphtrust.org
Katie Haley	VT NG Family Assistance Specialist	Kathleen.m.haley.ctr@mail.mil
Chris Husmann	WRJ VA Medical Center	Christy.husmann@va.gov
Doug Kleintop	VT ESD	douglas.kleintop@vermont.gov
Karen Lipinczyk	WISE	1aren.lipinczyk@wiseoftheuppervalley.net
Karina McNamara	Upper Valley Haven	kmcnamara@uppervalleyhaven.org
Ramsey Papp	Capstone Community Action	rpapp@capstonevt.org
Jim Tonkovich	VT 211	Jim@unitedwaysvt.org
Justin Wagner	Clara Martin Center	jwagner@claramartin.org

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am at Bev's Place at the Upper Valley Haven.

1. Approval of Minutes from August 25th Meeting

- Reviewed purpose of Continuum of Care as discussed at previous meeting for people new to the table
- August 25th – minutes passed by unanimous vote

2. Reports / Updates / Announcements

- SEVCA – Fuel calls have begun – there is currently no funding to assist people. In July & August they were busy with housing but a lot of people presenting were not HOP eligible.
- TRI-CAP – has some funds for housing.
 - EHP is only available to be used toward first month's rent. Right now they have a 30% client / other organization contribution and an income limit. This isn't available for subsidy housing. This may change within the next couple of weeks. It appears that they'll get some prevention money back but not for subsidy.
 - ESG funds with no income limit. Funds can go toward first month or prevention if it will stop the eviction. The maximum amount is \$600. There is a possibility of short term subsidy. There are a limited number of people able to be served of the Tri-County area. Again, not for subsidy housing.
 - HARLF can go toward 1st month or toward security. Maximum of \$600. It is a loan, usually expected to be paid back over a 12 month period. This can be use on subsidized housing.
- Capstone Community Action – HOP funds are available to assist participants who are literally homeless (living in a place not meant for human habitation), or on the verge of homelessness who have received written notice that their right to occupy the space will end within 21 days (this may be a notice to quit, writ of possession, etc.) Participants receive housing counseling and may be eligible for funds available to help with rental and financial assistance.
- VT Coalition to End Homelessness – The last VCEH meeting was a joint meeting with Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition. Gubernatorial candidates came and spoke (*to view minutes from that meeting go to www.helpingtohousevt.org*). Updates were given on the Road Map to End Homelessness project – results will be available in December. The Havens' thanks were expressed for the CoC's approval of the Haven as the Coordinated Entry Lead for our region.

- November is National Hunger and Awareness Month. The Upper Valley Haven will hold a big event on November 13th. Bridges Out of Poverty is coming up. Getting Ahead classes (a self-awareness curriculum) are ongoing. On October 6th they'll be holding their first off campus classes in Claremont. The class helps participants identify "predators" like pay day lenders, etc. There's a \$200 stipend when participants graduate. They are also hosting one through the VA. The trainer is also being trained to provide classes for teens.
- VT 211 - Brattleboro will have a warming shelter again – they were previously serving 25+ but this year they may be down to 16.

3. Presentation (Rutland Homeless Prevention Center – Deborah Hall):

- Coordinated Entry – turning homeless response system into a crisis response system by teaching the community what an appropriate referral is and streamlining the process, educating the community on available resources.
- Rutland has been piloting the project for a year. They have seen it:
 - Improve appropriate and coordinated referrals
 - Increase understanding of resources between partners
 - Decrease duration of homelessness
 - Prevention has increased 54%
- They reviewed the Coordinated Entry Screening Tool which is designed to be simple for inexperienced partners to use. Everyone in the community working with people should be screening partners. There may also be a few assessment partners who would fill out the in depth assessment with participants which is a much more detailed tool. Through the screening / assessment process they identify the supports needed – sometimes they find they need to mandate things like Rental 101. Clients with long term needs are referred to Family Supportive Housing.
- Speed bumps Rutland has found:
 - Not every agency wants to conform to the paperwork
 - Turf wars
 - Staff turnover / consistency
 - Ping-ponging of people back and forth
- Lessons learned:
 - Ask what people's expectations of us are as service providers
 - Referrals – Rutland has a database to track – follow up by referring partner when making referrals is important
 - All adults in the household (18 and up) have to sign the release
 - Do trainings for agencies participating in the process

Next Meetings

Suggestion to combine November & December meetings due to holiday schedule

- *Thursday December 4, 2016 or December 8, 2016 – Coordinated Entry Work Plan & Provider mapping*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Ramsey Papp

w/ edits by Linda Anderson