

Attendees:

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|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Ramsey Papp | Capstone | rpapp@capstonevt.org |
| Linda Anderson | Capstone | landerson@capstonevt.org |
| Shannon Tzrinske | SEVCA | stzrinske@sevca.org |
| Jennifer Fontaine | Haven | jfontaine@uppervalleyhaven.org |
| Lynn Boyle | AHS | |
| Megan Chapman | HCRS | mchapman@hcrs.org |
| Jim Tonkovich | 211 | jim@unitedwaysvt.org |
| Glenn Reed | VCIL (Rutland) | greed@vcil.org |
| Arwen Farrell | TPHT | Arwen.farrell@tphtrust.org |
| Renee Weeks | Haven | rweeks@uppervalleyhaven.org |
| Karen Lipinczyk | WISE | Karen.lipinczyk@wiseoftheuppervalley.org |

Meeting began at 11:32AM

Distribution of e-mail attachments by Jennifer Fontaine – Draft of policies to be voted on as well as copy of meeting minutes from May 2016

Reassign local representative (Sara Kobylenski) for VCEH- will now be Renee Weeks

Reassign co-chair (Sara Kobylenski) of local Continuum of Care meetings: Linda Anderson volunteered to co-chair with Lynn Boyle

Voting**Vote A (Policy), CoC Project Ranking: Yes, with concerns -10 aye, 0 opposed**

- SEVCA (nor any other CAP agency) should have representation on the CoC Project Ranking Team, due to possibility of perceived or actual bias/conflict of interest. We request this change be made.
- There are a group of people that will not be able to get to supportive housing because they cannot get through the transitional housing – unfair disadvantage to a group of people
- Having blank areas on forms, or correct answer not available (ex. Experience with homelessness, 0 is not available...)
- Concerns for use of terms, language, standards, definitions
- State should be more thoughtful of what they are asking
- With HPRP on up there was training; HOP was not the same approach
- All granters and funders meet in the same room for guidance
- Assistance with gauging what intervention helped create a better outcome and standard of care
- Use data to help create the standards

Vote B (Ranking Tool): Yes – but with lists of concerns; 11 aye, 0 opposed

General comments:

1. We see a real need for common measurements across agencies, so that all proposed projects are graded the same way.
2. Will this make accommodations for ServicePoint glitches?
3. We request training for all grantees on HOP just like has been done in the past (think HPRP). Linda Anderson states none have been provided for all grantees at once (preferred, so everyone gets the same message).
4. We want to be held to better outcomes, so let's decide what the outcome should be based on what works for clients and keeps them housed long-term, not what HUD thinks should work.

Part A: We question the low points for transitional housing, as this is an important thing for some people who would never get into permanent housing without it.

Part B: Reiterate our question about making accommodations for ServicePoint glitches.

Part C #5 – Where do they intent to pull that data from? (JF's guess is they assume it will be in ServicePoint). We will need data sharing among agencies to have proper access to information.

Part D: Veterans only get 2 points (noted 'multiple choices allowed')

Part D: People with disabilities not included**

No Domestic Violence priority. **

Part xxx: What about people with bad credit history? (includes criminal history, but not bad credit?) Discussed that credit does not disqualify people from other services (vouchers, programs) but becomes problem when looking for housing; therefore does not disqualify them from the 'project'.

Part E: #2 includes option #1? Odd numbers, like the concept but information presented is in question.

*Lynn noted that we should revisit the point system on an annual basis; How does this process of review take place?

Would you rather see the funding be provided to the state or provided locally. Possibly split. What will money pay for – staffing dollars?

Plus/Minus

How equitable would the spread be if it was split between local/state. Currently receiving no funding for coordinated entry. Renee advocates for local. Time may be spent with larger projects and populations and leave smaller areas in the lurch. Could cover HMIS licenses, staffing time, admin time for HMIS data entry/collection of data and pulling reports, local meetings, time spent doing collaborative agreements on how to do the data entry.

Lynn: Sounds like most people are leaning towards the money going to the local level – anyone with some reflection about going with state? Coordinated entry is going to have to go statewide. Perhaps we don't have enough information to answer this question?

Discussion of how applications are submitted, accepted, implemented. State proposal would be easier with individual plans.

Vote C: Unanimous to get clarity on definition.

Vote D:

Should they maintain this list? Existing list distributed – YES
Additional or fewer members?

Additional; who or why:

Discussion: What about Vermont Low Income Housing Agency, Vermont Psychiatric Survivor, Vermont Recovery Network, Affordable Housing Coalition

If Fewer; who or why:

Noted: SEVCA is also a Team Membership; noted they are the only local one on the list and may have a conflict of interest. They would have to recuse themselves if they ever applied for funding. May help our area but not sure if it appears 'fair' to other Community Action. Concerned how to balance the vote without biased. Confused on how we can have ANY local rep without bias.

Remainder of meeting:

Clergy Breakfast at the Haven:

22 members (19 churches), in attendance, most of them had not been to the Haven before. Multiple areas and denominations present. Better turn out due to timing of year (not around religious holidays like Easter, etc.). They had a lot of questions pertaining to community members in need and asked a lot of 'what to do, what if they need xxx?' etc. related questions. Additionally, there were questions regarding the town ordinance that Lebanon was trying to pass, questions about pan handlers and 'correct response' – Jennifer paraphrased Sara's response 'It is a personal choice you make as a citizen to stop or not stop, they are entrepreneurs and are making the choices to be there, etc.' We have made efforts to stop and work with them, and typically we are turned down. They seem well informed of local services and chose not to engage. Some are not even homeless and even have vehicles, some are just on the edge of homelessness.

Discussed efforts of each congregation for each town and area about what they could do to assist their homeless population. Discussed "Church of Love"; made clear it is NOT affiliated with the Haven but we respect his right to form the church and develop as he so choses. Also made clergy members alert to possible vulnerabilities of people that do become involved in the church with Ryan Clausson.

Legal Aid question:

Someone was working with Legal Aid; client had lost SSI, legal aid worked with them and then client could not get paperwork back from legal aid, working with them for 8 months. How should we advise client to contact? Renee – Attorney General's office. There should be a supervisor available to speak with – perhaps not state level, but a supervisor?

JFI :

Rutland far and above everywhere else in the state (on referrals as well as actual enrollments). This person does outreach and she sees everybody, one person following everyone. Very busy, but fewer places to stop (get lost along the way). More constant presence. Brattleboro may be catching up to Rutland. What was different about WRJ, how did Rutland set it up differently that assisted with success rate? Push to contact people more, but already leaving 3 messages and not getting phone calls back. Being pushed to keep pressing with communication, but concern for how much time to try to make contact? Is there word getting around that it is ineffective or people are not being chosen? Frustrating due to too many doors to get through? Shannon still learning how to communicate with clients in a way that isn't defeating (you may not be chosen, but you will still get assistance....).

Haven:

Family spaces? No – two moving in at this time

THERE IS AN APP for 211! Both Android and Apple. It even seems to work ☺

211 Question:

How to educate on who people should contact. Skewed information about who to contact on the border towns, Capstone/SEVCA. Clients getting frustrated with calling an agency that wasn't the correct one, blaming 211 for giving them information. Shannon to send list of towns for Jim to cross reference again. Pomfret seems to be one of the challenging areas.

JULY

- Meet in Café space again for July
- July agenda TBD

Meeting Adjourned 12:52

Minutes prepared by Emily Curtis with added notes on Voting discussion by Jennifer Fontaine.