

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2017

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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

MEETING MINUTES

1. Introductions and Announcements.

CCHA Steering Committee Members in Attendance: Champlain Housing Trust (Margaret Bozik: committee co-chair), Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (Chris Brzovic, Meg MacAuslan), Burlington Police Department (Lacey-Ann Smith: committee secretary), ANEW Place (Kevin Pounds), Committee on Temporary Shelter (Johnny Quezada, Adam Wager), Homeless Community (Stephen Marshall), Pathways Vermont (Lindsay Casale), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Jason Brill), UVM Medical Center (Jason Williams), Vermont 2-1-1, United Ways of Vermont (MaryEllen Mendl), Vermont Center for Independent Living (Kim Colville), Burlington Housing Authority (Allyson Laackman, Stephanie Bixby), Spectrum Youth & Family Services (Will Towne), United Way of Northwest Vermont (Diana Carminati).

(CCHA Steering Committee Members Absent: VT Agency of Human Services Burlington Field District Director (facilitator), Community & Economic Development Office, City of Burlington (collaborative applicant), Howard Center, Steps to End Domestic Violence, Vermont State Housing Authority.)

Other Attendees: Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (Paddy Shea: meeting note taker), Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (Laurel Chen), Pride Center of Vermont (Josie Leavitt), VT AHS DCF Office of Economic Opportunity (George Seiffert), Safe Harbor Health Center, Community Health Centers of Burlington (Erin Ahearn), Vermont Legal Aid (Jessica Radbord), Homeless Advocate/Canal Street Veterans Housing (David Przepioski), Institute for Community Alliances (Meghan Morrow, Caitlin Ettenborough), UVM Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Steve Lunna), Cathedral Square (Laura Wilson), Diana Causeland.

Announcements: None.

2. Outreach (Stephen Marshall, Homeless Community)

Stephen will present a proposal for outreach throughout Chittenden County.

See Appendix A: Everyone Known to Someone proposal.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): By show of hands, how many people have read the proposal? *(About half raise hands.)* It's actually 2 proposals here. One is the larger framing, and one is about how we handle the PIT count in the near term—the 2018 PIT count. I was on the PIT count phone call for the balance of state, and the consensus seemed to be that we wanted to do direct entry to the google form, and only use the paper forms when you can't get reception. I would ask that this group weigh in on how we want to handle that.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): She has a comment that we have not counted people who are precariously housed for a long time in this county. If we could figure out a way to do that and

incorporate that into the PIT count, it would be valuable info. for us, even though it's not required by HUD.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I agree, and the plan supports that.

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): I think there's some great work here and we need to figure out how to move forward. It's huge in scope. We should think about a sub-committee attached to somebody (perhaps Strategic Planning?) to figure out how to move it forward, community by community. To get authentic engagement in each community, and get connected to the people who are already doing it.

-Stephanie Bixby (Burlington Housing Authority): I think it's an ambitious proposal, but I think we should focus on getting coordinated entry up and running first. I think it's premature to do this until we get coordinated entry in place and operating.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): How long would you want to see CE in place before we start this?

-Stephanie Bixby (Burlington Housing Authority): It depends on how smoothly CE is implemented.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): I'm a supporter of this proposal. It's a great idea. I think it makes sense to use this as an outreach system for coordinated entry. We could have 2-1-1 available in the process and put notices out as a minimal way to do outreach, but Stephen's proposal would be a more robust way to do outreach. But, I agree with Stephanie that we should wait until we have CE up and running, which could be soon—January 2018.

-Jason Williams (UVM Medical Center): Is there a way to test this? Maybe there is a municipality we could test this with. There are some town managers engaged in conversations to provide better services to their communities. For instance, Colchester and South Burlington have a lot of professional capacity to engage with this.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): this isn't just about the HMIS and PIT count, however this is a multidimensional proposal trying to create a social infrastructure to re-integrate homeless people into the community. I want city councilors and regional planning commissions to know about how people can get connected to our services. We need to be ready to do training, give information, and receive information, but then the communities...

-Lindsay Casale (Pathways Vermont): I also like the plan and it's the right spirit to get the community involvement. But, I am inclined to attach it to coordinated entry, because you're talking about a volunteer network, and often people who know less about the work don't get involved is because they don't know what to do. So, if we could attach it to CE, then people would feel more like they could help people and engage with someone to give them a path forward.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): Yes, it's absolutely intended to serve coordinated entry. I would hope that the local community could also provide us information about landlords that are amenable to helping the homeless, and stuff like that.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): I know there are a lot of people putting a lot of time into CE right now because of our January deadline, and the PIT count, unfortunately, also takes place in January.

-Lindsay Casale (Pathways Vermont): holiday time is also when a lot of people also want to be more active and giving. It might be a chance for us to meet volunteers at soup kitchens, etc.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): who here has time to work on this between now and January?

*** 3 people raise hands: Stephen Marshall, David Przepioski, Diana Carminati.*

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): I think it would be helpful to see what we could start with. It would be fun to explore with whoever is willing to work with us.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I would like to see us taking small steps with contacting the regional planning commission and towns, etc. I tried to lay out a timeline that was pretty modest. The important thing right now is for us to be ready for the PIT count. I think we should update our devices so we can do direct entry into the google form so we aren't wasting time doing double data entry.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): I think that's a separate question.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I want to work on this, and I'm mindful that there's a limited amount of energy.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): There is a statewide PIT committee on which Chittenden participates. Is the mechanism for the PIT count going to be resolved by them?

-Laurel Chen (Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness): Yes, we will be doing training on the google form, and there will be a paper form that people can use if needed.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): great.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): We want to reach people in the far corners of the county, and meet people I don't know. What a great opportunity.

-MaryEllen Mendl (Vermont 2-1-1): I love it and would love to be a part of it, but the timing for me is bad (CE, PIT count, and some other things). I would love to participate, but I just can't do it right now.

-Laurel Chen (Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness): I can't necessarily be on it, but some of the tools VCEH are creating could be used if you wanted. For instance, a PIT count worksheet so that local leaders know what they would need to do to organize the PIT count. You are welcome to use any of these tools.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I would like to have an official mandate to work on this, and to know what we are charged with doing.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Could I ask that you come back to the November meeting and propose what the next steps would be?

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): Yes.

-Kim Colville (Vermont Center for Independent Living): I'd be interested in coming to your first meeting to see what you are planning to do.

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): Could Paddy help with that?

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): Maybe.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): We have to remember that Paddy is only half-time with us.

** Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): A few people arrived late, so let's do another round of introductions. (*Everyone introduces themselves.*)

3. Homelessness Affecting Transgender People (Josie Leavitt, Pride Center of Vermont)

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): We've seen a huge spike of members who are homeless. There's a lot of transphobia happening in housing in Vermont. There are great resources for youth, but once you hit 25, the services drop off. A lot of our trans community members are homeless because of landlord antagonism, and being unsafe in their housing. E.g. being deliberately misgendered, slurs, etc. Often, they are not able to find housing. There has been a problem with people being targeted for "peeing while trans": that's when some trans people who are homeless, if they get caught doing public urination, they are sometimes put on the sex offender list, even though they have done nothing wrong. The trans people have been told by some of the shelters "we can't keep you safe here," or that they are going to house them as the gender that was put on their birth certificate, rather than the gender they identify with. Perhaps they need to have some rooms reserved for trans people (I know there's some debate about that), but there have been trans people who have had to sleep at a bus stop, or inside a 24/hour store and hope they don't get kicked out every 3 hours. We are getting more and more calls from trans people asking for help finding housing. A lot of landlords, especially the low-income housing landlords, would benefit from a LGBT training and trans training. A lot of people think they know how to be an ally, but sometimes they really don't. For instance, misgendering someone after being corrected once. I know you have a "How to be an Ally" training that's \$99, but I'd love to see it be free and host one at the Pride Center. Sometimes trans people don't feel comfortable going to the food shelves or other resource centers. This really is a problem. We had 2 people last year who deliberately broke the law so they would be housed in jail for the winter ("three hots and a cot").

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): Legal Aid has a VT discrimination law project to send actors in to see if landlords respond differently to people based on their appearance (race, gender identity, etc.). There's also the Human Rights Commission. There's a new-ish equal access law that people who are trans can't be barred from shelters.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): We are finding that's being ignored.

-David Przepioski (Homeless Advocate): Jessica, you mentioned actors. Can people who are really looking for housing be one of the testers because then they might find housing?

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): I'm not sure, but I don't think so. There are a lot of criteria that have to be met.

-Stephanie Bixby (Burlington Housing Authority): We offer lots of housing to people who are trans. We have capacity to help and we don't discriminate against trans people at all.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): We don't know much about housing because this isn't something we've worked on in the past. I'm trying to learn about this. Many trans people have been so beaten down by systems that it takes a while for them to trust people. I encourage people to get in touch with me at josie@pridecentervt.org.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): We get 7 applications for every vacant apartment.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): We had someone who had a voucher for 6 months and couldn't find an apartment.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): We have a number of apartments in our portfolio that are dedicated for people living with HIV and AIDS. A lot of those are handled through the housing authority, so they may be managing the wait list. I will check on the homeownership classes. The other really good training opportunity is the statewide housing association managers meet once a year (it's in 2 weeks, so too late to get on the agenda for this year, but many next year).

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): There's the Vermont Apartment Owner's Association, but only certain landlords participate. They're usually the landlords that want to follow the law.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): If any of you are interested in training, contact us. I'd especially like to talk to COTS because I feel like there is a bit of a disconnect there.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Our next Quarterly Meeting is in December. Maybe we could have this on the agenda for that.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): Maybe we can talk about this in our coordinated entry meetings/plan too. Also, make sure to get people on the waiting list for Burlington Housing Authority. Being on the sex offender registry does not disqualify you unless it is a lifetime registry.

-Erin Ahearn (Safe Harbor Health Center, CHCB): We ran the warming shelter and worked with the Pride Center. There are some amazing resources online about how to be respectful of and helpful to trans people.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Thank you very much for coming in. This was great timing.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): I have time in my schedule to help with this, so please reach out to me.

-Lindsay Casale (Pathways Vermont): The Pathways Vermont community center, is open noon-5, five days a week. There is access to bathrooms and showers there.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I can send you our list of showers and meals.

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): Stephen, can you send that to me too? I'll put it on our website.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): Yes.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): BHA has an anti-harassment policy. We should make sure people know about it. It's true that tenants have protections, so even if something is going badly, it can take some time to resolve it.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): Our clients know that, but it sometimes feels like "why do I have to fight just to exist?" There's nothing worse than feeling unsafe in your own home. They're tired of having to fight for everything, so having all of you as allies will be great. Most of our clients have had sexual violence, bias crimes, etc., perpetrated against them.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I'm curious about the feelings about segregation. If there was a shelter where trans people were isolated, it might promote an emotional and social isolation.

-Josie Leavitt (Pride Center of Vermont): Gender neutral bathrooms or showers is one of the best ways to do this. Trans people wind up getting UTIs and kidney infections from holding it all day at work (even working in professional offices). A lot of the DV shelters have 1 or 2 single rooms that are used for a variety of purposes and can be used for trans people. A lot of the people I have worked with would welcome the single room because they would feel safe.

*** Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): We are going to flip number 4 and 5 on the agenda, so we'll be talking about the data import first.

**4. Data Import Update (Meghan Morrow, Institute for Community Alliances; and Adam Wager, Committee on Temporary Shelter)
Update on the progress of importing COTS data into ServicePoint.**

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): We have the first full year of COTS data imported. We can use the first $\frac{3}{4}$ of that and add it to the AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report: a report that goes to Congress; the whole nation has to do it, it helps with data-driven policy and determining homelessness funding). We are going to try to get July-September imported too.

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): ICA has been great. We've done the upload in 2 batches. The first batch was the previous 4th quarter and... It took 9 months to do the first import. The second batch I uploaded data on 7/6 and the notice of confirmation from Mediware came on 9/17. And that was with me bugging them to make sure they were on it.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): The goal is to do monthly imports. We'd like to set up secure file-sharing so that ICA can take over the imports.

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): The imports are still going through the custom desk at Mediware.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): So, we'd like to make it so Mediware doesn't have to do that.

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): Part of the reason COTS is so interested in doing this by import is it was 375 people in the last batch, which would be a lot of data to manually input.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): The programmers say ServicePoint was only designed to do ServicePoint to ServicePoint transfers, but it's been promoted as being good at doing other imports too. So, we're trying to get Mediware out of the picture.

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): Thank you very much for all the work you're doing on this, and for updating us.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): I appreciate the improvement that's happened. Are we aiming for monthly?

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): Yes, we're aiming for monthly, and eventually we'd love to get to every 2 weeks.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): Monthly will be as close to real-time as we can do for now.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): So, CE wants it to be real-time data.

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): The HUD-required elements (on the HMIS form) would be imported. The extra/non-HUD CE data would be manually inputted. We are trying to stay away from duplicating data entry because it would take people away from providing direct services.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Can we get an update in December on how this is going? At that point, we really need to—

-Adam Wager (Committee on Temporary Shelter): I also keep Sarah Phillips at OEO updated on this.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): The last time, the state sent a letter to HUD. In the interest of the people we're serving, especially as we get to a by-name-list, we want to have this data available.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): For the December update, what are we looking for? What's the benchmark? Having it available monthly, biweekly, or if it makes sense for our system at all?

-Stephanie Bixby (Burlington Housing Authority): If you're going to continue to do imports, it has to be at least bi-weekly. We need that information so we can do our jobs. Bi-weekly would be the gold standard.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): In that case, then we should have it say that those who are manually entering, then they should have to have it entered at least every 2 weeks. Most people do that already, but not everyone.

*** Many nods from the group.*

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Can I ask that this be part of the CE discussions, and that everybody should be on a bi-weekly standard for when we adopt this in January.

-Meghan Morrow (Institute for Community Alliances): The HMIS standard that was approved for both CoCs says 5 days.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): I'm not sure, but maybe that's not realistic and we may need to revise that. Or, maybe we need to leave it in there. So, that will go to CE and we will hear back on it in December.

**5. Burlington City Council resolutions. (Margaret Bozik, Champlain Housing Trust)
Discussion about the two City Council resolutions and the follow-up message from Councilor Roof.**

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): Adam Roof was hoping to be here today, but couldn't due to other obligations. I thought it would be helpful for us as a group to think about what would be the most important things for the city to do as the city. Thinking about both the "safety" resolution and the first resolution was that people who built up repeat civil violations would get a criminal penalty. The second one was how can the city address the gaps in services for the homeless community.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): One of the NOFA questions is what has the CoC done to combat the criminalization of homelessness.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): What could the city council do as a city? What could they ask the state, federal government, and private folks to do.

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): We could ask the city to look at the CCHA Strategic Plan and see what they are doing or not doing to fit in with that.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): there are a few of us who participated on a Burlington Eviction Protocol public safety committee. Some of the city councilors really didn't understand what we do or how all these processes work. So, educating the city council on what we do and the resources available can really help. Sometimes they hear a story or two from constituents and act on that without seeing the big picture.

-Lacey-Ann Smith (Burlington Police Department): That is why we focused on these resolutions at the Quarterly Meeting and invited the City Councilors, to fill them in on the work we are doing.

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): Only four of the twelve City Councilors attended the Quarterly Meeting.

-David Przepioski (Homeless Advocate): The ACLU recently had an event. We should invite them to work with the CCHA.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I would like the City Council committee to catalogue the issues they would like to address, and the laws that already address them, to see if any new ordinances are actually needed. A lot of these things are already covered and they shouldn't reinvent the wheel or do anything unconstitutional. I would like the state to enforce the plumbing code which says that no public places can close their restrooms to the public.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): practical solutions are having more wet shelters, public restrooms, public showers, trash receptacles available to people. (People get busted for littering quite often.) There could also be a homelessness diversion program like how there is mental health diversion and substance abuse diversion. Another thing that can lead to people being prosecuted is if someone is “no trespassed” from a big area. For instance, someone could be no trespassed from a city fire district. So, we should ask them to look at what sort of scope they are putting on no trespass orders.

-Diana Carminati (United Way of Northwest Vermont): Do we think the city could be helpful in hosting conversations across other towns, or do we feel like CCHA would be better placed to do that?

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): If we feel like they have some gaps in their knowledge right now, it might not be the best to ask them to host other towns right now.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): That’s what I was thinking.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): It would be interesting to have a regional conversation though.

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): Yes.

-Lindsay Casale (Pathways Vermont): Maybe it would be better to focus on how we get to a point where everyone is known to someone, etc. People will have more compassion for someone they know. There should be more education about people who might be having behavioral issues. And we should be envisioning a world where we embrace everyone in our community as community members; where we aren’t trying to push people out of our community.

-Kevin Pounds (ANEW Place): I’ve been thinking about this a lot since last Wednesday. One of my friends and I were talking, and one thing that hit me was that the conversation from the City Council was about homelessness, but they don’t really know homeless people. Different ones of us have different protocols about who can come into our facilities, but what if we invited some city council members to come in and eat dinner and talk with our guests. That way they would have names and faces and it wouldn’t just be some random homeless person on the street. I think if they meet people and connect with them, it would be good.

-Lacey-Ann Smith (Burlington Police Department): I don’t know what the city could do to incentivize landlords but something in the way of an incentive could help get more landlords on board when they have available units. There is a stigma that people on Section 8, or who have been previously homeless, are not tenants they want. So, how do we get more landlords to house these folks?

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): It’s important for the community to get to know homeless folks, but there’s a trust issue. You have to talk to people over a long period of time, and demonstrate that you’re trustworthy.

-Johnny Quezada (Committee on Temporary Shelter): I was at the annual meeting, and there was one city councilor who said he was doing outreach to the homeless.

-Stephen Marshall (Homeless Community): I think Hartnett was trying to do outreach in the north end, but he wasn’t at the meeting, so I’m not sure which one it was.

-Stephanie Bixby (Burlington Housing Authority): I think the mental health system, and people having a hard time accessing treatment, is something that makes people slip into homelessness/stay homeless. There are some practitioners who don't serve certain types of clients.

-Laura Wilson (Cathedral Square): That's an important issue. It's a barrier for us.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): I feel like I'm half social worker for people, even though I'm supposed to just be their lawyer. Substance use disorder and mental health disorder and a physical disorder or brain disorder—those folks have such a hard time finding someone to work with them.

-Jason Williams (UVM Medical Center): the public often conflates many of these issues (homelessness, substance abuse, etc.). They are separate issues (even though sometimes the same person is experiencing multiple of them).

-Lindsay Casale (Pathways Vermont): Maybe we should pull together some research on this.

-Paddy Shea (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance): Do you mean creating a myth vs. fact sheet?

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): That could be part of it.

-David Przepioski (Homeless Advocate): A lot of it is healthcare.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): With your consent, I will type this up and send it to the city council.

*** The group nods in agreement.*

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): Is anyone going to the city council info. meetings? By show of hands?

*** Several people raise their hands.*

6. Committee Updates

a. Coordinated Entry (Chris Brzovic)

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): We are moving forward with comparing policies and procedures from other communities. There are some things that don't yet exist in other communities because they are new requirements from HUD. The implementation deadline is January 23, 2018. Our committee is aiming for final approval at the January Steering Committee meeting.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): that will most likely be the second Thursday in January because the first Thursday is the Vermont legislature's annual Homelessness Awareness Day.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): We don't have everything worked out yet. We decided to have two 4-hour meetings in August—our retreats. We decided to develop a hybrid model for intake, so there will be hubs, so there will be a few different places where they will do the assessments. There will be a “no

wrong door” approach for the initial screening form, but then they will get connected with one of the HUBs to do the full assessment. We will utilize 2-1-1 for full geographic coverage. There can be up to 5 assessments: prevention, single adults, households with children, youth, and households fleeing DV. We’re on track to decide which assessments we’re using by the end of October. We’ll have an initial triage form with some diversion and prevention screening. We voted to use a master by-name-list. We’ll use the existing review committees that already exist (the housing review team and the permanent supportive housing review team); we may need to modify them as needed. We are not going to prioritize for emergency shelters; those will still be first come first serve. But shelters can still help people get into coordinated entry. We voted to prioritize RRH based on vulnerability and likelihood of housing stability (double check wording). There will be a vulnerability assessment which is based on the VI-SPDAT 2 with a few questions re-worded. We will have to call it something else and modify a few things in ServicePoint. We also will have a few questions about housing stability barriers. The latest idea is to have scoring come out of the VI-SPDAT questions, then to have separate filters from the master list. For instance, if someone is being considered as chronically homeless, there might be a separate filter, so they’d get put on a sub-list for chronically homeless, but their vulnerability ranking would stay the same.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): So, it sounds like housing stability almost serves as an eligibility tool, but within that group, the VI-SPDAT score will still be used for prioritization.

-Chris Brzovic (CVOEO): Yes. The big thing we have to decide in the next couple of weeks (as far as system design elements) is where do assessments get done? Right now, the majority come from Economic Services, and people get referred to case managers who do the assessment. The other option is to front-load the assessment. That would be a bit more difficult because it would be a change in how we do things. From a system level, it’s a better option, but it’ll be more difficult. What we could do is leave ESD referrals untouched, but have it be that for community referrals we front-load the assessment, but it’ll be our CE committee discussion. Other than that, we have our system design elements in place and are starting to work on drafting our policies and procedures. We’ll borrow from other communities’ policies.

-Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid): At the Burlington District office, there are signs with tear-offs with phone numbers. The signs that were up, all the tear-off numbers were gone, so they may need to be re-loaded more often.

7. Schedule and Agenda for November CCHA Steering Committee Meeting

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): The November Steering Committee meeting, we will be discussing coordinated entry. Also, we’ll get a report about what’s happening with the street outreach committee. Stephen Marshall will report back on his proposal. Erin Ahearn will report on the warming shelter (Safe Harbor). Spectrum is planning to open theirs on the 5th.

-Erin Ahearn (Safe Harbor Health Center, CHCB): Safe Harbor’s winter warming shelter will have 37 beds this year. It will open November 1st, and people can come in early and do intakes at Safe Harbor in the week before they open. It will be in the same location as last year (across the street from Safe Harbor). We’ll do a hot meal every night.

-Will Towne (Spectrum Youth & Family Services): Spectrum’s winter shelter will be 10 beds at St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral. They’re hoping to open on November 5th; they’re just waiting on permitting

from the city. Ages 18-24, drop in. You can keep your bed, but if you haven't shown up by 9 PM, you forfeit the bed. People can do intakes for the shelter at their drop-in center the week before opening.

-Allyson Laackman (Burlington Housing Authority): Right now we have both vouchers and units available, and we've reached out to people, but we still have these units available. There are qualifications people need to meet.

-Margaret Bozik (Champlain Housing Trust): what are the eligibility requirements? Do you have to be literally homeless, or can you just be at-risk?

-Allyson Laackman (Burlington Housing Authority): You can be at-risk. We have waiting lists, but we sometimes have slots for people who meet certain qualifications.

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