

Vermont Council to End Homelessness
February 17, 2015
Minutes

Attendees: Sarah Phillips, AHS/OEO; Richard Rankin, Data Remedies; Kristen Briggs Chris's Place; Cara Collins, CMC/Safe Haven; Sara Kobylenski, Upper Valley Haven; Linda Anderson, Capstone; Daniel Blankenship, VSHA; Jan Rossier, NEKCA; Pat Burke, SEVCA; Calvin Smith, VCRHYP; Jeanne Montross, HOPE; Arwen Farrell, TPHT; Arthur Hamlin, VT DHCD; Timothy Schroeder, DMH; Renee Sarao, VCEH; Chris Dalley, ESD/DCF; Paul Dragon, OEO; Brian Smith, DMH; Angus Chaney, AHS; Linda Ryan, Samaritan House; Phone: Erhard Mahnke, VAHC; Mary Ellen Mendl, 211; Whitney Nichols, Advocate

Approval of January Minutes: Tabled

Budget Review: Tabled until Dawn Arrives (Dawn was not able to attend)

HUD Consolidated Plan: Vermont's HUD Consolidate Plan is due to be submitted in May for the five years beginning 2015. HUD requires an annual update of the plan.

The Housing needs assessment has been completed and data was gathered both at a statewide and county level.

Seven community outreach meetings were held all around the state, there is also a citizen's advisory group to assist with input to the plan.

Here are some of the priority themes:

- Very low income units
- More section 8 vouchers
- Increased Vermont Rental Subsidies
- Integrating low income housing into communities
- Continue to address homelessness
- Need more permanent housing
- Need to match services with housing
- Increase availability of SRO's
- Housing rehab and code enforcement
- Improve quality of affordable housing
- Improve infrastructure-water & sewer in particular
- Senior Housing
- ADA improvements
- Support for home owners/buyers-house may be affordable however cost to rehab or down payment may be too costly
- Energy efficiency of mobile homes

There have been over 600 hundred responses to the survey and it is open until March 13th for comment.

There had been criticism in the past that people who were, or had been, homeless were not able to provide feedback. This year that has improved and to date at least 6% of those providing feedback have identified themselves in that category.

Vermont has a low vacancy rate at 1%

A draft of the plan will be available by March 12th.

Public Hearing will be on March 27th at the National Life building (Davis) at 12:30

Following that will be a 30 day period for written comments.

Question: What is the take from the group regarding getting folks qualified for SSI? There were mixed answers, however the consensus of the group was that there is a formula that needs to be followed to be successful.

In the spring, DMH is going to host a SOAR training. If any district would like to host a training contact Brian Smith.

Erhard's legislative update- Governor was providing a revised budget today.

Keeping eyes on:

VHCB

VRS

ESG

FSH

CHG

PATHWAYS

Still looking at cuts to Mental Health vouchers for up to 1/3 of funding. Concern regarding this is being expressed.

LIHEAP-taken out of the base will look at the need and reassess

1.6 million cut in Reach Up Recipients who also receive SSI- first \$125 will count against grant

Field Services- Direct services and service coordination will be cut.

Legal Aid Services-cut \$100,000

Advocacy Opportunities-Can Email to House and Human Services reps

Weigh-in needed for Vouchers, and not to cut folks on RU who also receive SSI

PIT- Committee will be reviewing forms and choosing Data entry people. The committee has a goal of April 17th as a date for completion.

NOFA- Daniel distributed a handout with a timeline regarding the upcoming NOFA. (See Attached)

Daniel, Sarah and Sara are getting together to work on pulling the grant together. Anyone else who wants to help is welcome to contact them.

If you have any thoughts, please forward them on.

2020 call to end family homelessness- The continuum was asked to sign onto the National Movement to end family homelessness by 2020. (see attached handout from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Family Connection, and Calling for an End to Homelessness in Vermont.)

A significant concept is aligning all programs to create flexibility to meet the needs of the family not of the programs.

The potential key to success is a combination of units...subsidy...services. All three are necessary for ongoing success.

Angus would like to get buy in from our local continuums.

HMIS Workgroup- the group hasn't met yet. They will be scheduling a meeting to review a RFP Draft hoping to have a new HMIS lead by June 1st. RFP will be vetted by Continuum. The final draft will come to the steering committee before the March meeting. RFP will be out by April 1st.

Coordinated Entry-The early adopters will be Rutland and Washington counties sometime this spring. The committee is still finalizing the assessment tool that will be used. The committee is working on how folks will access services, determining the level of assessment needed. The committee is also identifying our data sharing needs, confidentiality, streamlining access so families get their needs met ASAP.

What does 211's role look like, ESG's role....

This month's meeting the committee plans to dive into the data sharing piece. All info regarding this committee's work is on the helpingtohousevt.org website.

GA Temp Housing- Chris distributed the temp housing numbers through January. (see attached)