

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)
Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 6, 2025; 9:00am – 11:00am
Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

Minutes

1. Open Forum

10 minutes

Meghan Morrow-Raftery mentioned a specific data request has been made by the State Auditor and that a subpoena is necessary for ICA data to be shared with law enforcement.

A community member, Grey, wants to emphasize outreach to the homeless community, in contrast to outreach to legislators. He asked that the Alliance be more thoughtful in the wording used to describe people experiencing homelessness. Grey prefers the unhoused term, rather than homeless because he considers Burlington his home. He mentioned he does not care about shelter if it is not dignified shelter. He is starting a local Unhoused Community Union.

Sarah Russell announced a training seminar next Tuesday March 11th for services providers regarding legal rights when dealing with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).

2. Approves Minutes and Agenda

5 minutes

a. Approval of the February Meeting Minutes

Travis Poulin motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. Sarah Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried. 21 in favor. 1 abstention.

b. Approval of the March Meeting Agenda

No corrections required.

3. Data Review

20 minutes

Stephanie Smith presented a data report on Coordinated Entry. See the report [HERE](#).

Adam Hall presented a data report from the Community Resource Center. See the report [HERE](#). Sarah asked Adam if we could see more detailed information regarding types of disability. Adam will work with Sarah to provide more information.

Meghan Morrow-Raftery presented a data report regarding the population 62 years and older as a new subcategory. See the report [HERE](#). Stephanie Bixby asked if we could track whether these populations are receiving subsidized housing, since Burlington Housing Authority is seeing people return to homelessness after receiving subsidized housing. Stephanie Smith confirmed that data exists and there are several people who had subsidized housing who have exited back into homelessness.

Corey, a community member, asked what could be done to build more subsidized housing so people don't have to pay for it out of pocket. Kerri Duquette-Hoffman mentioned this question was a perfect segue into the next item of discussion regarding the Let's Build Homes program.

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4. *Let's Build Homes*

20 Minutes

a. Miro Weinberger – [Let's Build Homes](#)

Miro Weinberger gave a presentation about the Let's Build Homes program. See the presentation [HERE](#).

David McKay, from ANEW Place, asked what the need for “affordable” housing will be in the future, as a further breakdown of the housing needs shown in the presentation. Mr. Weinberger mentioned they are continuously advocating more funding for housing subsidies as people may need help to afford the new housing that is being built. They are advocating for more housing construction across the “affordability” spectrum.

Corey, a community member, asked if subsidized housing will be included in the abandoned buildings in Burlington. Mr. Weinberger mentioned Let's Build Homes is trying to revise the regulatory system to allow for abandoned buildings to be converted into affordable housing or other productive assets. Mr. Weinberger confirmed that Let's Build Homes intends to assist developments by providing public infrastructure.

Reach Miro directly at Miro@letsbuildhomes.org.

Sarah Russell mentioned that “affordable” housing is still too expensive for people exiting homelessness. Tenant-based subsidies will also be necessary to be successful in filling the newly constructed units.

Sarah also asked if Let's Build Home advocates for dedicated housing units for people experiencing homelessness. Mr. Weinberger says he is excited to explore those ideas further with the Alliance.

5. *Champlain Housing Trust Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)*

20 minutes

a. HOME-ARP - Vermont Housing Conservation Board – VOTE

Mike Ohler, from Champlain Housing Trust, presented the MOU to the group. This MOU is regarding the Cambrian Rise development, where six units will be dedicated for households experiencing homelessness and identified utilizing Coordinated Entry, as required by the Vermont Housing Conservation Board funding.

Jason Brill motioned to approve the MOU between the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and the Champlain Housing Trust using funding from the Vermont Housing Conservation Board. 18 in favor. 4 abstentions. The motion passed.

A community member, Corey, asked how soon a homeless individual would be able to get into one of these apartments. Mike Ohler mentioned the apartments should be constructed by July of 2026; applications for the apartments will be available about six months before opening.

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Stephanie Bixby, from the Burlington Housing Authority, mentioned these will be project-based vouchers.

b. HOME-ARP - City of Burlington – VOTE

Mike Ohler presented the MOU to the group. This MOU is regarding the Cambrian Rise development, where two units will be dedicated for households experiencing homelessness and identified utilizing Coordinated Entry, as required by the City of Burlington funding. Jason Brill motioned to approve the MOU between the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and the Champlain Housing Trust using funding from the City of Burlington. Second by Ciara Kilburn. 17 in favor. 6 abstentions. The motion passed.

6. HOP Reports

15 minutes

a. Spectrum – Christina Brown

Christina Brown presented a data report regarding Spectrum's use of HOP grant funds. See the report [HERE](#).

Jennie Davis also joined the end of the presentation to show a data report regarding the partnership between Champlain Valley School District and Spectrum Youth Services.

Sarah Russell asked why certain households are not eligible for Coordinated Entry. Jennie mentioned that they are doubled up with other families, which technically doesn't meet the strict criteria for HUD Homeless/At-Risk.

b. Institute for Community Alliances – Meghan Morrow-Raftery

Meghan Morry-Raftery presented a data report regarding ICA's use of HOP grant funds. See the report [HERE](#).

7. Legislative Updates

10 minutes

c. Frank Knaack – Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont

Frank Knaack offered a report regarding the latest political developments in the state. The Budget Adjustment Act is the core piece of legislation they are focused on. The act would eliminate the 80-day motel stay cap and extend cold-weather protection shelter funding through the 2025 fiscal year. The act would provide 8.6 million for the Vermont Housing Conservation Board to continue their efforts in producing affordable housing. The act also funds a project that provides 10-units for those with disabilities to receive subsidized housing. The Governor may veto the act, which would end the cold weather protections starting April 1st.

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Sarah Russell mentioned 88 households in Chittenden County will lose their housing April 1st if the Governor vetoes the Budget Adjustment act.

Sarah also asked for clarification about the timeline if, or if not, the Governor vetoes the Budget Adjustment Act. Frank said he is not sure if the 5-day limit is representing calendar or business days that the Governor has to decide once the act is finalized by the legislature.

Frank is trying to gather data on those who are using Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds to help advocate further funding.

Ari Kisler shared that the bill coming out of the House & Human Services Committee may apply more broadly than just to General Assistance, and so community-based shelters should review it to understand any potential impacts on their HOP-funded programs.

The Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont is meeting next Tuesday and will hear from the House Ways & Means Committee.

Frank asked the Alliance to advocate to republican legislators they may have a relationship with to request the Governor approves the Budget Adjustment Act.

Sarah mentioned it will be important to partner with our local emergency departments to help legislators understand the strains they should expect if households are exited from the motel program on April 1st.

8. Standing Sub-Committee Updates

20 minutes

- a. Strategic Planning*
- b. Coordinated Entry*

Ciara Kilburn mentioned the Committee is trying to update their membership and request that any assessment partners and hubs attend the Coordinated Entry Committee meetings regularly.

- c. Housing Retention*
- d. Membership & Outreach*

Meghan Masterson announced that the Membership & Outreach Committee is currently planning the spring Community Meeting for May. More information will be coming soon.

- e. NOFO and Ranking*
- f. Veterans*
- g. Data, PIT, & HMIS*

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We encourage questions and participation in discussion and place great emphasis on hearing from people with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing insecurity. If you are a person who has lived experience, you will be provided with a stipend for attending; please let us know after the meeting concludes. Please reach out to us prior or let us know when you arrive at the meeting should you need any accommodation(s).

Thank you so much for joining us.