

**Opioid Coordination Council
Recovery Strategies Committee
April 19, 2018
Meeting Notes**

Participants:

Chairs: Sara Byers (OCC, and Co-Chair), Sarah Munro (Co-Chair), Liz Genge (OCC, and Housing focus chair), Peter Mallary (OCC, and Housing/Recovery).

OCC: Jim Leddy, Debra Ricker, Bob Bick (Howard Center)

State of Vermont: Cindy Thomas (ADAP), Charles Gurney (ADAP/DAIL); Hugh Bradshaw (Voc. Rehab); Kim Bushey (DOC); Ross MacDonald (Agency of Transportation)

Recovery Network/Recovery Centers: Stacy Jones (Addison Co); Ken Sigsbury (Bennington); Bob Purvis (Central VT); Gary DeCarolis, Kelly Breeyear (Chitt. Co); Tracie Hauck, Tonya Wright (Rutland); Michael Johnson, Larry Beach (Springfield); Brandon Malshuk (Newport); Cindy Boyd; Steve Kline (Kingdom/St.J); Stefani Capizzi, Daniel Franklin (Morrisville); Sheila Young (WRJ); Stefani Capizzi, Daniel Franklin (NW VT/Morrisville); Suzie Walker (Windham Co.); Peter Espenshade; Melissa Story (VAMHAR)

Congressional Delegation: Kathryn Van Haste, Kevin Veller

Organizations and Allies: Christine Johnson, Kayla Donohue (CCOA); Melinda Lussier, Hal Porter (NW Medical Center); Deborah Hopkins (Ct.VT Substance Abuse Services/VAATP); David Riegel (VFOR); Mairead O'Reilly (VT Legal Aid); Ron Stankevich (Aspent); Micky Wiles (Working Fields)

Guests/Presenters: Rey Garafano, Emily Higgins, Office of Economic Opportunity/DCF; Kathi Partrow, FCWC; Liz Whitmore, Dept. of Corrections; Brian Smith, Dept. of Mental Health, Deborah Hall, HPC; Heather Greene Hinckley, HPC; Lindsay Casale, Pathways, VT; Tori Marukelli, Pathways, VT; Seth Leonard and Deborah Nanfeldt, USDA Rural Development; Eileen Peltier, Downstreet Housing; Kevin Loso, Rutland Housing Authority; Tim Palmer, Housing Foundation; Julie Iffland, Randolph Area Community Development Corporation

OCC staff: Jolinda LaClair, Director; Rose Gowdey, Community Engagement Liaison

Meeting Notes

OCC Director Update: Jolinda LaClair

Presentation: Housing Panel. Moderators: Liz Genge, Peter Mallary

Family Supportive Housing: *Rey Garofano*, Housing Program Officer State of Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity; *Kathi Partlow*, Family Supportive Housing Service Coordinator, Family Center of Washington County

- Slide deck will be available on OCC webpage
- See Annual Report on the Office of Economic Opportunity website:
<http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/Docs/FSH-AR-SFY2017.pdf>

Department of Corrections: *Elizabeth Whitmore*, Housing Coordinator

- Slide deck will be available on OCC webpage
- Furlough Support Unit/FSU apartments – individuals can do some of incarceration in the community
- Those entering Corrections are more complex than in the past – combination of low skills, substance use and other health issues, etc.

Dept. of Mental Health: *Brian Smith*, VT Behavioral Health Housing Program Administrator; HMIS Lead

- Rental assistance/non-profit housing system
- 22 beds at Copley Housing.
- Some transitional that is turning into family supportive housing

Non-Profit Housing Programs

- Homeless Prevention Center: *Deb Hall*, Exec. Director; *Heather Greene Hinckley*, Landlord Liaison
- PATHWAYS: *Tori Marukelli*, Housing First Svcs. Manager; *Lindsay Casale*, Housing First Program Dir.

- Funding: Depts. of Mental Health and Corrections
- Ended homelessness for 500 people in six counties
- 85% housing retention rate
- Vermont Foundation of Recovery: *David Riegel*, Executive Director

VT Alliance of Recovery Residences (VTARR): *Peter Mallary, David Riegel*

- Challenge – how to deal with people who relapse to provide continuous sober environment for residents while supporting the individual in relapse. – Different kind of housing?
- Leadership Champlain project

Discussion

- Springfield housing associated with recovery center was described.
- White River Junction recovery center has 9 beds for women, two of which will accommodate mom and child. Average stay 9 months.
- How do we practice a policy of tolerance in housing while also keeping environment safe/sober?
- Approach housing as a continuum
- Recovery centers are on life support – need to unite; not look to funding as the only solution.

Update/Report: Transportation: Rides 4 Recovery grant opportunities. NBRC, USDA RD

- *Hugh Bradshaw*, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
- *Ross MacDonald*, Public Transit Coordinator/Go Vermont Program Manager, VTrans
- The key question is, “How can we provide trips not otherwise eligible?”
- How to fit recovery rides into workforce development? – extend to the general population (poverty, workforce development . . .)
- Strategy:
 - Step back/look at what we need/want
 - Be visible in OCC interim report in July
 - Use St. Albans data to spark data collection in other regions
 - Find someone/an organization that can support collection and analysis of data – a “keeper” of the data.
 - Update from CCOA Data staff: Working with Green Mountain Transportation to map data, routes, travel times to Hub via bus.
 - VTrans has the open source data to support this – GoVermont has App.

USDA Community Facilities Grants: Deborah Nanfeldt, Community Programs Director, USDA Rural Development

- Community direct loans and grants. No specific timeframe at national level, but Vermont has a funding cycle. Rural focus.
- A \$5 million fund (nationally) focused on opioid crisis – Fixtures, furniture, equipment, including vehicles, media equipment, etc. No construction.
- \$25,000 is a typical grant, but can go up as high as \$150,000
- USDA staff will be helpful – come with ideas
- Deadline June 4
- There is also a telemedicine grant – very complex application.
- **Next meeting:** Thursday, **May 17, 1 – 4:00, Waterbury/OAK conference room** (in the second floor conference center area)