

1. Introductions
 - a. Ericka Reil, Zach Hughes, Glen Hutcheson, Jodi Kelly, Ken Russell, Will Eberle, Dawn Little, Alex (High school Student Representative), Cameron Niedermayer
 - b. Guests:
 - i. Karen Nelson, TJ, Matthew Nunnely, Amy Pitton, Eva, Stephen Mills, Sunny Leporati, Karen Noone (Green Mt Self Advocate), Stephen Marshall
2. Review and approve agenda
 - a. Add Stephen Marshall as #5
 - b. Adding Karen Noone as #6
 - c. Adding Karen Nelson as #7
3. Public invited to comment on any items not on the Agenda
 - a. Keron- the shelter plans to close in April- and the hotels and motels are refusing folks through 211
 - i. Dawn- 211 is very rigid in their scripts and have a hard time dealing with people on the phone
 - ii. Will- Discussed some specifics about rules and 211 restrictions etc.
 - iii. Dawn- how do we streamline the exemption's process?
4. Review and approve Minutes from prior meeting(s):
 - a. January 29, 2020
 - b. Glen Sent in name corrections
 - c. Approved as amended- 11:36 (Erika and Zach Abstaining)
5. **Stephen Marshall Presentation (Burlington Advocate- "Safe Camping")**
 - a. Says he has been an advocate in Burlington for 4 years- says that he's been asked by the Director at Community and Economic Development to join the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance
 - b. Says that he focuses on folks who live outdoors
 - i. Shared copy of Testimony from his Legislative discussion
 - ii. Shared Copy of a Safe Camping proposal
 - c. Wants the State to require towns to come up with plans for those who are camping
 - i. Doesn't ask for designated space for camping to occur- thinks that's not what folks need. Folks need to keep agency and control, keeping autonomy
 - ii. Wants the community understand safety provided for those camping
 - iii. How does the community address these folks? And provide support?
 - iv. Discusses how camping is part of the housing continuum
 - v. Discussed public facilities and what is needed
 - vi. Specify policies on lean-tos and other non-permanent structures
 - vii. Specify what social services exist in the region / what the resources are and how we make the connections
 1. Discussed how Burlington uses an Outreach team to assist with this work
 - viii. Removing Camp Sites- Burlington has a process that averages 24 hours- a few weeks?

1. Does not like the Burlington 24 hours rules
2. Discussed the Montpelier draft policy and how it fits within this proposal
- ix. How the City will respond to criminal activity?
- x. Unsheltered sleeping? In Burlington- folks are sleeping unsheltered- what is the plan here?

d. Discussion:

- i. Cameron- Discussed that the City is working on a 'camping' response policy in partnership with the Police Department and the Parks department, and that the City will look at it again in light of these suggestions and bring it back to the HTF for review and comments
- ii. Dawn-What happens when the weather is inclement? Folks getting reasonable extensions for weather. Allowing folks a reasonable timeline for checking in.
 0. Trying to get the policies to include street outreach groups
- iii. Ericka- Plans like this doesn't include folks with disabilities, and 'mental health' caseworkers, etc., doesn't apply to folks with disabilities
 1. Dawn discussed trauma and other non-visible diseases or disabilities
- iv. Dawn- Safety of vital equipment- having to "re-stock" equipment- try to specify this
- v. Dawn- what about people have behavioral concerns (like repeated pick up folks for being 'disruptive' but not necessarily illegal)
 1. Stephen- I think those conversations come after looking at a policy
- vi. Glen- in broad response to what's missing- from my perspective, I want to be clear with how you are seeing the split between State and Municipal responsibilities. The State telling us to do this on an individualized level, not every municipalities have the capacity
 1. Stephen- my goal is to have the State approve this language, and that the language that the Municipalities can be individualized in their responses- it has to be data driven
- vii. Zach- what is Burlington's Outreach team look like?
 1. Howard Street Outreach Team- primarily focus is the business community- PAID FOR by the business community
 - a. Voluntary businesses funding
 - b. Asked Stephen to bring back some information on this and how it works
- viii. Stephen discussed the Community Health Care Center in Burlington? You need to have a community health facility or other agency that has a set up or other overlook/oversight that you agree with to host your outreach program
- ix. Public Comments:
 1. Ava- you need to make sure your language doesn't just include 'mental trauma' or disorders - use "non-visible disabilities"
 2. Jodi- what about medical supplies? Like things that need to be refrigerated?
 - a. Stephen- I would need more clarity?
- x. Ken- I know no one knew Stephen was coming today, lets circulate the document and maybe continuing the conversation

- e. Asking Stephen to come back on the February 19th to discuss the City Policy Draft for Camping for Review

6. Karen Nelson- Public Health Nurse the Health Dept. In Barre

- a. They are doing community outreach to homeless/home insecure- HEP A immunizations for free as VT does have an outbreak
- b. They are setting up in Bethany Church (next meeting March 31st at Bethany Church in the lunch period)
 - i. Also has some sights in Barre if needed
- c. Handed out a flyer and some brochures

7. Karen Noone

- a. Works with adults with disabilities (developmental) etc. and wants to know how they can plug in and help
- b. HTF discussed the best options for figuring out how to plug them in
- c. Discussed the Shelter's need for volunteers
 - i. Amy Pitton - Discussed needing volunteers after 8:30am- Noon to help clean up (washing cups and coffee machines and tidying up)

8. Updates from Council Meeting(s), as needed

- FY20 ask addressed- maybe bring to Council at the end of February?
- Dawn- Good Sam did not apply for the Community Fund Money (it's too late for this year)
 - Rick DeAngelis is the new Director for Good Sam and he will be here to update us soon about that situation
 - Jodi- What kind of money are we talking about for the Community Fund?
 - 1. Glen- I don't know historically how much Good Sam has asked for, but those grants are normally in the 1000's.
- Put FY20 ask back on the Feb 26th Agenda.

9. Legislative Updates

- Ken presented on the Homelessness Bill of Rights in front of the Legislature
 - This would provide protected status based on housing status for folks providing services
- Ken discussed that there is a call that happens weekly that shares Legislative Updates and he can forward anyone information about it if they are interested
- Ken Discussed OEO funding and how this is shifting- discussed accountability
- Ken, met with DownStreet
 - Wants to give some community education about homelessness- maybe we get our Task Force to work on Education
 - Accessory Dwellings as a solution for Montpelier - the Housing Committee etc. is working on this
- Zach shared that the mental health advocacy work was important and successful
 - VHCH is trying to receive full funding and are trying to make that push (and the housing bond)

- Ken- discussed municipalities authorizing their own housing bonds- doesn't know if that's a good policy choice for those communities etc. or if they can take on the debt
- Recovery Day is February 12th at the State House

10. Street Outreach Position Guidelines Discussion

- a. Budget Decisions
- b. Tabled for later discussion**

11. Networking

- a. Jodi Kelly- MBA meeting met this morning- Jody has shared a business survey for homelessness issues and if the business community has any solutions for this- return the surveys
- b. The Vermont Council on Homelessness is meeting on the 21st

12. Set agenda for next meeting.

Potential Topics for Next Week:

- a. Bringing City Policy Draft for camping for review in 2 weeks.
- b. 211 Director at the NEXT WEEK meeting**
 - i. Questions that HTF has Currently:
 - 1. Voucher system questions?
 - 2. Homelessness Bill of Rights discussion
 - 3. Could folks have actual representation (someone calling on behalf of someone else?)

14. Adjourn

- a. Adjourned 1:00pm**