



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Adam Roof, Chair, Ward 8

Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3

Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Thursday, November 16th, 2017

6:00 – 7:00 PM

City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)

Proposed Draft Agenda

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
2. Public Forum (10 minutes)
3. Approval of Minutes – 10/18 (5 minutes)
4. Homelessness Strategies, Old and New: Discussion on the state of homelessness and Burlington's role in combating it including encampment enforcement – Marcy Esbjerg, CEDO and Lacey Ann-Smith, Burlington Police Dept. (35 minutes)
5. Plans for December Meeting (5 minutes)



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Councilor Adam Roof, Chair, Ward 8
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Attendance: Chair Adam Roof, Councilors and Committee Member Sara Moore and Karen Paul, CEDO Assistant Director Gillian Nanton, CEDO Staff Ian Jakus, Joe Speidel (UVM), Lisa Kingsbury (UVM), Sandy Wynne, Caryn Long, Ibnar Stratibus, Stephen Marshall, Gabrielle Sealy

Thursday, October 18th 2017
5:30 – 6:30 PM
City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

- Meeting called to order 5:35
- Councilor Moore moved to approve the agenda, Seconded by Chair Roof and Karen Paul

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

- Ibnar Stratibus asked about the status of the micro housing summit that had been discussed last year as part of the Housing Action Plan.
- Chair Roof responded that a summit had been postponed due to former Committee members Tom Ayers and Selena Colburn's departure. He added that CEDO is currently composing an ADU whitepaper that is expected for review in the winter.
- Caryn Long provided feedback on the 'Neighborhood Project' tour that she participated in. She stated that parking issues and the 'four unrelated' ordinance were the two biggest factors to focus enforcement on. Henry Street demonstrates that it is not the number of rentals but holding landlords accountable that makes the difference. Trash and unmanaged recycling issues

continue to be widespread. She felt that the consultant was not too enthusiastic during her tour, and that she would have preferred spending the project money on an enforcement officer and not an out of state consultant.

- Councilor Roof responded that the Neighborhood Project was funded by the Universities, Preservation Burlington, and the City, and was mandated through a court settlement, and therefore using it to hire an enforcement officer was not possible, but it could be included as part of the recommendations if that was founded.

3. Approval of Minutes – 7/20 (5 minutes)

- Councilor Moore moved to approve the minutes, Chair Roof seconded.

4. University of Vermont – Update on Quality of Life Partnership and data collection efforts. The University will provide a report on data collection efforts related to the number and location of students that reside off campus. The University will also update the Committee on its ongoing commitments to related “town-gown” quality of life issues. (35 minutes) – Joe Speidel, UVM, Director of Local Government and Community Relations and Lisa Kingsbury, UVM, Planning Relations Manager

- Mr. Speidel began by stating that UVM was grateful for efforts by City code enforcement and police officers as well as city councilors.
- Mr. Speidel explained UVM has created 754 beds since 2009 when they signed the agreement with the City (includes the 163 beds that is McCaulay Hall conversion from administrative to Residential in 2009). This agreement is the latest agreement and is still active.
- Mr. Speidel discussed that in terms of undergraduate admissions that they will hold at the same level for the next 5 years but as admissions is an art and not a science there may be slight fluctuations.
- Mr. Speidel explained the efforts to track off-campus student data. When first collecting addresses, the registrar’s office added a pop up box during online student registration for students to verify and update their address. Then they made it mandatory to verify the address many were just verifying whatever address was there. Starting in Fall of 2016 they wiped the address field so it would have to be re filled. Therefore this data is the most accurate to-date.

[SEE UVM STUDENT DATA PRESENTATION](#)

- Note: Compared with 2015 – Ward 3 had a large increase (13%) however we think that's a function of removing permanent addresses. The % is of the total students living off campus in Burlington.
- Note: Number of students who are using the local address option is 2800-2900 in the last year.
- Note: Given that there are 4,000 who are living off campus, the others are not living in Burlington, and are in neighboring towns or are studying abroad.
- Councilor Moore asked if in ward 8 Redstone lofts are taken out, Mr. Speidel confirmed this is the case.
- Councilor Paul asked if someone is living with their parents in Ward 3 how UVM accounts?
- Lisa Kingsbury responded that students only count if the local address and permanent address is different. This year they are only using local addresses.
- Ilnar Stratibus asked to add the total number of off campus students to the map.
- Councilor Paul stated that the map shows if students can't live right near campus then they want to live near downtown.
- Lisa Kingsbury states that in surveys Juniors and Seniors have said that they want to be near downtown.
- Caryn Long responded that the houses closer to downtown are cheaper and generally are in worse condition.
- Sandy Wynne stated she had an issue with the term downtown. That students define downtown as a much larger area than what we actually define as downtown. The survey results are probably not totally accurate because of that.
- Mr. Stratibus asked if UVM is involved in policing opiates?
- Mr. Speidel responded that UVM is doing our best on educating for opiate use. Also part of this whole effort is to work with the Burlington police department on data collection and analysis. The police departments share information and efforts to prevent sexual violence.
- Caryn Long stated that often neighbors don't bother to call, or there is nobody left to complain and that skews the data. A lot of older people are afraid to call and are afraid of retribution.
- Councilor Paul confirmed that she has had reports of fear of retribution by constituents.

- Mr. Speidel explained that in terms of prevention the University does the following:
 - letters in Fall and Spring
 - Have a Heart program to remind people to be quiet
 - Welcome bags to renters
 - Off campus living workshops
 - Off campus news
- Councilor Moore asked with the increase in officer initiated responses, do they know where these issue areas are? If there are concerns about retribution could those police officers patrol there?
- Mr. Speidel responded that if there is a hotspot then the police will go and check that area. He could get in touch with Matt Sullivan if there are areas they need to pay attention to.
- Councilor Moore posed the question that for those afraid of retribution, what steps those people comfortable taking?
- Mr. Speidel suggested that a coach, landlord, parent are all possible ways of redressing.
- Caryn Long said she had a bad experience in calling a landlord and the response was 'I am not their parents'.
- Sandy Wynne asked if everyone has to take the off campus living workshop. We have been trying to find a way to require it for a long time. She would be happy to teach them. That in cases of calling the landlord, management companies will interfere and that there are places that do more public shaming.
- Councilor Paul said hats off to UVM for finding out where the students are living. Finally we have reasonably reliable data. The students come and go, but landlords are always there, and if they improve their properties then they approve their tenants.
- Gabrielle Sealy stated that Councilor Roof has been helpful in addressing these issues and getting to know landlords and calling them. Last year SGA students went to neighborhood meetings which she felt was a success. The bus drop off location at the liquor store is an issue.
- Chair Roof stated that things are getting better but we can always do more. He's had great results calling landlords and the Mayor has made calls in the past. To address enforcement concerns he explained the City has 5 inspectors on staff. The biggest inhibitor to enforcement

isn't budget or staffing but is state statute that allows a period of time for landlords to fix the issue before inspection.

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:35

DRAFT

Homelessness in Chittenden County

Marcy Esbjerg

CDNR

11.16.17

Background Information

- Who is the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and what does the Alliance do?
- What are the housing and service options for the homeless in our area?
 - Emergency shelter – by population, high/low barrier
 - Motel Vouchers
 - Minimal transitional housing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Showers, meals, Daystation

How do we know how many homeless are in the area?

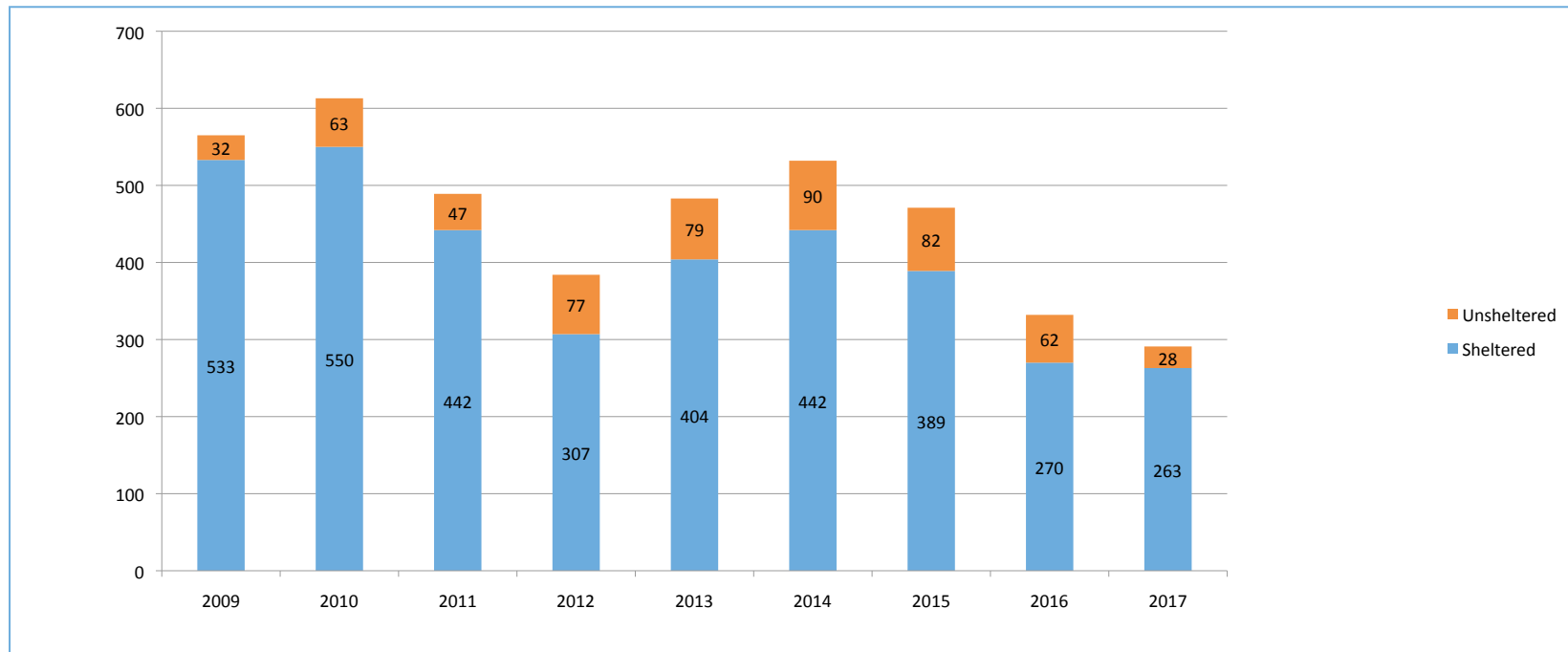
- ▶ Annual point in time count, the last Wednesday of January
- ▶ Statistics since 2009 show community trends
- ▶ 2017 numbers reflect HUD's definition of literal homelessness:
Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.
- ▶ Up through 2013, the *precariously housed* count was sent to the State, but not sent to HUD. The precariously housed figure was **not** included in the last four years of total State homelessness counts.
- ▶ Precariously housed figures are counted in other ways, including using data from the Department of Education. 'Precariously housed' is a subjective category.

Chittenden County 2017 Numbers

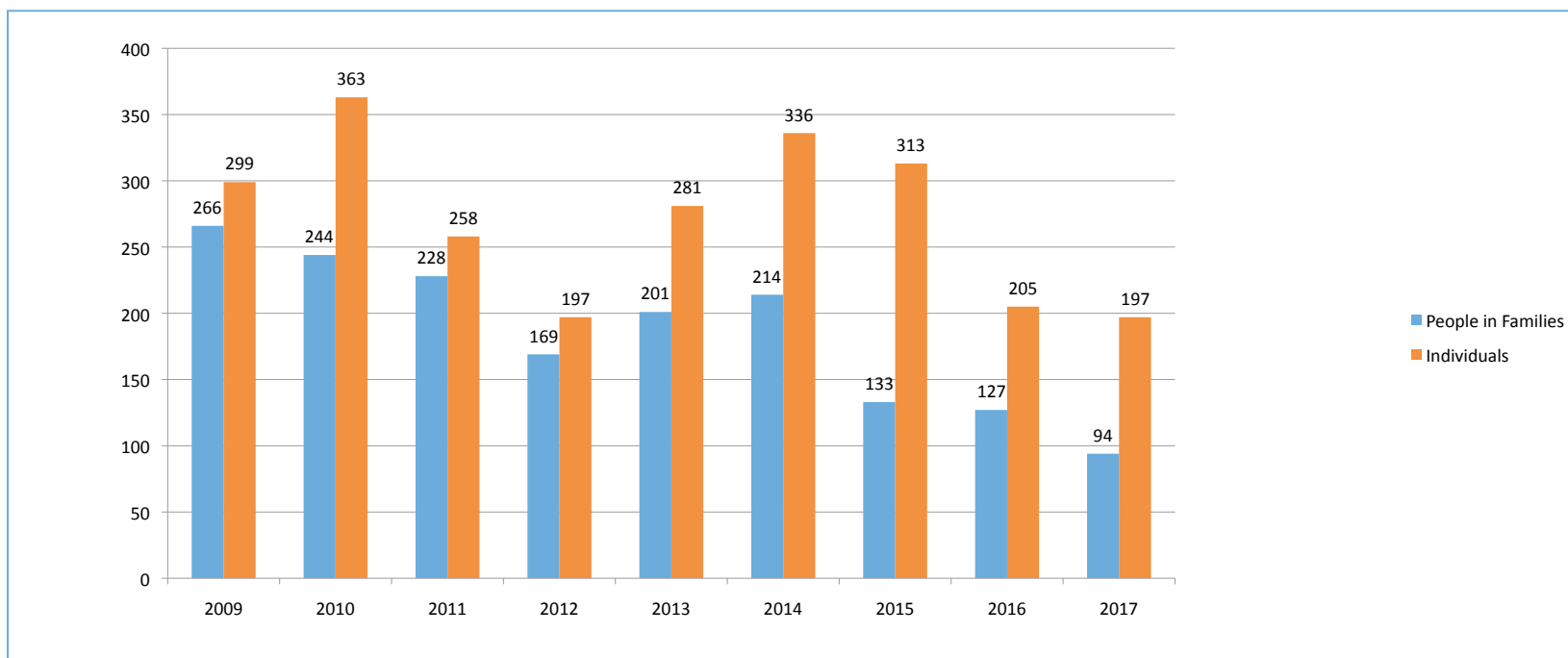
Total: 291

SHELTERED 263	UNSHELTERED 28
EMERGENCY HOUSING 217	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING 46
PEOPLE IN FAMILIES 94	INDIVIDUAL HOMELESS 197
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN 37	HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN 193
HOMELESS POPULATION BY SUBPOPULATION	
Chronically Homeless	44
Veterans	25
Severely Mentally Ill	88
Chronic Substance Abuse	53
HIV/AIDS	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	80
Unaccompanied Children	0

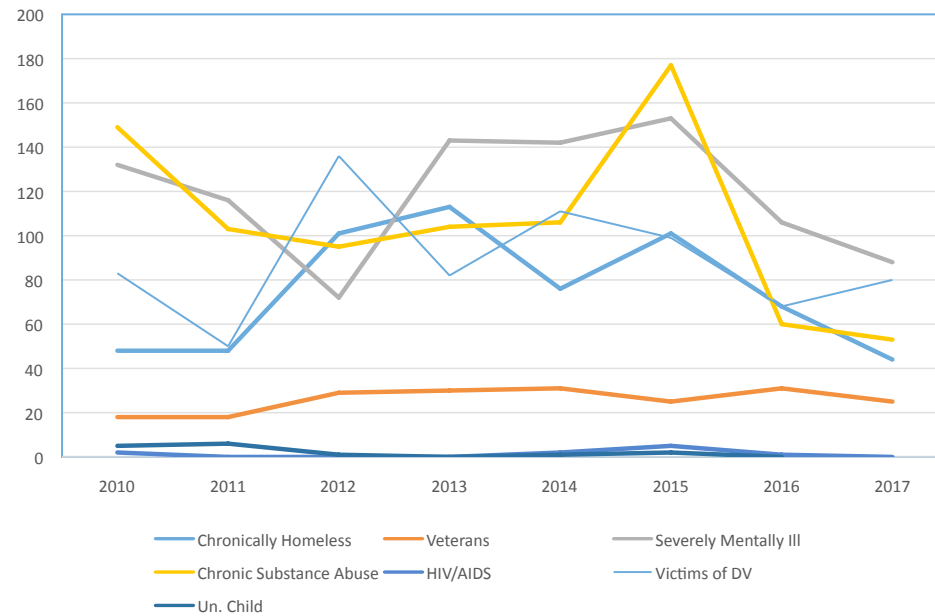
Homeless Population by Sheltered vs Unsheltered



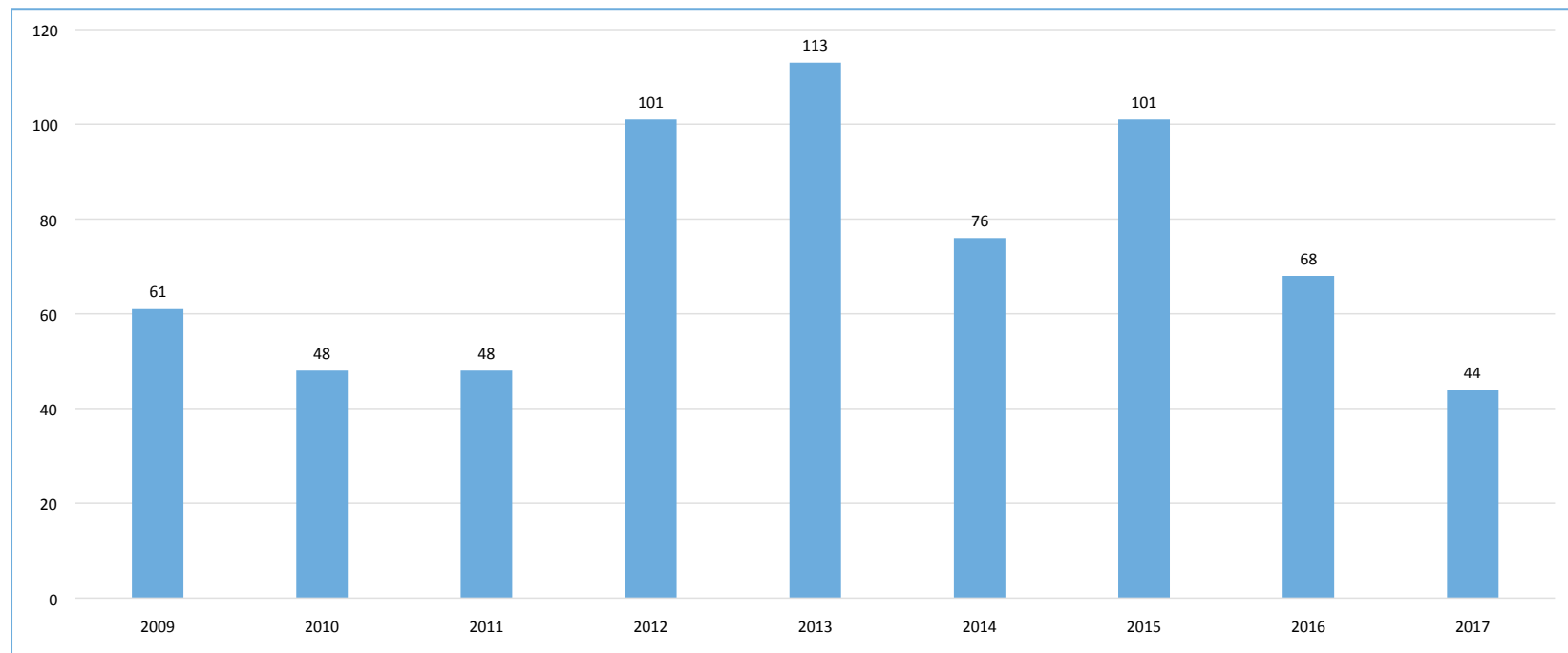
Homeless Population – Individuals vs. Families



Homeless Population by Subpopulation

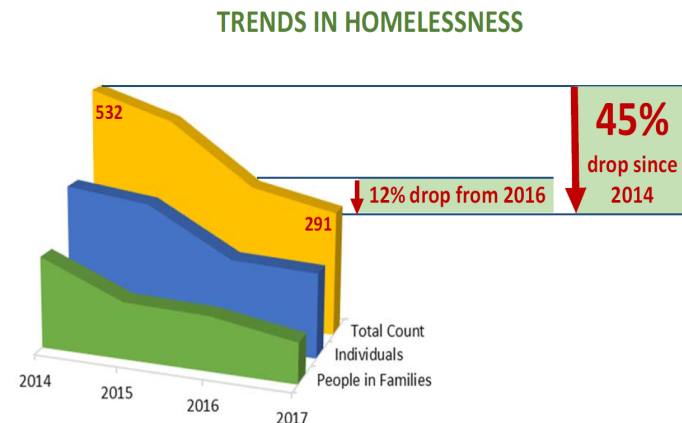


Chronic Homeless Population



How did we get here?

- Ranking of projects
- 100,000 Homes initiative – by person count; community wait list; standardized assessment; prioritizes the most in need
- Difficult conversations and decisions
- Reallocation of funds to PSH projects – project/voucher based
- Coordinated entry for PSH – includes standardized assessment
- Low barrier shelter



How to make homelessness rare and brief

- Next steps – decide on a standardized assessment tool for each population (individuals, youth, families, veterans and survivors of domestic violence)
- Implement coordinated entry process for all
- Implement a prioritization for each category with a community-wide list
- Move people quickly from homelessness to permanent housing

Burlington's Response to Encampments

- Coordinated effort with several departments
- Significant outreach and effort made to connect people to housing and services
- Warming shelter opened on 11/1





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Attendance: Chair Adam Roof, Councilors and Committee Member Sara Moore and Karen Paul, Councilor Richard Deane, Councilor Dave Hartnett, Councilor Sharon Bushor; CEDO staff Marcy Esbjerg, Gillian Nanton, and Ian Jakus; Burlington Police Department (BPD) staff Lacey-Ann Smith; Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Caryn Long, Stephen Marshall, Alex Friend, Erhard Mahnke

Thursday, November 16th 2017
6:00 – 7:00 PM
City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.
- Councilor Moore moved to approve the agenda, Seconded by Chair Roof and Karen Paul.

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

- Caryn Long stated that the community meeting on December 7th for the Neighborhood Project is on the first day of Hanukkah.
- Chair Roof responded that he had been in touch with CEDO Assistant Director Gillian Nanton and the schedule was being adjusted to better accommodate for this.

3. Approval of Minutes – 10/18 (5 minutes)

- Councilor Moore moved to approve the minutes, Chair Roof seconded.

4. Homelessness Strategies, Old and New: Discussion on the state of homelessness and Burlington's role in combating it including encampment enforcement – Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director, CEDO and Lacey-Ann Smith, Community Affairs Liaison, Burlington Police Dept. (35 minutes)

Ms. Esbjerg reviewed [a presentation](#) that summarizes key points on efforts in Burlington to address homelessness. The presentation is posted on the [CDNR Committee website](#).

- The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance is responsible for overseeing this Continuum of Care (CoC) and getting funding. Chair Adam Roof asked if it is typical that the city is the applicant for the CoC?
- Ms. Esbjerg responded that it used to be Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), and the City is the recipient since 2012.
- The issue of concerns about safety in the emergency shelters especially for LGBT populations was raised
 - Councilor Moore asked if the alliance takes a role in addressing issues with discrimination in emergency housing
 - Lacey-Ann Smith, Burlington Police Department, Community Affairs Liaison, responded that the only true emergency shelter is the Way Station. That you can appeal any decision that the state has made where you are not qualified for a hotel voucher, but that opportunities to redress issues at shelters are limited.
- Ms. Ann-Smith continued that coordinated entry has helped house the most vulnerable in permanent supportive housing. Now they are trying to reach out to the people that are not chronically homeless but they're definitely experiencing homeless – and these people are harder to reach.
- Ms. Esbjerg stated that there are still many people who have not taken the assessment tool that are not being taken into account. The different services that are now available were reviewed such as showers, meal sites, and the Day Station.
- Ms. Ann-Smith clarified that staffing is the issue with meal sites, not a lack of food and that they don't serve on holidays, but CVOEO is trying to address this issue. As part of the interagency team meetings the top priorities that have been identified include:
 - The Day Station has requirements that limit accessibility for some populations
 - There's not enough emergency shelter available
 - There is a need for lockers
 - There is a need for bathroom access
 - There is a need for locations for people to congregate during the day
- Chair Roof asked how other communities handle people congregating in public space?
 - Ms. Esbjerg responded that low barrier shelters are handling it, but that there is a changing approach where sobriety is not required to use the shelters; instead the focus is on behavior within the shelter.
 - Councilor Moore responded that the Public Safety Committee brought up the idea of a low barrier shelter during the day.
 - Ms. Ann-Smith explained that if the expectation is just safety rather than sobriety there usually are not issues because people will rise to the occasion. Typically there have not been issues in low barrier shelters because they would prefer to have a place to be and sleep. However, there are a decent amount of people that would prefer to camp and they have found spots where no one will bother them at, but this is not the majority.
 - Councilor Bushor asked if the library be where people congregate? She stated that she did not think what we currently allow makes sense.
 - Ms. Ann-Smith responded that historically the library has been used this way but that over the past few years this has changed dramatically.

- Councilor Paul added that there were concerns over safety in the library, and use of the bathrooms for concerning behavior but that now generally people that are there and are not using the space actively are well behaved.
- The topic of the point-in-time homeless count was raised, and the fact that the count is done once per year in January.
 - Erhard Mahnke said that the term 'precariously housed' is a subjective category and includes couch surfing and that the Dept of Education has a better definition.
 - Stephen Marshall stated that 'precariously housed' means if someone is in danger of losing their housing and would become homeless if that happened.
 - Councilor Paul asked if it would make a difference if the count was done at a different time of the year.
 - Mr. Marshall explained that the shelters are pretty much full year round, but in the summer many may choose to live in a camp, as he did. People tend to get housed in the winter or leave the state, and that may effect the count.
 - Mr. Mahnke stated that the VT office of economic opportunity tracks folks who have been housed in shelters that are funded through the office of economic opportunity and that the average length of stay is longest it has been, indicating a growing lack of affordable housing.
 - Councilor Bushor asked how many families are counted in the point in time survey versus individuals in families. Ms. Esbjerg said she would follow up.
- Ms. Esbjerg stated that the State focuses more on individual men, but in Chittenden County its more families. Efforts in Chittenden County have started with chronic homeless in 2014. These folks are most heavily using other parts of the system like the emergency rooms. There is a lot of funding available for permanent supportive housing. In the last three years a low barrier shelter was opened. Some people are spending up to 180 days in shelters.
- Ms Ann-Smith discussed the policy regarding encampments with the following points.
 - There exists a coordinated citywide policy where the DPW, Mayor, City Attorney etc... are involved when an encampment meets a certain threshold based on these 4 criteria:
 - Location (environmental)
 - Health and safety of the site
 - Legal violations
 - Interference with the intended use of the site
 - The Howard Street team and Lacey-Ann does an initial assessment and if it doesn't meet one of those criteria then there's no reason to move. If it meets the criteria then they make a request to move – but the first notice isn't dated. Outreach is done to let people know why they need to move before the cleanup. The city attorney gives an assessment if they should move forward. Cleanup starts if the order to move is not heeded.
- Mr. Erhard explained that some cities out west have sanctioned encampments, providing toilets and safety. He asked could we do this in Burlington?
 - Mr. Marshall responded that anywhere encampments are established you are trespassing which automatically makes them criminals. If the city were willing to create managed properties that prevented hoarding that would be helpful because 4 dump truck loads of materials were taken out of sears lane. It should be a priority to help people to live within the law and allow them to be community minded.

- Councilor Roof stated that during last year talking about tiny homes the Committee did look into the zoning to see what space could accommodate this a camp site.
- Ms. Ann-Smith added that the only place where camping is actually not allowed is in parks for the police because they do not consider or enforce zoning regulations, but zoning doesn't allow for encampments.
- Councilor Moore suggested that we can change the law to allow encampments, that it is within our authority.
- She asked when you first go into an encampment, if there is a conflict, is there an effort to address that and help the people living there address it?
 - Ms. Ann-Smith responded that she talks to them about the nature of the complaint and let them know the successful practices for camping.
 - Oftentimes interpersonal conflicts are the reason that encampments are asked to vacate. Oftentimes the campers are asked if they want to engage in a mediation effort and it is up to them if they want to do this. This was tried at Sears Lane but it didn't work out.
 - Oftentimes what they want is for the person causing the problem to leave, but they don't have any ability to evict an individual without making the entire group move.
- Councilor Paul asked what are the things that people experiencing homelessness want to be doing during the day? And what would a second low barrier shelter look like? What do we need to have in making this work with behavior versus sobriety? These are big issues we need to think about.
- Councilor Roof and Councilor Moore asked about the draft homelessness policy, and when did the city council take action on that. They suggested it should be looked at again.
- Mr. Marshall had a final comment that homelessness is really a regional issue, that the homeless in the City are not limited to Burlington residents, therefore anything we do is just a stopgap measure.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:20