

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations
&
Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

3:00 - 5:00

Light refreshments will be provided

At the Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel
25 Cherry Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

For more information or to RSVP please contact Vickie Rathgeb
vrathgeb@bpdvt.org or 802-952-5494

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&
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Annual Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome:** Mike Warren & Vickie Rathgeb
- **Terry Crowley:** Sister from a recent Essex case speaking about her CUSI experience.
- **Kathy Stubbing:** Adult Protective Services Investigator who will speak on being an agency working with CUSI .
- **Mary Seller:** Former CUSI detective from University of Vermont Police Department who will speak about the value of being at CUSI. Currently she is a sergeant at UVM.
- **Rick McGuire:** Funding – CUSI budget and the formula used to determine town assessments.

Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel
25 Cherry Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401



CUSI

Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations

50 Cherry Street, Suite 102

Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: (802) 652-6800

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November 2, 2015

Dean Bloch and Charlotte Select Board
Town of Charlotte
P.O. Box 119
Charlotte, VT 05445

Dear Dean and Charlotte Select Board,

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) is responsible for the investigation of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and child fatalities in Chittenden County. If you have seen the news these past months you will understand that the battle is becoming more multifaceted including the opiate scourge and mental health issues though the resources remain stretched. In order to sustain the success of our investigative work and support to victims and families, CUSI relies on two types of contributions from towns/municipalities in Chittenden County as detailed below:

- *Financial contributions:* CUSI's projected operating budget for FY17 is almost \$99,000 which is fully funded via non-officer/personnel contributing towns/municipalities. The amount of financial support required per town/municipality is based upon overall population of Chittenden County.
- *In-kind/personnel contributions:* CUSI receives close to \$1,040,000 annually including personnel, benefits, vehicles, overtime, etc. which is funded via officer contributing towns/municipalities. These officer contributing towns/municipalities include: *Burlington, Essex, Colchester, South Burlington, Winooski, and the Vermont State Police.* In addition, other agencies contributing in-kind personnel include the Department of Children and Families and the Chittenden County States Attorney's office.

Currently our funding formula is based on population, although we are pleased to say that a Legislative Funding Study Committee has been formed to explore different funding options for SIU's around state. In the interim, the reality is that the financial difference is absorbed by contributing towns. It is critical that non-officer contributing towns provide the required financial contribution to sustain the important work we do daily. The investigations are becoming more challenging and the aftermath has proven to be devastating in severe child abuse cases, hence...the funding is even more critical! When CUSI does not receive full payment from the non-officer contributing towns in the county; there is a direct impact on the work we do.

*The assessment for the Town of Charlotte is: **\$5,789.00 for fiscal year 2017.***

As always we are very grateful for your investment and we thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Veronica Rathgeb
Executive Director
CUSI/Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center