

VCEH Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015

Attendees: Kathy Metras (NEKCA), Sara Kobylenski (UVH), Brook Salls (GSH), Deborah Hall (HPC), Emily Clever (Winston Prouty), Sarah Phillips (VT OEO), Whitney Nichols, Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Calvin Smith (VCRHYP), Pat Burke (SEVCA), Josh Davis (Morningside), Jim Schroeder (DMH), Renee Sarao (VCEH/VAHC), Rhianna Kendrick (BADIC), Mary Ellen Mendl (VT 211/UW), Tracy Collier (Capstone), Kristen Briggs (CMC/Chris's Place), Cara Collins (Safe Haven/CMC), Angus Chaney (VT AHS/Council on Homelessness)
Phone: Avaloy Lanning (BCCH), Richard Rankin (Data Remedies), Erhard Mahnke (VAHC)

Agenda

Introductions & Announcements
December Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports

Introductions & Announcements: GA update was provided, so far in January all districts had had a CWE every night. The first CWE was on November 2nd this year versus October 25th last year.

Minutes: Motion to approve by Joshua Davis, Whitney Nichols seconded.

Treasurer's Report: There was a phone conference recently to confirm the local COC leads. The goal is that by February all participants will get a dues request in the mail.

Legislative (Headlines): Erhard Mahnke shared that the FY '16 budget is now out and there are upcoming hearings that folks can get on the schedule for. On **February 12th** there is a need for support of VHCB funding at the Statehouse. There is a proposal to cut \$437k to DMH housing vouchers. There are currently 130 people being supported and no new vouchers being issued. There is a proposal to add \$611k in new funding for Pathways to replace the loss of SAMSA funding, and \$600k to GA emergency housing which will bring that total to \$3.2M. There is a proposal to level fund FSH, ESG, and VHCB. There is a proposed decrease of \$300k for GA housing in order to make increases to overnight shelters. \$6M proposed cut to LIHEAP. \$1.6M increase for folks receiving Reach Ahead childcare assistance, while a cut to funding for families receiving RU and SSI is proposed. Affordable Housing Coalition priorities have been finalized. Please make sure to forward individual stories to Erhard and the Statehouse in order to help carry the message forward.

Consolidated Plan: The online survey is still open for a short period of time, all public meetings have happened.

PIT: Training via webinar happened 1/14, and forty people participated. The 2015 form and archived webinar are available on the Helping to House website. Folks were urged to utilize 211 to collect data, and they are trained and ready. Lamoille COC is holding a breakfast to capture their data, and some areas in the state are working to also collect data re: those who aren't considered the HUD definition of literal homelessness, particularly in terms of youth.

Coordinated Entry Committee: Greg Winters from Washington County will be presenting at the next committee meeting to discuss their current process, and Sarah Phillips will send out information.

VICH: Angus brought information from the last council meeting to share and also engaged in conversation. Some points discussed were how to coordinate more with local COC's and how to take emerging best practices and apply them. It was highlighted that we are lacking a long term strategy in the winter months. Discussion occurred regarding the Family Connections document. Homelessness is currently increasing due to a statewide 1% housing vacancy rate (.5% in Windham County); the healthy market rate is 4-6%. There is a clear need for accessible units that provide fair market rents and pass inspection, and Angus discussed a focus on set asides and targeting so that housing stock is able to be utilized by those that we work with. The US Interagency council has selected 2020 as the goal year to end homelessness. Further conversation continued regarding how to help increase new development and increased communication with landlords. Lamoille and Windham Counties have both had formal landlord communication, one with a summit and one with an open forum, but they provided limited success beyond relationship building.

NOFA Committee: The first committee meeting took place on January 19th, and focused on setting priorities and beginning to discuss the full application process required for this year. Daniel will provide more basic information about NOFA soon.

HMIS RFP Committee: There is a \$30k grant that pays for reporting data directly to HUD in order to demonstrate how homelessness is experienced throughout the year. AHS is transitioning out of the HMIS lead agency role, and developing an RFP to find a new agency to take over. The lead oversees HMIS functionality, general oversight, and agency participation, as well as working on how to spend the grant money, and new funding sources.

Miscellaneous: There was conversation regarding where to hold future meetings, with some requests to hold them further south-potentially White River, and also an offer to utilize space at the Washington Youth Services Bureau in Northfield. Currently the space in Randolph is confirmed through March, and we can reevaluate closer to that point.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhianna Kendrick