



Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Joint Meeting
September 13, 2017
Meeting Minutes
St. Joseph's Church, Randolph, Vermont



- 1) Welcome and Introductions - *Ted Wimpey, VAHC Chair*
- 2) Speaker's Perspective and Outlook on Housing and Homelessness - *Vermont House of Representatives Speaker Mitzi Johnson*
 - a) Spoke about upcoming \$35 million housing bond - a "mortgage" for affordable housing
 - i) \$2.5 million annual expense, \$1 million from VAHC budget
 - ii) Discussed how to consider replacement/alternative funds for \$1 million long-term
 - b) Noted outstanding issues: Domestic Violence, Opioid crisis, mental health struggles
 - c) Opened the floor to questions:
 - i) Discussed:
 - (1) Service component of ending homelessness
 - (2) Legislative workgroups
 - (3) Income tax
 - (4) "Newness" of House members (40% in first or second term)
 - (5) SASH
 - (6) Persons who are "blacklisted" from housing
- 3) Pro Tem's Perspective and Outlook on Housing and Homelessness - *Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe*
 - a) Comments about current federal policies, funding etc. (see handouts)
 - b) Identified healthcare as most important issue in Vermont
 - i) Ongoing increases in healthcare spendings (currently at \$6 billion/year)
 - ii) Decreases in non-healthcare spending (without saving the state \$)
 - c) Open the floor to questions:
 - i) Discusse:
 - (1) How to address shift in healthcare funding
 - (2) Moving Medicaid Medicaid payments to local mental health agencies
 - (3) Proposals for next year to be determined
- 4) Report from DC – *Kate Ash, Senator Leahy's Office*
 - a) Comments re: ideological differences in Washington related to funding of social services
 - b) Senator active in defending against and advocating for best practices
 - c) Appropriations
 - i) Debt ceiling and continuing resolution passed last week and lasts through early December
 - ii) Debates outstanding re: raising budget caps
 - iii) Thus far housing and services have fared well
 - d) Please see handout
 - i) 2.5 billion increase to HUD (CDBG, HOME, rental increases, fair housing office protection, subsidies for persons who have experienced domestic violence)
 - ii) Continuing resolution is possible, omnibus possibility?
 - iii) Leahy's office staff touring sites in August
 - iv) Supporting HUD with Technical Assistance availability and timeliness of NOFA
 - v) Farm Bill that oversees USDA rural development (needs to be passed next year)



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- 5) Report from DC - *Katarina Lisaius, Senator Sanders' Office*
 - a) Budget Update:
 - i) Ranking member of Senate budget committee
 - ii) Proposed budget had many cuts
 - b) Comments re: healthcare including Medicare for all bill/ utilizing budget reconciliation process for tax reform
 - c) Comments re: national housing trust funds
- 6) Report from DC - *Susan Elliott, Congressperson Welch's Office*
 - a) Conducted tour of social safety networks in Vermont (DV, Homeless prevention, service programs, food support program)
 - b) Believes in poverty relief programs
 - c) Homelessness has decreased nationally, but important to continue advocacy
- 7) Governor's Perspective and Outlook on Housing and Homelessness - *Governor Phil Scott*
 - a) Comments re: \$35 million bond (highlight as opportunity for shared goals)
 - b) Referenced guiding principles: "strengthen economy, make Vermont more affordable, protect most vulnerable"
 - c) Identifies political polarization as greatest national threat - strong working relationship with delegation and collaboration with legislature
 - d) Reassessing permitting process, freeing up housing stock (upgrades, etc.)
 - e) Opened the floor to questions:
 - i) Discussed:
 - (1) Pathways from Poverty Council - no longer exists - from executive order that expired after 3 years
 - (2) SASH support
 - (3) VHCB full funding
 - (4) Blueprint support
 - (5) Young families/youth staying in-state
 - (6) GA funds for families in shelters
 - (7) VHFA down payment assistance program through tax credit
 - (8) Small contractors purchasing/flipping single family homes
 - (9) Occupancy Tax - depend on "status of economy, revenue sources, and what happens in Congress"
 - (10) Opioid epidemic
- 8) Voices of Home - *Corrine Yonce Americorps VISTA*
 - a) Shared audio clip of interviews and had original paintings at meeting [Audio interviews for persons living in affordable housing](#)

Minutes submitted by Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez