



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
 December 19, 2017
 Meeting Minutes
 St. Joseph's Church, Randolph, VT

Rep (R) or Attendee (A)	Board Representative or Attendee	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present Y/N/P (P= phone)
R	Doug Sinclair	Addison CoC	Charter House	Y
R	Elizabeth Eddy	Bennington CoC	BROC - Community Action South-West Vermont	Y
R	Jan Rossier	Caledonia/Essex CoC	Northeast Kingdom Community Action	N
R	Margaret Bozik	Chittenden CoC	Champlain Housing Trust	N
R	Holly Olio	Franklin/Gl CoC	NCSS	P
R	dawn butterfield	Lamoille CoC	Capstone Community Action	N
R	Kathy Griffin	Orleans CoC	Northeast Kingdom Community Action	N
R	Heather Hinckley	Rutland CoC	Homeless Prevention Center	Y
R	Brooke Jenkins	Washington CoC	Good Samaritan Haven	P
R	Emily Clever	Windham South	Winston Prouty	N
R	Pat Burke	Windsor-South/Windham-North	Southeastern Vermont Community Action	Y
R	Renee Weeks	Windsor-North/Orange	Upper Valley Haven	Y
R	Josh Davis	Co-Chair	Groundworks Collaborative	N
R	Peter Kellerman	Co-Chair	John Graham Housing and Services	P
R	dawn butterfield	Treasurer	Capstone Community Action	N
R	Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez	Secretary	Pathways Vermont	N
R	Ari Kisler	Youth	Vermont Coalition of Runaway and	Y



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			Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP)	
R	Kara Casey	Domestic and Sexual Violence	Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Y
R	Jim Bastien	Veterans	U.S. Veterans Administration	Y
R	Whitney Nichols	Person with Lived Experience		P
R	Shawn Kelly	Person with Lived Experience		N
R	Emily Higgins	Vermont Agency of Human Services	AHS - Office of Economic Opportunity	N
R	Brian Smith	Mental Health	AHS - Department of Mental Health	Y
R	Shaun Gilpin	Housing Partners	DHCD	Y
R	Erhard Mahnke	Member-At-Large	VAHC	Y
R	MaryEllen Mendl	Member-At-Large	United Ways of VT/VT211	N
R	Julia Ormsbee	Member-At-Large	Agency of Education	N
R	Daniel Blankenship	Public Housing Authority/Collaborative Applicant	Vermont State Housing Authority	P
R	Meghan Morrow	HMIS Administrator	Institute for Community Alliances	P
A	Jay Diaz		ACLU of Vermont	Y
A	Jessica Radbord		Vermont Legal Aid	P
A	Caitlin Ettenborough		Institute for Community Alliances	P
A	Chief Kasten		Hartford Police Department	Y
A	Laurel Chen		VT Coalition to End Homelessness	Y
A	Sarah Philips	Secondary AHS Rep	Office of Economic Opportunity	Y



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A	Whitney Hussong		Hartford Police Department	Y
A	Rey Garafano		Office of Economic Opportunity	Y
A	George Seiffert		Office of Economic Opportunity	Y
A	Amos Meacham		Pathways Vermont	Y
A	Liz Genge		Downstreet Housing	Y

- I. 10:00 Pete Kellerman calls the meeting to order.

- II. 10:05 Attendance and Brief Announcements
 - a. There will be two full day trainings in February by Collaborative Solutions, targeted towards entry to mid-level housing case managers, navigators and service coordinators. Training #1 will be on Monday, February 12 on landlord engagement and Training #2 will be on Wednesday, February 14 on Housing Based Case Management. Trainings will both be held at State Complex in Waterbury. Email invite will be sent out later this week.
 - b. Office of Economic Opportunity will be hosting a webinar on VAWA protections with Vermont Legal Aid on 12/20 at 11am. The webinar will be recorded and posted afterwards on OEO's website.

- III. 10:10 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Whitney Nichols moves to approve minutes.
 - b. Doug Sinclair seconds.
 - c. Unanimous approval. Shaun Gilpin, Rey Garafano, Ari Kisler, and George Seiffert abstain.

- IV. 10:15 Treasurer's Report – dawn butterfield
 - a. dawn butterfield is not present.
 - b. Pete Kellerman reports that there is nothing to report or changes to our budget from the treasurer at this point.



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- V. 10:20 Outreach Efforts in Hartford area – Renee Weeks, Chief Kasten and Whitney Hussong
 - a. Collaborative outreach efforts between Upper Valley Haven & the Hartford Police Department
 - i. Police officer and Renee Weeks from the Upper Valley Haven go out to encampments for wellness checks and to offer connections to services and housing
 - ii. Following outreach efforts, many of the people from the encampments have come into the Haven to receive case management services
 - iii. General reaction is that people are grateful
 - iv. Non-confrontational approach to outreach efforts with plain clothes officers and approaching the situation as being there to help
 - v. Address public health concerns in encampments such as feces and non-sanitary living situations
 - b. Based off of other nationwide models
 - i. HOPE process in San Antonio
 - ii. Homeless outreach and positive encounters in Atlanta
 - iii. Train officers in the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) model
 - 1. 40 hours of training on mental health, resources and services
 - 2. HCRS Social Worker housed at the Police Department, Whitney Hussong, helps to lead this effort
 - c. Future of the program
 - i. Currently not a formal policy or MOU in place but is possible in the future
 - ii. Exploring joint initiative with New Hampshire Police Department to encompass the broader Upper Valley
 - iii. The group had interest in this type of program expanding to other police departments in Vermont
 - d. Proposal for \$200,000 in appropriations for 4 counties (Chittenden, Washington, Windham and Rutland) to fund street outreach
- VI. 10:35 Criminalization of Homelessness – Jay Diaz, ACLU Vermont
 - a. Public records requests
 - i. People being ticketed for panhandling, loitering, sleeping in places of public access, trespassing when in an encampment, property destruction when items are taken from encampments or outdoors place of storage



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- ii. ACLU Vermont defends peoples' constitutional right to engage in self-sustaining activity i.e. sleeping on the sidewalk if they do not have a home to sleep in
- iii. ACLU Vermont Plans to look at changes from last year to this year regarding ticketing in order to follow up with municipalities and selectboards on ticketing of people who are homeless that violate laws that are on the books or cases of unconstitutionality
- b. Cold Weather Exemption
 - i. Concern around the current threshold for eligibility under Cold Weather Exemption (now called Adverse Weather Condition)
 - ii. People can still die at the temperatures and in conditions above the cold-weather exemption threshold
- c. Homeless Bill of Rights
 - i. Would include homelessness as a protected class
 - 1. Not worth anything if there is no mechanism to enforce
 - 2. Human Rights Commission is one mechanism
 - ii. Could be an important statement
- d. Issues around zoning for shelters
 - i. Vermont's zoning law has an amendment that states that zoning boards cannot take into account the income of people the building is meant for when reviewing
 - ii. Department for Housing and Community Development and Human Rights Commission are good resources for this

VII. 11:20 Committee Updates

- a. Point in Time Count – MaryEllen Mendl (5 min)
 - i. PIT Google Forms
 - 1. Will be used this year to input PIT Count data
 - 2. Do the google forms meet federal data security requirements regarding Protected Personal Information (PPI)?
 - a. This is necessary in order for HOP recipients to use them



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- b. Need to get a certification from ICA stating that the forms meet data security requirements regarding PPI
 - c. Sarah Phillips and Meghan Morrow will follow up to ensure this happens before the training date to review the Google Form
- ii. Trainings
- 1. How to Enter Data into the Google Form and Paper forms
 - a. January 18th from 10-11:30
 - 2. HMIS Provider trainings to go over how to run, read and fix PIT reports
 - a. January 29th and February 7th trainings
- b. HMIS – Meghan Morrow (5 min)
- i. HMIS Advisory Board Member Recruitment
 - 1. Hoping to recruit more members for the HMIS Advisory Board
 - 2. Tasks and responsibilities of the HMIS Advisory Board
 - a. Review and update HMIS Policies & Procedures manual, user agreements, agency partnership agreements for HMIS, training suggestions, improvements to the HMIS to make it more useable and a better system
 - 3. Contact Meghan Morrow if you are interested in joining
- c. Coordinated Entry – Renee Weeks (10 min)
- i. Voting on Coordinated Entry materials at January VCEH meeting
 - 1. CE Committee will be finalizing the materials for a vote
 - 2. Materials and a vote warning will be sent out tomorrow, December 20
 - ii. Complaint and Grievance Process Template
 - 1. Requirement of HUD that will allow participants in CE process to file a complaint if they believe they have been discriminated against or treated unfairly in the process
 - 2. Will be distributed in the vote warning email.



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- d. SerVermont Americorps VISTA opportunity – Sarah Phillips
 - i. SerVermont interest in providing Americorps to projects/activities that support opioid programming
 - ii. VCEH could apply to have a cohort
 - 1. Possibility of having several Americorps members serving at agencies across the state
 - 2. Possibility of having some support around Coordinated Entry from Americorps
 - 3. OEO could put forward match funding
 - 4. The Coalition could possibly also provide support
 - a. Will have a more robust discussion around this at the January VCEH meeting
 - iii. Setting up a small group phone call to brainstorm around this opportunity
 - 1. Liz Genge, Elizabeth Eddy and Renee Weeks, and Laurel Chen are interested in joining a
 - 2. Sarah Phillips will set up the call before the January VCEH meeting
- e. Legislative Advocacy – Erhard Mahnke (15 min)
 - i. Recent VSHA RFP for project-based vouchers
 - 1. Around 151 of the project vouchers will go towards folks coming out of homelessness
 - ii. January 10 Homelessness Awareness Day at the Statehouse
 - 1. Coffee and Muffins from 7:30-9:00
 - 2. Vigil at noon on the statehouse steps
 - 3. Reading of resolution in the well of the house between 1:00-1:30
 - 4. Planning call Thursday, 12/21 at 1pm
 - a. Contact Erhard if interested in joining
 - iii. VASH Funding Cuts
 - 1. There will not be funding cuts as the program was extended for one year
 - iv. House Appropriations Mid-Year budget adjustment
 - 1. Proposal to take \$200,000 from Vermont Rental Subsidy program
 - v. 2018 State Legislative Priorities
 - 1. Erhard reviewed the 2018 State legislative priorities and keyed in on several priorities



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2. Occupancy Fee

- a. Would raise an estimated \$7.3 million annually
- b. This legislative priority states that a certain amount would go towards water quality improvement in order to garner more support
- c. Question around proposing \$1 goes towards infrastructure and \$1 goes towards services
 - i. Intending to use a formula based on the proportion of dollars needed for infrastructure and services, as proposed in the Roadmap to End Homelessness
 1. This was what was done last year with the bill and will be done this year as well.

3. Homeless Bill of Rights

- a. Would make a solid statement about the rights and human dignity of people who are homeless

vi. Vote on Legislative Priorities

1. Amos Meacham moves to approve the VAHC legislative priorities. Pat Burke seconds.
2. Unanimous approval. Doug Sinclair, Sarah Phillips, Shaun Gilpin, Daniel Blankenship, and Brian Smith abstain.

VIII. 11:55 Next two meeting dates – January 16 and February 20

IX. 12:00 Adjournment