

# Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

10am St. John's Church, Randolph

12/15/15

I and II. Introductions- several new staff. List of attendees with emails below.

III. Legislative Committee – Erhard Mahnke

- a. **Homeless Awareness Day- vigil on the statehouse steps at noon on 1/7/16.**  
<http://helpingtohousevt.org/2015/12/18/save-the-date-january-7th-homelessness-awareness-day-and-memorial-vigil-at-the-state-house/>
- b. Contact local legislators ahead of time to coordinate meetings. Guests= Gov. Shumlin, Secretary Hal Cohen, Speaker Shap Smith. Schedule: 8AM- bring display/handouts to Card Room (on way to cafeteria). 12 – Homeless Awareness. 2PM –State of the State address (heightened security). 3:30PM – Resolution commemorating the day.
- c. Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition (VAHC) Legislative agenda –VCEH can review and vote to adopt as well. <http://helpingtohousevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/2016-State-legislative-priorities-approved-draft-12-9-15.pdf>

IV. Approval of minutes from October and November Meetings –

Motion- Bethany Pombar, VCRHYP, second – Will Eberle, Another Way. Unanimously approved.

V. Treasurer's Report – Dawn Butterfield

Distributed report. Nice carryover from last year (\$5,400), and dues are starting to come in (+\$1,300 since July 1.) Packet includes dues forms to bring back to your local CoC. Listing of expenses, current balance =\$4,300.

VCEH VISTA expense will be paid entirely out of the CoC Planning Grant this year.

Motion to approve budget- Sarah Phillips, VT OEO; second – Sara Kobylenski, Upper Valley Haven; Unanimously approved.

Coalition approves the Treasurer to expend up to \$200 for Renee to create a permanent display for Homeless Awareness Day and other events. Co-chairs can sign for expense.

Motion- Will Eberle, Another Way, second – Ashely Greenfield, HPC. Unanimously approved.

VI. PIT (Point In Time count) Committee MaryEllen Mendl

**Count will be on 1/27/16.** Statewide sheltered and unsheltered homeless census count mandated by HUD. Next meeting is 12/21/15 at 2pm. There will be a Go To Webinar hosted by OEO and the PIT Committee on a date TBD, which will be recorded and saved for reference.

ACTION: MaryEllen Mendl will get webinar dates to OEO ASAP.

Effective 1/15/16, HUD's definition of chronic homelessness will change and be more narrow. This will result in lower numbers of chronic homelessness in VT for the PIT count. Between Jan 2014-2015, VT reduced chronic homelessness by 51% under the previous definition. The change requires that non-continuous, multiple episodes of homelessness must total 12 months or more.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf>

Will Eberle asked if there was a way to still do an "apples to apples" count so we don't give the impression that the need has actually reduced. Daniel said there would be a way to do that with the data collected. Daniel noted that the priority for use of Shelter plus Care is for chronically homeless clients, but it is not exclusively for chronically homeless. We do NOT count "precariously housed" or "at risk of homelessness" during the PIT count. It is only a count of literal homelessness. The PIT counts literally homelessness, not other categories of HUD homeless, like youth. The VCEH will issue a press release about the PIT count.

ACTION: each CoC representative needs to email Renee Sarao with the contact info of the point person for the PIT count for each community. VCEH local CoC board reps are responsible for ensuring a contact is designated. Renee will create a list of contacts.

VII. HMIS report Meghan Morrow, ICS

Next meeting is 1/7/16, which conflicts with the Homeless Vigil. Meghan will work on a solution.

Advisory Board = Balance of State CoC and Chittenden County CoC. Includes Sunny, Will from Spectrum, Chris from CVOEO, SSVF, etc. Works to coordinate systems and improve functionality.

ACTIONS: 1) Meghan will coordinate with Renee to get the info added to the VCEH website. 2) Send training requests to Meghan. She can do onsite or via webinar. 3) Send Meghan staff updates for HMIS users. She is going through the user licenses because they are tied to a specific individual and have to be changed. Please contact her with who is using HMIS, who left, and who is new.

VIII. Coordinated Entry Sarah Phillips, OEO

Committee is scheduled to meet via webinar in December, but may reschedule due to holidays. In January, they will meet after the VCEH meeting and look at how to incorporate Shelter plus Care and youth into the process. Last month the focus was veterans. The committee is finalizing the template MOU and ROI (Release of Info); the ROI is being reviewed by ICA, VA, and AHS. The roles within the VCEH local coordinated entry partnership model were discussed again: 1) referral partner 2) assessment partner 3) local lead agency.

The committee will report in January with recommendations for next steps. There are milestones for implementation. Coordinated entry is a model that can grow over time as partners get added. If you want to be engaged, your organization should get on the VCEH coordinated entry committee.

Liz Whitmore of DOC mentioned that probation and parole officers should refer via coordinated entry, because there is new legislation in process that will encourage release of non-violent offenders without a defined plan for housing.

IX. NOFA Committee – Daniel Blankenship, VSHA

Walked through resource handouts: 1) Summary of Federal Homeless, Housing, and Low-Income Programs. 2) Vermont Housing Resources Chart. 3) NOFA Submission for Balance of State CoC and notes for improvement. 8 pg. summary; full application can be found on website.

VSHA announced new Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher- Homeless Preference for Families (defined as households with kids under 18). Waitlist will open 12/21/15 and they will give out 100 vouchers. Clients have to be connected to services for 1 year and literally homeless (street or shelter/motel) to be eligible. If they are in transitional housing that is dedicated to those who are chronically homeless, that is ok as long as they were literally homeless prior to entry. The link for the application will be on the VSHA website this week. As vouchers come available clients will be asked to submit a full application. The provider should submit a ROI with the application so they have permission to coordinate with VSHA.

Shelter Plus Care is currently accepting applications for chronically homeless individuals (10-20 available). The group also discussed the new Rutland Shelter Plus Care project.

X. Seasonal Warming updates

Springfield, Greater Falls, and Brattleboro are up and running. Brattleboro is beyond capacity. Upper Valley Haven has had 7/night every night. St. Johnsbury is open – new. Newport will open in January. Middlebury –Charter House, Barre overflow are open. Rutland daystation will open in January with food and showers. Burlington new low barrier shelter has been full since it was opened -50 per night. Hope to have convening with Warming Shelter partners in April or May to debrief on the season. Can add to the end of the VCEH meeting.

Announcements:

Webinar coming up on partnering with Homeless Education Liaisons in school districts.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6801309920218173698>

Poverty Council press conference with the Governor on 12/17/15 – Thursday at 1pm.

ACTION: Local CoCs - Please return CoC self-assessment to Angus Chaney, AHS Director of Housing in January.

XI. Next Meetings January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Agenda items:

DCF can present on new projects funded in response to the call for Community Based Alternatives to General Assistance Emergency Housing.

Liz Whitmore- DOC presentation on changing legislation around releasing offenders without housing plan.

Attendees:

Joyce Cloutier	Vet, Inc.	<a href="mailto:joycecloutier@veteransinc.org">joycecloutier@veteransinc.org</a>	
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