



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
 March 21, 2017
 Meeting Minutes
 St. Joseph's Church, Randolph, VT

| Rep (R) or Attendee (A) | Board Representative or Attendee | Affiliation | Present Y/N/P (P= phone) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| R | Doug Sinclair | Charter House | Y |
| R | Elizabeth Eddy | BROC | Y |
| R | Jan Rossier | Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NECKA) | N |
| R | Margaret Bozik (Erin Ahearn, alternate) | Champlain Housing Trust, (CHC) | N |
| R | Holly Olio | Northwestern Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) | Y |
| R | Cynthia Trautner | Clarina Howard Nichols Center | N |
| R | Renee Weeks | Upper Valley Haven | Y |
| R | VACANT - Orleans CoC | VACANT | |
| R | Ashley Greenfield | Homeless Prevention Center | Y |
| R | Lauren Higbee | Youth Services Inc. | Y |
| R | Pat Burke | Southeastern Vermont CA | Y |
| R | Brooke Jenkins | Good Samaritan Haven | P |
| R | <i>Co-Chair</i> MaryEllen Mendl | United Ways of VT/VT211 | N |
| R | <i>Co-Chair</i> Peter Kellerman | John Graham Housing and Services | Y |
| R | <i>Treasurer</i> dawn butterfield | Capstone Community Action | N |
| R | <i>Secretary</i> Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez | Pathways Vermont | Y |
| R | Bethany Pombar | Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP) | Y |
| R | Kara Casey | Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence | N |
| R | Jim Bastien | Veterans Administration | N |
| R | Whitney Nichols | Person with Lived Experience | P |
| R | VACANT - Person with lived experience | VACANT | |
| R | Emily Higgins | AHS - Office of Economic Opportunity | Y |



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|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| R | Brian Smith | AHS - Department of Mental Health | Y |
| R | Shaun Gilpin | DHCD | Y |
| R | Erhard Mahnke | VAHC | P |
| R | Daniel Blankenship | Vermont State Housing Authority | Y |
| R | Meghan Morrow | Institute for Community Alliances | N |
| A | Eric Peterson | Capstone Community Action - Lamoille | Y |
| A | Ari Kisler | VCRHYP | Y |
| A | Justin Wegner | Randolph | Y |
| A | Joyce Cloutier | Veteran's Inc. | Y |
| A | Rebecca Gural | SSVF at UVM | P |

- 1) 10:05 Peter calls meeting to order
- 2) Introductions and Announcements
 - a) VCRHYP Legislative Day
 - i) 4/13 legislative advocacy day @ statehouse (starts at 7:30 AM)
 - ii) Resolution honoring VCRHYP @ 1
 - b) Daniel and Laurel gone for next VCEH meeting
- 3) **Emily moves to accept February minutes**
 - a) *Ashley seconds (with correction)*
 - b) *Unanimously Approved*
- 4) Treasurer's Report - pass as dawn is absent
- 5) Legislative Update - Erhard Mahnke
 - a) State legislative report
 - i) Appropriations Committee proposal cuts cold weather exemption spending
 - (1) \$150,000 for DCF Commissioner to create flexible policy for addressing cold-weather exemption need
 - (2) Additional information provided via email to VCEH members
 - (3) Finalizing budget end of the week
 - ii) S100 bill - \$35 Million revenue bond for VHCB, needs \$1 million increase to make revenue bond
 - iii) Regulatory relief to encourage building
 - iv) Occupancy Fee
 - (1) Supported by Vermont workers caucus
 - (2) Not had a lot of testimony
 - (3) May be reserved to help address federal cuts
 - (4) Unsure where it is - perceive it still has a chance
 - v) Poverty Council - Erhard following up - does not believe there has been a recommendation made yet - Rachel Feldman is contact
 - vi) Question re: bill related to gun confiscation in homes with DV
 - (1) Out of judiciary committee - Erhard not following closely
 - b) Federal legislative report
 - i) Administration \$18 billion in non-defense domestic cuts
 - ii) Need 60 Senate votes to pass budget - Vermont delegation believing that budget will likely not be as bad as this initial presentation
 - iii) 13% decrease to FY18 HUD budget
 - (1) Elimination of CDBG, HOME, Block Grants, LIGHT program, Lawline, AmeriCorps VISTA, Neighborworks, USICH program (\$11 million to Vermont)
 - (2) McKinney status unclear (\$4 million in unidentified cuts)
 - (3) Section 8 level funded (which means reduction in voucher) - predicate 200,000 lost nation-wide
 - (4) Vermont could lose 1,800 vouchers
 - (5) Public Housing "takes heat"
 - iv) USDA 21% decrease

- (1) Eliminates wastewater funds, CFI
- v) Advocacy Resources:
 - (1) Organizations: NLIHC.org, CBPP.org, NAEH.org
 - (2) Reviewing source documents and persons who wrote proposals
 - (3) Reaching out to family/colleagues to ensure they are reaching out to their representatives
- 6) Point-In-Time Update - Daniel Blankenship
 - a) Most forms entered, working with Meghan from ICA
 - b) Many forms were missing data and/or were persons not literally homeless
 - c) Daniel to send local CoCs data
- 7) HUD CoC Updates - Daniel Blankenship
 - a) HUD has created additional reporting portal
 - i) Reports from ICA and populated into system
 - ii) Reports can be reviewed for accuracy before finalization
 - b) Shelter Plus Care maxed - funded for 180 households, serving 206 (40% more than funded - b/c of grant savings)
 - i) None available until May 2018
 - c) HUD VASH and FUV (through DCF Reach-Up) have limited availability
 - d) Issuing 60 Section 8 vouchers (households with preferences - VRS, RRH)
 - e) Rapid Re-Housing:
 - i) #1 and #2 grants - 21 units funded, serving 25 households (NECKA, St. Johnsbury, GroundWorks, HPV, UVH)
 - ii) #3 grant (Franklin, Washington) 12 units funded, serving 10
 - iii) #4 grant 37 units funded, (Have subsidies available: BROCC, NECKA Newport, Capstone Lamoille)
 - iv) #5 grant (10/1/17) 8 units (Addison county)
 - v) Subsidy length is up to 24-months, security deposit
 - vi) Money due to Housing Trusts, PHA - must be resolved
 - f) Project-based subsidies when available these are sent to local continuums
 - i) Conversation re: finding units via re-housing
 - ii) Limitations of accepting clients through housing trusts, project-based units due to rental challenges
 - iii) Landlord liaison role identified as very helpful in communities
 - iv) Project-based landlords may be more limited in whom they'll take
 - v) Conversation re: project-based subsidies, public housing provider, housing trusts, persons with poor rental histories, credit, criminal backgrounds, etc.
 - vi) Directory of affordable housing (doesn't necessarily list vacancies) available
- 8) Introduction, plan for role - Laurel Chen
 - a) Working on behalf of VCEH, building capacity of VCEH and local CoCs
 - b) Working in communities 1-3 days a week
 - c) Creating tools for local CoCs

- i) Communication - sharing from local CoCs (website - updating with information, listservs, etc.)
 - (1) PIT information
 - (2) Minutes
 - (3) Local CoC contacts
 - (4) Local CoC towns (what's included - list needs update)
 - (5) All reports in a single place
 - ii) Tools for local CoCs
 - (1) Responsibilities of co-chair (PIT, expectations, etc.)
 - (2) Responsibilities of members
 - (3) PIT and HMIS data at county and/or community level
 - (4) Conversation re: data quality/outcomes, utilization of HMIS
 - iii) Reach out with questions/comments laurel@vsha.org
- 9) HOP Grant Update - Emily Higgins
 - a) All HOP programs must use HMIS
 - b) All HOP programs will be required to participate in Coordinated Entry (CE)
- 10) Coordinated Entry - Renee Weeks
 - a) Confidentiality principles and policies
 - b) Access and prioritization for permanent supportive housing
 - c) Vote to be warned next month
 - d) Local CoCs should have Partnership and HMIS data agreement sharing in place
 - e) Going forward:
 - i) Guidance on DV access/referral/prioritization
 - ii) Grievance and appeals
 - iii) HMIS data management
 - iv) Finalizing assessment tool
 - v) Developing training re: assessment tool
 - f) Conversation re: HOP units in the CE process, noted that VRS is not part of CE
- 11) Veterans Committee - Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez
 - a) Continue to work through by-name list of veterans
 - b) Most veterans are moving from literal homelessness to housed in less than 90 days
- 12) Built for Zero Collaborative - Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez
 - a) Conversation re: 100,000 Homes in Chittenden county, request for current data
 - b) Comments re: rural vs. urban for known population
- 13) Membership Committee - Whitney Nichols
 - a) April is council updates
 - b) Slate of officers in May/June
 - c) Request re: guidance for changes in membership
 - d) Still have funds and opening for person with lived experience
 - e) Consider philanthropy, banking, churches, etc. as members for next year
- 14) Youth Committee - Bethany Pombar
 - a) Working with HUD TA re: youth resources and definitions
 - b) First meeting next week



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- c) How to have youth advisory board?
 - 15) Poverty Council - Whitney Nichols
 - a) Update re: bills in both house/senate re: occupancy fee
 - 16) Local CoC updates - Luke Dodge
 - a) Two more local visits - Brattleboro (2nd Tuesday @ 3) and St. Johnsbury
 - b) Will start final report - most of the follow-up will be through Laurel's position
 - 17) Application submitted for AmeriCorps VISTA position for 2017 continuation - cuts anticipated by funder
 - 18) Future Meeting Topic: hoarding/collecting as an issue - resources for resolving/supporting
 - a) Conversation re: resources throughout the state
 - 19) Next Meetings: 4/18 10:00 in Randolph, 5/16 10:00 in Randolph
- Peter moves to adjourn at 12:01