

VCEH  
January Minutes  
1/19/2016

Attendees: Kristen Briggs, SafeHaven/CML; Will Eberle, Another Way; Emily Higgins, OEO; Geoffrey Pippenger, ESD; Liz Whitmore, DOC; Linda Anderson, Capstone; Tracy Collier, ESD; Dawn Butterfield, Capstone; Margaret Bozik, Champlain Housing Trust; Cindy Walier, Groundworks Collaborative; Angus Chaney, Vermont AHS; Meghan Morrow, ICA/ HMIS; Joyce Cloutier, Vets; Peter Hsieh, Upper Valley Haven; Emily Clever, Winston Prouty; Ashley Greenfield, Homeless Prevention Center; Pat Burke, SEVCA; Sandy Paritz, Vermont Legal Aid; Brian Smith, VTDMH; Sarah Phillips, OEO; Kristina Valentine, Vermont Veteran Services  
Phone: Maryellen Mendl, VT211; Pete Kellernan, John Graham Shelter; Erhard Mahnke, VAHC; Marya Vincent, NCSS; Whitney Nichols, Advocate; Rick, UVM VT veteran Services; Arwen Farrell, TPHT

---

**Minutes**-Kristin made a motion to approve, MaryEllen seconded. Approved.

**Treasure's report**-No new report available.

**Tracy Collier-Presentation SNAP ENT-Jobs or Independence Grant**

This grant is focused on assisting 3SquaresVT recipients with multiple barriers toward finding employment. This is a research study. Potential individuals who may be eligible are folks struggling with housing, addiction/recovery, incarceration, etc. It is the group of folks often referred to as “able bodied out of work”. They are looking for a pool of 3,000 people to divide into two groups of 1,500, one receiving services and a control group. The partners involved are ESD, DOL, CAPS, CCV. Tracy asked the group to send folks to the CAPS. The project will be linked to the [helpingtohousevt.org](http://helpingtohousevt.org) website.

Emily Higgins reported on the Emergency Shelter one night count. Emily pointed out some changes from last year. The report will be posted on [helptohousevt.org](http://helptohousevt.org). Someone posed the question: how many non-public funded shelters exist in Vermont? The group didn't have a definite answer.

**Legislative Updates**-Erhard asked that the council adopt Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition's legislative priorities. He hit the high points... Dawn made a motion that we adopt the legislative agenda and Margaret seconded. Group adopted the priorities and all AHS employees abstained from the vote. The priorities document is available on the [helpingtohousevt.org](http://helpingtohousevt.org) website

**Sarah-GA Alternatives**- A proposal was received from every district except Franklin/Grand Isle. Karen Vastine, Sean Brown, Sarah Phillips, Emily Higgins, Geoffrey Peppinger, all sit on the AHS Housing Team and reviewed the proposals. Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Newport and Barre requested funding for warming shelters. Capstone and John Graham Shelter requested funding for short-term transitional shelter.

Brattleboro looking at DV and overflow. There were a couple of requests for proposals for youth programs. Some other areas are in negotiations but haven't been funded at this time. If all goes well, the plan is to continue to fund for next fiscal year.

**PIT-training** was archived on the [helpingtohousevt.org](http://helpingtohousevt.org) website. The current PIT forms and instructions are available there also.\*\* Reminder we are not counting precariously housed folks during the PIT count. There are local reps assigned to collect the forms from your region. However there are three groups who will be sending them to their state organizers and those are, the DV, EA/GA, and youth programs. PIT will be entered into HMIS this year.

**HMIS**-an advisory board has been developed and the next meeting is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meetings following the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be opened up to others who want to participate.

**Department of Corrections**-with the inception of act 808F, those incarcerated cannot be held past their minimum sentence date. Release decisions used to be managed locally and have now been centralized. Low to moderate risk folks are screened and if there is no foreseeable threat they are released and the residence requirement is waived. Many go to DOC funded housing; however this is a head's up that there will be individuals being released from the facilities who don't have a place to reside.

**AHS Housing Director**-How comfortable are local CoC's with the work they are being asked to do?A recent survey was distributed and the outcome will be summarized soon. There is a plan to do these assessments annually. The goal is to have the local CoC's advance their functionality and outcomes.

**Homeless Awareness Day update**-Pat wanted to thank everybody for stepping up. It was the general consensus that the day was very successful.

**VSHA Update**-Daniel announced there are shelter plus care subsidies available. Rapid Re-housing Phase 2 starting.

Recommendation was made that it might be a good time to get the warming shelters together again. The group agreed and felt that the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting would be a great time.

Next meetings- February 16, and March 15<sup>th</sup>.