

VT BoS CoC/VT Coalition to End Homelessness
CoC Board Meeting -- June 21, 2016

Attendees

MaryEllen Mendl (VT211), Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Geoffrey Pippenger (AHS/ESD-GA), Sandy Partiz (VT Legal Aid), Pete Kellerman (JGS), Sarah Phillips (AHS/OEO), Renee Sarao (VCEH *VISTA), Shaun Gilpin (DHCD), Brian Smith (AHS/DMH), Brooke Jenkins (GSH), Elizabeth Eddy (BROC), Meghan Morrow (ICA), Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez (PVT), Pat Burke (SEVCA), Knowles Wentworth (HCRS), Dawn Butterfield (Capstone), Erhard Mahnke (VAHC), Sara Kobylenski (Haven), Kara Casey (VT Network), Holly Olio (NCSS), Ashley Greenfield (HPC), Marilyn Mahusky (Legal Aid), Maura Collins (VHFA), Margaret Bozik (CHT), and Beth Meyer (Agency of Education).

Phone: Marie ?? (NEKHS), Whitney Nichols (peer advocate), Jennifer Allen (ICA), and Bethany Pombar (VCRHYP).

Meeting Business

- Meeting was called to order. Introduction and announcements were made.
- The minutes were distributed. Sarah Phillips made a motion to accept the minutes after correcting the few typos that were caught. Daniel Blankenship seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The Treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed by Dawn Butterfield. Some highlights noted were:
 - VCEH received \$3,000 in dues.
 - There was a carryover from last year.
 - The banakce is \$4,166.90.
 - There are a few more expenses expected for FY16.
 - We are expecting some reimbursement from the Continuum Planning Grant for FY16 expenses.
- Sara Kobylenski noted that the balance is now \$1,000 less than last year. Does that show an unsustainable pace of spending? Dawn said that the money expected would bring us back to even. Sarah Phillips also noted that FY16 included one time web investments that won't reoccur.
- Sarah Kobylenski made a motion to pass the Treasurer's Report, and Shaun Gilpin seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Updates: HMIS

- Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez reported on the HMIS Advisory Committee. They are updating the Policy Manual. It was already approved by the CoC but may have small tweaks that are needed to be voted on if HUD requires us to have this type of manual in the future.
- Sara Kobylenski reported on ICA's performance and said that now that ICA has been working with the CoC for a year a small group had a call with them to check in. (The call included 2 CoC co-chairs, Daniel Blankenship and ICA staff.) Sara reported on that discussion:
 - There's an increasing reliance on HMIS and the CoC sees its value.
 - HMIS participation is required but they're looking forward to showing the benefit and value of the system beyond requirements.
 - 2 FTEs at ICA for Vermont is planned. Meghan and one more.

- ICA survey of users on their performance will be coming in a few weeks to gauge satisfaction.
 - Bowman owns ServicePoint. They've been bought by another firm which we hope will be a good development.
- Sarah Phillips noted that OEO also funds ICA and they are required to meet benchmarks and meet training/outreach expectations.
- Meghan reminded everyone of the Job Posting for the new ICA staffer due Thursday. It does not need to be a Chittenden County based employee.

Committee Updates: Legislative

- Erhard Mahnke reported that there was a recent trip to Washington, DC by some VT housing folks.
- HUD budget is progressing and Appropriations Committees are ahead of schedule. Same with the USDA/RD budget.
- Section 8 Reform Bill (HR 3700) passed the House unanimously but there's not a companion in the Senate that's moving. Vermont would benefit if there were because HR3700:
 - Lowered administrative costs for Section 8
 - Units with minor quality infractions could now have Section 8 tenants living in the units until the issues are resolved
 - Allows PHAs to project-base more Section 8s than now allowed
- Please reach out to your national/regional networks to encourage Senate movement on a companion bill.
- There will be a joint meeting of VT Affordable Housing Coalition and VCEH in September. Tentatively scheduled for Sept 14*. Agenda items are proposed to be:
 - Hear from the Gubernatorial candidates (*But, there's already a Gubernatorial presentation scheduled for noon that day)
 - Have someone from a Maine homeless agency come talk
- Please send Erhard more ideas
- The Governor's Poverty Council will be meeting again soon to create recommendations for the Governor. One expected highlight will be pushing for the \$2 occupancy charge for hotel/motel stays.
- Sarah Phillips will ask the Community of Practice teams who have funded landlord liaison positions to look at coordinating a discussion around landlord mitigation funds and activities.

Committee Updates: NOFA

- Daniel Blankenship reviewed several memos and handouts. He is requesting votes on several things by the July meeting.
- Bethany asked why youth transitional housing didn't get full points if it is the preferred model of serving youth? She recommended Part A 3 of the scoring sheet be raised to 25 points and Part D 3 raise to 7 points.
- Erhard asked about targeted populations of domestic violence and chronic substance abuse with transitional housing and why they weren't prioritized. Daniel said it wasn't a HUD priority despite HUD previously saying they were. Sarah Phillips said these population can be served through rapid rehousing.
- Local CoC representatives were encouraged to share all the attachments locally and weigh in so there can be an informed vote at the July VCEH meeting.

- Because the HUD application will likely be released prior to the July meeting, there was discussion about what the Letter of Intent should include and who it should be submitted to. It was decided a vote on that matter was needed immediately, and it had been warned.
- Sara Kobylenski made a motion to “Continue the practice of directing the Letter of Intent to VSHA,” and Shaun Gilpin made a friendly amendment to add, “in a similar format as last year.” Dawn Butterfield seconded the motion.
- The vote was unanimous by the following Continuums represented:
 - Housing
 - AHS
 - Southern Windham
 - Springfield
 - Rutland
 - Network Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
 - Department of Mental Health
 - Northern Windsor/Orange
 - Washington
 - 211 (at large)
 - Pathways (at large)
 - HMIS
 - Bennington
 - Consumer rep (Whitney)
 - VT Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth
 - VSHA – abstained

Committee Updates: Coordinated Entry

- Sarah Phillips reported that the committee drafted a Partnership Agreement which will be circulated soon. They hope to hold a webinar discussion soon. They hope the Partnership Agreement will be voted on by the VCEH at the August meeting.
- The Committee wants to recommend using HUD’s priorities for permanent supportive housing (PSH). They need to engage more PSH providers for the committee. They want to have them at the Committee’s in-person meeting in July (immediately after the VCEH meeting).
- We should be proud to be on track as a state in this effort.

Committee Updates: Membership

- Peter Kellermen reported that Josh Davis was willing to be nominated as co-chair next year, but not this year.
- Dawn Butterfield is willing to serve as Treasurer
- Whitney is looking for another consumer representative
- There is no nominee for Secretary yet
- Local CoCs have been contacted and responses are due by July 8th with who the designated contact will be.
- There are 2 member at large positions now and the committee is recommending this be expanded to four. Please give feedback on this to Whitney Nichols or Sarah Phillips.
- Expect a vote on all the positions at the July VCEH meeting.

Tenant Landlord Law Update

- Marilyn Mahusky, a Staff Attorney for VT Legal Aid's Housing Discrimination Law Project handed out materials that will also be available on the VCEH website.
- Last Fall HUD issued guidance around arrest records and eligibility for permanent housing. This was followed by similar guidance in April for other HUD-funded housing projects.
- Owners don't have to have a one-strike policy to exclude people who are arrested. Instead, they're encouraged to look at the totality of the situation.
- The April guidance broadened the notice to include convictions and all criminal activity.
- There's also a short summary of these changes on VAHC's blog from Rachel Batterson at VT Legal Aid.

Next Month's Agenda Items

- Uncovered items from this meeting:
 - Proposal for staffing VCEH
 - Collective Impact Education
- Elections

August's Agenda

- GA update on period of ineligibility