9:30 Welcome - Gus Seelig

* Introductions and Updates
	+ NAME has two $5,000 grants for access modifications for non-profit housing

**GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES**

9:50 Sue Minter, Democratic Nominee for Governor

* Thanked audience for “work that you do” and “addressing challenges we have”
* Outlined time together: introduction as to why running for governor, agenda as governor, directly answer questions
* Shared experience of “what it’s like to run for governor,” spoke about:
	+ Growth in domestic violence and reviewing governor’s report on Pathways from Poverty
	+ Speaking with various people to see the “multifaceted challenges we face”
	+ COTS walk, visiting Harbor Place
	+ Challenge is “poverty and growth of poverty”
	+ Experience with Waterbury Planning Commission
		- Participated in neighborhood conversation about transitioning former school to housing
		- Focused on downtown revitalization, preservation
		- Identified Waterbury as a community which has “transformed itself”
	+ Experience with post-Irene recovery:
		- Supported rebuild of homes including creation of 27 affordable housing units in Waterbury
		- Melrose Terrace in Brattleboro individuals relocated; Red Clover developed as a “flood resilient” facility
		- Affordable homes often in vulnerable locations - mobile homes are particularly vulnerable - looking for flood/climate resilient homes
	+ Sharing about herself:
		- Personal:
			* Youngest of 4 kids, 3 older brothers - learned at early age how to stand up for self and how to fight for what she believes
			* Moved to Waterbury 25 years ago after a year-long fellowship to work for Conservation Law Foundation
			* Believes Vermont is the best place to raise family, have life, build business
			* Active with her family - was a youth soccer coach
		- Professional in Vermont:
			* Served in legislature for \*\*\*\* years
			* On appropriations post-recession 2008 on appropriations
			* Republican administration found “housers were the enemy, I was one of the voices championing the work that you do.”
			* Vermont Department of Housing for 10 years - focus of VHCB funding.
		- Professional outside Vermont:
			* Degree in Planning from MIT
			* Travelled to South Africa in 1984 - height of apartheid
			* Invited to live in South Africa in 2006 for Cape Town rebuild
				+ Restructured city services for 3 million total people (vs. 1 million previous)
	+ Goals as governor:
		- Building economic opportunity in communities
			* “Invest VT” - state investment in infrastructure which would lead to private investment
				+ Would choose 3 communities in first 3 year in which to leverage/invest in critical infrastructure
				+ Model has been shown effective in Barre, Winooski, St. Albans
		- Building economic opportunity for families
			* Support for Increase minimum wage and expand sick leave to paid family leave
			* Ongoing support for early childhood education
			* Vermont Promise two year tuition-free college/technical schooling
				+ Fund through expanding bank franchise fee
				+ Goal to have 75% of kids beyond high school into education or training and in a livable wage job by 2025
				+ Focus on post-high school

We can’t find qualified workers

Second highest graduation rates in the county

We “do a terrible job” post-high school

2/3 job require education/training.

* + - Environmental stewardship
			* Clean water, clean/green energy economy to respond to global climate change.
			* Served on President Obama’s task force for environment/climate change
	+ Speaking about needs in Vermont:
		- Too many children/people in Vermont are in poverty
			* People need housing
			* People are in prison rather than school
			* Communities are reeling from opioid epidemic
		- Financials - where/how to leverage funds:
			* Looking where Vermont is spending $ to move $ (example of UVMMC use of ER by person who is experiencing homelessness and has a chronic health issue with Harbor Place as resource)
			* All-payer waiver for healthcare
			* Using capital fund
			* Using greater bonding authority - negotiating with treasurer/debt affordability committee - using our bonds wisely.
			* Redesign bureaucracy - example was accelerated bridge program - decreased time from 8 years, to 2 years average
		- Permitting:
			* Reorganize government for team approach - so permits for state/local all agencies represented - project manager helping through those hoops
* Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott - 10:30 AM
	+ Personal:
		- Born in Barre, attended Spalding City High School, went to UVM
		- After student teaching decided not interested in being a teacher
		- Had motorcycle shop in Morrisville - shared experience with Act 250 permit
		- Worked with DuBois Construction for 10 years and became partial owner
* Professional:
	+ Elected to Senate
		- * Learned about Legislature/how to work across aisle from Dick Mazza (Grand Isle)
			* Chair of Institutions committee
			* After 10 years in legislature ran for Lt. Governor against Mark Snelling (family in politics) and was successful
			* Lt Governor has $170,000 budget, one staff
	+ Values:
		- Still does business deals with a handshake
		- Pledging to be a public servant, discouraged by what’s seen at the national level
	+ Speaking about needs in Vermont:
		- “Vermont Every Day Jobs” tour - has joined 35 people at work
		- “Folks are struggling,” people have 2+ jobs, they’re not making it
		- Stagnant population, losing age group 25-45 year olds
		- Fewer people working today than 7 years ago
			* Need to attract our youth - 10,000 graduate annually; need opportunities/housing for them
		- Crisis of affordability - how do we deal with it?
			* Spurring economy out of 1,211 bills - 30 have positive effect on economy - 3 pass
			* Session that ended in May - nothing which spurs economy
			* Shared goals: affordable housing, job opportunities
	+ Questions from group - 10:50
		- Q: What is working well in Vermont around housing?
			* R: Groups like this - that there are groups who are getting together
			* Not enough housing stock to supply
			* Focusing on our downtowns, youth want to be downtown
			* Looking for more efficient ways to produce housing (current regulatory problem)
			* Referenced [Economic Plan](http://www.philscott.org/news/phils-final-economic-plan/), “Lean manufacturing,” tax incentive for small developers/small businesses
			* Comment on non-profit’s work with recycled tires ($300,000 raised for fuel assistance)
			* Reference to tax incentives related to solar - would like similar model for housing
		- Q: Are you aware of Pathways from Poverty Council and are committed to its continuation? - Sara Kobylenski
			* R: Aware of group - not committed yet to maintaining group - happy to consider - has done good work thus far; interested in collaborative work and not silos
		- Q: What would be prioritization of VHCB funding? - Chris Donnelly
			* R: Has been on tour of housing projects in Chittenden county - would commit to continue to support
			* Cannot continue to overspend
			* Look at growing revenue organically and ot increasing cost of living
			* Focus on affordable housing portion, specifically with working class - do as much as can - more so in housing vs. land conservation projects
		- Q: In addition to funding for VHCB, other housing resources for preserving/increasing affordable housing - Cindy Reid - Cathedral Square
			* R: We need flexibility - one size does not fit all
			* We’re getting older - more seniors - increase in cost of living - elders on fixed income
			* Some seniors want to stay at home - need to continue “down that road”
			* Would like to do away with tax on Social Security and Military Benefit - alleviate burden on seniors
			* Public safety - means safety/welfare of citizens - housing is a big part of that
			* Need to take care of those who can’t take care of self
		- Q: How respond to significant number of vulnerable Vermonters with substance abuse and serious mental health issues?
			* Addiction issues: affects all of us - undermining economy, joblessness, DV, other offenses - laid out [10 point addiction plan](http://www.philscott.org/position-papers/phil-scott-vermont-addressing-vermonts-opiate-epidemic/)
			* Continue/enhance work of current administration
			* Prevention, treatment and enforcement - equal balance of three to solve problem
		- Q: A determinant of health is housing/services - but we spend all of our money on medicine/healthcare - looking for way to move resources
			* R: Single payer debate - continued for 6-years
			* People want health care they can afford and that takes care of them.
		- Would discontinue Vermont Health Connect
			* It is not functioning, not working
			* Its an IT structure - doesn’t actually provide health service
			* Options: another state’s system/structure or federal exchange
		- Need paraty with mental health - leads to other physical health

**REPORTS FROM VERMONT’S FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES**

* Senator Leahy’s Office - Kate Ash
	+ Kate is Senator Leahy’s “eyes/ears” in housing, preservation, human services
	+ Election year gives a different tone in Washington
		- Congress has short session this year because of election
		- Senator Leahy joined three groundbreaking/ribbon cuttings
		- HUD Secretary Castro visited Vermont to discuss affordable housing in rural Vermont - challenges of budget, regulations, etc.
			* Coalition letter from several years ago influenced visit/questions
			* Senator’s office has been advocating for improvements noted in letter
			* Visit “set stage” for next administration
			* Round table discussion
				+ Needs are subsidy, production and services
				+ Addressing rules/regulations - streamlining processes, 4-5 page documentation of priorities
				+ Highlighting homelessness
				+ Health and housing - SASH as model - HUD leaning on other agencies to collaborate on this
			* New rural application for Fair Housing - new tool or working group
			* HR3700 Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act passed this summer
		- Continuing Resolution through December
			* Overall level funding
			* $80 million increase in homelessness assistance programs
			* Middlebury Women’s Safe $400,000 grant for DV transitional services
		- Ongoing work
			* FMR calculation
			* Reintroducing tax credit extension bill - streamline and extend availability of tax credit units
			* Housing as a moral issue (not political)
		- OpEd from Senator Leahy’s office (included in packet)
* Senator Sander’s Office - Katarina
	+ Thanked group for work on affordable housing
	+ Housing Trusts
		- Bernie created first municipally funded Housing Trust
		- CHT largest/most successful HT in nation
		- Authored/lead effort for first new federal housing trust fund in 30 years
			* Focused on low income households
			* Paid for by Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac
			* 80% to rental, 10% admin/planning, 10% purchasing
			* Vermont application 2nd one approved
			* Protecting small state minimum
	+ Economic issues
		- 7.1 million units short of housing for extreme low income households
		- 70% Vermonters pay more than 1/2 their income towards housing
		- Wages stagnant for decades - people on benefits, COLA very low
		- Cannot talk about housing w/out increasing minimum wage, cost of living adjustments, cost of healthcare, childcare, etc.
	+ Model of Housing as Healthcare (SASH, Harbor Place) need to be continued
* Congressman Welch’s Office - Kevin Veller
	+ Additional updates
		- HR 3700
			* Parity in Section 8 subsidy as it relates to mobile home units
		- Congressman Welch contacted Louisiana House Members after their flood
		- SASH program part of delegation visiting in Washington
		- December session - anticipate appropriations bill in the end of the session

**VCEH/VAHC NEW BUSINESS**

* Chris Donnelly stepping down from VAHC
	+ Steering Committee member for 6 years
	+ Presentation of certificate and gift (in appreciation for service)
* Roadmap to End Homelessness Overview and Update - Jen Hollar/Angus Chaney
	+ Budget included $40,000 for study - how state is investing in homelessness, other investments that would help us get closer to ending homelessness
	+ Roadmap to End Homelessness Steering Committee was created
	+ Corporation Supportive Housing (CSH) selected (4 proposals, 2-3 very strong); started work in July
	+ Goals:
		- 1. Assess existing resources/build roadmap based on that assessment
		- 2. Complete cost study of what it would cost (and avoided costs)
		- 3. Provide training to help housing/service providers to work together to implement recommendations
	+ Methodology:
		- CSH completing qualitative/quantitative analysis (steering committee providing reports, etc.)
* One-on-one interviews (wrap up end of October ~12 completed)
	+ - * Facilitated discussion (50 attendees)
			* Survey (balanced) - if not practitioner survey was challenging
				+ Facilitate discussions/follow up interviews with persons experiencing homelessness
				+ Survey findings:

Unmet needs: affordable housing/rental assistance, transportation, mental health services, housing based services, SA treatment/counseling supports

* + - * Quantified data: Framework for Ending Family Homelessness, Point-In-Time (PIT), 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
				+ CSH well-versed in PIT; challenges with this tool
				+ Steering Committee discussed challenge of “homeless” definition by HUD
	+ CSH complimentary of Vermont’s current work - interested in learning from us
	+ Training needs: looking for higher-level training, common goals towards housing and service providers - seeking training for both groups.
		- Training will be available for all areas
		- 50 licenses for online CSH training as well
		- Comment on training related to 15% requirement as well
	+ Final report to Steering Committee 12/1
	+ Comment on delivery of report to legislature same time as Homelessness Awareness Day

**VCEH MEETING**

**Attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Board Representative or Attendee** | **Affiliation** | **Present Y/N** |
| Doug Sinclair  | Charter House | Y |
| Elizabeth Eddy | BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont | N |
| *Caledonia Essex - Open* |  |  |
| Margaret Bozik  | Champlain Housing Trust | Y |
| Holly Ollio  | Northwest Counseling & Support Services  | Y |
| Jennifer Steward | CVOEO | Y |
|  Cynthia Trautner | Clarina Howard Nichols Center | N |
|  Renee Weeks  | Upper Valley Haven  | Y |
| *Orleans Currently Open* |  |  |
| Ashley Greenfield  | Homeless Prevention Center  | Y |
| Pat Burke  | Southeastern Vermont Community Action | Y |
| Lauren Higbee  | Youth Services Inc. | Y |
| Brooke Jenkins  | Good Samaritan Haven | Y |
| Erhard Mahnke | VAHC | Latter part |
| MaryEllen Mendl | United Ways of VT/VT211 | Y |
| Peter Kellerman | John Graham Housing and Services | N |
| Dawn Butterfield | Capstone Community Action | Y |
| Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez  | Pathways Vermont | Y |
| Bethany Pombar | VCRHYP | Y |
| Kara Casey | VNADSV | Y |
| Jim Bastien | Veterans Administration | N |
| Whitney Nichols |  | Y |
| Emily Higgins | AHS - Office of Economic Opportunity | Y |
| Brian Smith | AHS - Department of Mental Health | N |
| Shaun Gilpin | Department for Housing and Community Development (DHCD) | N |
| Daniel Blankenship | Vermont State Housing Authority | Y |
| Meghan Morrow | Institute for Community Alliances | Y |
| Caitlin Ettenborough | Institute for Community Alliances | Y |
| Geoffrey Pippenger | Department for Children and Families | Y |
| Liz Genge | Downstreet Housing & Community Development | Y |
| Luke Dodge | VCEH/VAHS Americorps Member | Y |
| Brandyn Arnold | AHS  | Y |
| Joshua Davis | Groundworks | Y |

12:47 Called to Order - MaryEllen Mendl

* Introductions
* Minutes
	+ **Dawn moves to approve August minutes, Lauren seconds**
	+ No discussion
	+ *Bethany abstains, motion passes, no nays*
* Treasurer’s Report
	+ Report of dues/spending to date
	+ **Ashley moves to approve Treasurer’s Report, Bethany seconds**
	+ *Unanimously approved*
* Discussion about voting items sent via email
	+ Insufficient number of email responses
	+ Voting to date:
		- Planning grant $ for staff position
			* Yes - 4
			* Part-time position - 1
		- Should VSHA host staff position
			* Yes - 4
			* Would like it to go up to bid - 1
	+ Explanation of planning funds
		- Each CoC gets planning funds through NOFA application
		- Have already received $80,000
		- Funds currently spent on:
			* Technical assistance for application
			* Americorps position
			* $ for persons with lived experience
		- Chittenden uses $ for collaborative applicant (who does application)
		- Recommended use of funds:
			* Recommend funding for staffing position (very specific utilizations)
			* Possible to fund full-time position, as three months have passed prior to starting position
			* Next year’s planning grant $ is higher - will cover Americorps, stipends and position
		- Role of CoC staff:
			* Training supports for local CoCs (including in-person trainings and web-based learning), supporting CoC, Point-In-Time, application, etc.
		- Rutland convo re: training/onboarding for new chairperson
		- As Collaborative Applicant VSHA is only organization that can accept Planning Grant
		- Need MOU between VSHA as Collaborative Applicant and other organization if they were to have saff
		- Luke to reach out to CoC members:
			* 1. Updated voting info (questions 1 and 3)
			* 2. Request votes again
	+ **MaryEllen moves to accept Jan Rossier as St. Johnsbury representative, Daniel seconds**
		- *Unanimously approved*
	+ VAHC/VCEH meeting this morning
		- Secretary Castro visit
			* Letter composed by VCEH members several years ago catalyst for Secretary’s visit
			* Local HUD office in Boston had a lot of conversations re: letter
			* Kate had collected data re: letter from organizations
		- Minter/Scott visit
			* Daniel - appreciated conversation on generational poverty
			* Bethany - VCRHYP - HUD funding can make “service program doing housing” feel like “housing program doing services.” Comments re: youth education and employment
			* Josh - This group most effective at advocacy; Minter - would continue work in same vein as Shumlin - take it a step further. Phil Scott - space for advocacy - his focus on economy raises questions about efficacy for people we serve. Importance of messaging/presence at Homelessness Awareness Day and advocacy in regards to Roadmap to End Homelessness.
			* Pat - Question re: what brought in Roadmap. Note that survey period was really short (insufficient time to complete)
				+ Legislative impetus for request are cost savings reports to legislators

Roadmap should include/outline what is working, what could save additional money, how to access those funds.

* + - * + Ashley - completed self-assessment in preparation for RoadMap in December - results being received recently

CSH will provide training information/tools

* + - * + Roadmap - list of who completed survey and with whom they completed the one-on-one survey.
				+ Very limited number of in-person interviews
				+ 4-month turn-around time
				+ If local continuum has not provided input please collect and forward to Jen Hollar and/or Angus Chaney
				+ Collecting data/survey for persons with lived experience

Second-round of interviews at Day Station in Burlington

Questions also presented to Pathways Advisory Board

* + - * MaryEllen - would have liked to hear more about housing
			* Lauren - concerns re: three-prong approach to substance abuse
			* Comments re: asking additional questions at future gubernatorial forums related to substance abuse
		- Joint Meeting - what is VHCB doing/plan for upcoming year
			* $2 occupancy tax
			* Voices of Home storytelling project (working with VCam)
			* Public debate in Burlington re: UVM promoting affordable housing
			* Capacity for state bonding for capital
* What could we offer to local CoCs?
	+ Training/orientation
		- Clarity re: relationship between local and statewide CoC. Hopefully position can bring these connections. Frameworks/templates for local meetings
		- Support on identifying and comparing missions/values of local and statewide CoCs (reminder that we have a mission statement)
	+ Scholarship fund to help someone to further education
	+ Info on what’s happening nationally and amplifying what’s working well locally
	+ Rutland - training related to services provided: trauma, substance abuse, connection with emergency services, housing relationships
	+ Franklin - aging population, gaps in affordable housing/services, limited nursing homes/housing with supports for persons who are elderly
	+ Washington - very local conversations - at this meeting hearing about Best Practices
	+ Chittenden - Continuum initially as a HUD creation - Chittenden Alliance developed a mission statement - has moved meetings towards inclusion (minimizing NOFA talk, not using acronyms, etc.). Collective Impact and alternative funding opened up conversation/discussion
* Whitney Nichols - SAMHSA Homeless Programs Grantee Conference
	+ Highlights:
		- Aligning policy and services - importance of inter-agency collaboration (Medicaid and HUD)
		- Redefining experiences - alternatives to criminalization of homelessness
		- Conversation re: SAMHSA Consumer Advisory Workgroup
		- Importance of hiring people with lived experience with mental health issues
		- Policy where one does not lose Medicaid between states
* Updates re: Funding - Daniel Blankenship
	+ NOFA Application submitted on Tuesday (system crashed Monday)
		- New position will help with: submission timeline, collecting data, etc.
	+ Youth Demonstration Program - only applied through CoC Collaborative Applicant
		- VSHA to work with Bethany re: youth projects (due in November)
	+ Implementation of Rapid ReHousing Projects
		- Awarded last year - referrals to come through Coordinated Entry process
* New England Housing Network policy brief - Erhard Mahnke/Sara Kobylenski
	+ NEHN has identified [policy brief](http://www.vtaffordablehousing.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/HUD-MA-CoC-Policy-Brief-FINAL-6-2016.pdf) with critiques/recommendations
	+ Looking for VCEH to sign-on
	+ At SAMHSA conference heard national concerns consistent with policy brief
	+ Daniel - contacted local HUD office re: recent NOFA experience and is appreciative of this policy brief
	+ Maine/Massachusetts may sign on
	+ **Daniel moves for BoS CoC to “sign on” to policy brief, Dawn seconds**
		- Discussion:
			* Daniel explains onerous process of NOFA application - does not happen at a consistent time of year, is a competitive application, has to be submitted annually
			* Erhard notes that some CoCs have left funding
			* Recommendations presented in positive format and are very reasonable
	+ Votes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Board Seat** | **Representative** | **Affiliation** | **Vote** |
| Addison | Doug Sinclair  | Charter House | Pending vote |
| Bennington  | Elizabeth Eddy | BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont | absent |
| Caledonia - Essex  | *Currently Open* |  | absent |
| Chittenden | Margaret Bozik  | Champlain Housing Trust | abstain |
|  Franklin County | Holly Ollio  | Northwest Counseling & Support Services  | yes |
| Lamoille |  Cynthia Trautner | Clarina Howard Nichols Center | absent |
| Northern Windsor - Orange  |  Renee Weeks  | Upper Valley Haven  | yes |
| Orleans | *Currently Open* |  |  |
| Rutland  | Ashley Greenfield  | Homeless Prevention Center  | yes |
| Southern Windsor - Northern Windham  | Pat Burke  | Southeastern Vermont Community Action | yes |
| Southern Windham  | Lauren Higbee  | Youth Services Inc. | yes |
| Washington  | Brooke Jenkins  | Good Samaritan Haven | yes |
| Member-At-Large | Erhard Mahnke | VAHC | yes |
| Member-At-Large/Co-Chair | MaryEllen Mendl | United Ways of VT/VT211 | yes |
| Member-At-Large/Co-Chair | Peter Kellerman | John Graham Housing and Services | absent |
| Member-At-Large/ Treasurer | Dawn Butterfield | Capstone Community Action | yes |
| Member-At-Large/ Secretary | Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez  | Pathways Vermont | yes |
| One representative for youth | Bethany Pombar | VCRHYP | yes |
| One representative for victims of domestic/sexual violence | Kara Casey | VNADSV | yes |
| One representative for veterans | Jim Bastien | Veterans Administration | absent |
| Up to two representatives who are self-identified as currently or previously experiencing homelessness | *Currently Open* |  |  |
| Whitney Nichols |  | absent |
| Two representatives for Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS), including one rep from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) | Emily Higgins | AHS - Office of Economic Opportunity | yes |
| Brian Smith | AHS - Department of Mental Health | yes |
| One representative for Housing Partners | Shaun Gilpin | Department for Housing and Community Development (DHCD) | absent |
| One representative for the Vermont State Housing Authority | Daniel Blankenship | Vermont State Housing Authority | yes |
| One representative for the HMIS Lead Agency | Meghan Morrow | Institute for Community Alliances | yes |

* + *Decision on motion to be determined pending final vote collection*
* MaryEllen Moved to adjourn at 2:37