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