**Youth Action Board**

**VT Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) &**

**VT Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP)**

***Draft Charter – February 2018***

**Statement of Purpose**

This Youth Action Board (YAB) exists to provide VCEH and VCRHYP input on the development and implementation of a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness; ongoing policy making decisions, particularly related to preventing and ending youth homelessness; and ensuring housing interventions for young people address:

* Stable housing
* Permanent connections
* Education/ employment
* Well-being

**Member Structure**

The Youth Action Board will consist of 3-10 members, aged 14 through 24 years old, 2/3rds of whom must be currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness or housing instability. Members of the YAB are expected to commit for terms of two years and may renew memberships for multiple cycles until they turn 25 years old.

**Leadership**

Through majority vote, the YAB will elect a board chair from among its members who will serve a term of one year. The chair may serve more than one term in a row until they turn 25 years old, but must be elected for each term. The chair will be help define the YAB quarterly meeting agenda with the YAB support person (see below) as needed, and facilitate the YAB quarterly meetings. Additionally, when appropriate and needed, the chair is the designated signatory for partnership and support agreements, as approved by the board.

**Support**

The YAB is supported by staff of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, who also supports the VCEH Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee and are voting members of the VCEH. As needed and/or when appropriate, youth serving on the YAB will be supported by their case workers or other youth serving personnel in order to assure that there are limited barriers to meaningful participation.

**Meeting Schedule**

YAB meetings will be held at least quarterly (4 times each year). These meetings may happen in-person or through phone/video conferencing. Each meeting will last for approximately two hours and timing will be determined based on the availability of members. Additional input will be solicited on an as-needed basis throughout the year through electronic and phone communication.

**Member Compensation**

Youth members will be compensated for their time participating in YAB activities. Members will receive $50 for participation in quarterly meetings, receive gas cards to help offset the costs of transportation to in-person meetings, and receive compensation for feedback solicited from VCEH between meetings at a predefined rate depending on the estimated time needed to read and respond to requests, anticipated compensation for between meetings tasks is $25 per hour.

The YAB chair will be compensated an extra $25 per full member meeting for their role, and also be compensated at the rate of $25 per hour for planning time before the meetings or additional duties.

**Decision Making**

Decisions will be warned at least two-weeks prior to voting. 60% of current YAB members must be present or provide an electronic vote on warned decisions.

**Representation on the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness**

The YAB will be an established standing sub-committee of the VCEH. The chair will work with the committee support to relay decisions and agenda items between the YAB and VCEH. YAB members are always welcome to attend the VCEH meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 10AM-12PM at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 15 Summer St, in Randolph, VT. Agendas and information can be found here: <http://helpingtohousevt.org/>

**YAB Point of Contact**

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