

## ***Access to Housing***

***DRAFT***

### **GOALS:**

1. Foster increased coordination and resource awareness between service providers and housing providers at the local level.
2. Feature “best practices” developed by and between local partners that can be adopted or adapted in other regions.
3. Foster coordination between local housing and service providers, for example by developing capacity and awareness of Housing Review Teams as natural local groups to help coordinate housing and services in individual complex cases.
4. Develop action steps that can be taken at the local level to increase access to housing for the neediest individuals and families.

### **LOGISTICS:**

Suggest a half-day conference in March, jointly sponsored by VHSB and AHS.

Convene a proper balance of service and housing providers.

Format: Round Table. Attendees co-present by region.

Suggest this needs to be facilitated – need to decide who

Include Field Services, housing agencies or providers and VHCB in planning and presentation.

To manage time, planning team could go through each region’s answers in advance and select the most meaningful item(s) for them to focus their presentations on.

Rough agenda:

9 – 12 introductions

opening presentation and framing

regional presentations, etc.

12 – 1 lunch on your own

1 – 2 recap

next steps

Next steps following the meeting will include summarizing all responses to share back with all attendees.

## NEXT STEPS FOR OUR GROUP:

Assemble contact info for local housing review teams and local continuum of care

Look at possible dates and venues for 36-40? participants.

Send "Save The Date"

Contact teams to explain the event and have them select delegates from each team (3-4) to represent them at the event. Expectation is that at least one delegate be a service provider, at least one be a representative of the major regional affordable housing provider, at least one also be participating in the local Continuum of Care.

Explore if results from VCH tenant/landlord surveys can be incorporated as part of framing the discussion.

Develop format to guide presentations, 3-5 questions that each region receives well in advance.

Possible examples of questions (*to be further refined based on survey results or other developments*):

- *What are the main obstacles to accessing stable housing in your area?*
- *What are some of the primary challenges undermining tenancies?*
- *How have you fine-tuned your local processes to overcome these?*
- *What do housing providers need to take a chance on a challenging tenant?*
- *Who do landlords call if they have a problem?*
- *What do you deem to be best practices in your area? Provide an example.*
- *Give a (hypothetical) example of a situation with an unsatisfactory outcome. Discuss what went wrong and what you now do differently to achieve better outcomes.*
- *What are lessons learned to share with colleagues across the state?*
- *Provide examples of how the COC or Housing Review Team work with local housing managers to increase access to the neediest individuals and families.*