



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness  
 January 22, 2019  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Randolph, VT

<b>Board Representative</b>	<b>Board Member Position</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present Y/N/P</b>
Andrea Hurley	VSHA – CoC Support Specialist		Y
Ari Kisler	Youth	Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP)	Y
Brian Smith	Dept of Mental Health	AHS - Department of Mental Health	N
Toni Grant	Washington CoC	Capstone	N
Daniel Blankenship	Public Housing Authority/Collaborative Applicant	Vermont State Housing Authority	Y
Dawn Butterfield	Lamoille CoC/Treasurer	Capstone Community Action	N
Deborah Ormsbee	Member-At-Large	Vermont Agency of Education	N
Doug Sinclair	Addison CoC	Charter House	Y
Elizabeth Eddy	Bennington CoC	BROC - Community Action South-West Vermont	Y
Emily Higgins	Vermont Agency of Human Services	AHS - Office of Economic Opportunity	Y
Erhard Mahnke	Member-At-Large	VAHC	Y
Heather Hinckley	Rutland CoC, Secretary	Homeless Prevention Center	Y
Holly Olio	Franklin/GI CoC	NCSS	N
Jason Brill	Veterans Affairs	U.S. Veterans Administration	Y
Josh Davis	Co-Chair	Groundworks Collaborative	Y
Kara Casey	Domestic and Sexual Violence	Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Y
	Orleans CoC	Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NECKA)	N
Margaret Bozik	Chittenden CoC	Champlain Housing Trust	N
MaryEllen Mendl	Member-At-Large	United Ways of Vermont, 211	N
Meghan Morrow Raftery	HMIS Administrator	Institute for Community Alliances	Y
Pat Burke	Windsor-South/Windham-North	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	Y
Peter Kellerman		John Graham Housing and Services	N
Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez	Co-Chair	Pathways Vermont	Y



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Renee Weeks	Windsor-North/Orange	Upper Valley Haven	Y
Shaun Gilpin	Housing Partners	DHCD	N
Shawn Kelly	Person with Lived Experience		Y
Suzanne Legare Belcher	Caledonia/Essex CoC	AHS - Field Representative	N
Susan Howts	Windham South		N
Whitney Nichols	Person with Lived Experience		N

**Additional Attendees:**

Lee Trapeni	SSHP
Angus Chaney	HPC
Toni Gtout	Capstone
Susan Howes	SEVCA
Steve Lunna	SSVF
Joyce Cloutier	Veteran's Inc.
Maureen O'Reilly	Vt. Legal Aid
Siera Hargrave	NEKCA
Jenna O'Farrell	NEKCA
Andrea Tieso	VHFA
Tara Chase	WCYS – Springfield CoC
Jen Stewart	CVOEO
Bethany Pombar	VCRHYP
Chandler Poling	BROC
Caitlyn Ettenborough	ICA

**Call To Order**

**Attendance and Brief Announcements**

- Attendance was done via roll call as the meeting was done over the phone because of the inclement weather.

### Approval of December Minutes

- Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from the meeting, with one abstention.

### Approval of Treasurer's Report

- No report given.

### Committee Reports

- **HUD Federal Funding and the Shut Down**
  - Daniel reports that an article in the NY Times reports that some homeless programs/subsidies will be discontinued. Daniel clarified that the programs in VT will continue until further notice.
- **PIT Committee**
  - PIT is tomorrow. If you need the paper form and/or the link for the google live form, they will be available on the website on the PIT tab and should go up late tonight so that it will be available early tomorrow. Any questions, please let Andrea know at [andrea@vsha.org](mailto:andrea@vsha.org).
- **HMIS Committee**
  - LSA has been submitted on the due date. But because of the shutdown they have not heard anything else since submission. This is the report that HUD uses to create the AHAR, which is the report that goes to Congress each year and tells them how the funding is being spent.
  - HUD is looking at much more data than ever before.
  - The data quality that they are looking for are things that people are not answering...DV, exit types, etc. and what is affecting communities directly.
  - Had to use a new HUD data exchange and it was noticed that a lot of things were not calculating correctly, but HUD has been notified and they are working on fixing this issue.
  - Meghan reports that she believes that VT data quality is pretty good.
- **Legislative Committee**
  - Pat Burke shared that the speakers at the State House on the Homeless Awareness Day at the Legislature, were very good, and well attended.
  - The "most amazing testimony" came from the folks that spoke/testified with lived experience.
  - Erhard reports that the day went really well and agreed with Pat's comments about the quality of testimony from everyone, especially the ones with lived experience. "Very powerful."
  - Minimum wage and family leave are high on the list for legislators to learn about and hear testimony about in the next week or so. Erhard will be testifying on behalf of both coalitions.
  - Wednesday is a full day regarding housing in the House General Committee. They will be taking additional testimony on homelessness and sheltering. They will also be hearing testimony on landlord/tenant issues, which Legal Aid, will be testifying about. Weatherization will also be an item on the agenda.
  - Governor's budget speech will be held on Thursday at 1:30pm or 2pm.
  - House appropriations is finalizing their midyear budget adjustment.
  - Feels we need to be more aggressive with our "asks" for increases in housing money from the budget this year.
  - Erhard spoke about the government shut down and that VSHA paid subsidies/vouchers are fine through the end of February, but project based payments from the federal government could be in jeopardy if the shutdown continues after the end of February.
  - Two contract renewals are safe. The others (5) Erhard was not sure of their status at this time.
  - Erhard noted that USDA Rural Development is in jeopardy and has heard from other states that tenants are getting notices that as of February 1<sup>st</sup> they will have to pay the "full" rent instead of the subsidized amount. Has NOT heard this about Vermont, however.

- Daniel noted that when he spoke prior it was about VSHA, not about local housing authorities, and confirmed that VSHA has funding through February and into March.
  
- **Veteran's Committee**
  - Had a Veteran's Summit on January 7<sup>th</sup> where all of the veteran's organizations got together and it was a really good day with lots of great information passed on. Recently split benchmark tool so that there is Chittenden County and Balance of State. Continuing to work with both CoCs to scrub the list to make sure that it is current and up to date, as well as any changes.
  - Shortage of staff at VA for homelessness has been an issue, but four have been hired, so this has allowed us to be able to take on new clients where things are very thin. Currently in the process of hiring new staff in Burlington, Bennington, and Royalton, NH for social work staff and peer support.
  
- **Strategic Planning**
  - No updates.
  - Meeting to discuss the merger of the two coalitions has begun. Rebeka reported that she has notes from the meetings and that strengths included increased capacity, shared staffing, greater advocacy and challenges included outstanding questions around the core mission of the group and the organizational structure. They are collecting additional information and will get back to the group on this as they are planning another meeting.
  
- **Youth Committee**
  - Draft of the YDP is in process and will be coming to the group for a vote shortly (February).
  - Data Highlights
    - See attached documents
  - Unique Needs
    - See attached documents
  - Objectives
    - See attached documents
  - CC Plan
    - See attached documents
  - The data given, excludes Chittenden County.
  
- **SFY 2018 HOP and FSH Annual Reports**
  - Summary was sent out in the newsletter.
    - HOP
      - Not a lot of good news to report, unfortunately.
        - Homelessness has gotten worse over time, sadly.
        - People are staying longer in shelter now than in the past.
        - Number of children in shelter is larger than any time in the last 16 years.
        - 87% was connected with case managers within 3 days
        - 74% were stabilized within 30 days with RRH funding
        - 50% of the HOP money goes to emergency housing and shelters.
    - FSH
      - Not statewide, but in 7 communities in VT.
      - Has grown over the past few years, and have been able to get some additional funding and billing Medicaid directly.
      - Serving 187 families with very complex needs including involvement with DCF. 273 children involved in the program and a large percentage under the age of 6.
      - Focus is services, not rental subsidy or direct housing support.

- Median amount of time homeless prior to enrollment in FSH is nearly double of those that are not enrolled in the program. FSH families are families with the most needs and are prioritized into the program that way.
- Of the 131 families still enrolled at the end of the year 72% were stably housed and 21 families exited (90% moved on successfully) to permanent housing and in no further need of services.
  - DCF opened up two extreme cold weather shelters. Burlington and Rutland
    - Burlington was at capacity. Don't have numbers from Rutland yet.
- **Other Stakeholders Highlights List**
  - Nothing to report at this time, but is looking for volunteers to talk about their programs, for the March meeting. Please email Rebeka if you are interested.
    - Pathways in Vermont
    - Shelter + Care
    - Rapid Rehousing
- **Coordinated Entry Updates by Community**
  - Meeting for today has been cancelled, watch for notices from Sarah for the next meeting.
- **In the Near Future: Gaps Analysis/Housing Inventory, Review/Revise Coalition Goals**
  - Working on coming up with some ideas and revising the coalition calendar so that everyone can be up to date on what is happening.
- **Announcements**
  - Tara let everyone know about a housing bill that is being worked on that includes survivor protections that mirrors the Federal VAWA protections. Hoping that by next meeting she will have a final draft of the bill so that she can share more about it.
  - Daniel let everyone know that technical assistance is being received through a RRH grant and that this is being started and that hoping in the future that there will be some surveys, analysis, etc. for us to be even more efficient.
- **Adjournment**
- **Next Meeting Dates**
  - February 19, shortened 10-11 with SafeSpace Training from 11-1pm following
  - March 19