



**VCEH Balance of State Continuum of Care**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday October 18, 2022  
10:00 – 12:00 PM

**Meeting Minutes**

- 10:05 Consider approval of minutes for VCEH Balance of State CoC meetings held on June 21, July 19, August 15, and September 21 – all in 2022. Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>.
- Edits were made to June minutes
  - September vote by email will be recorded in addendum that will vote on approval next month
  - **Jess makes a motion to approve minutes; Mary seconds the motion; Robert abstains; all other board attendees vote yes; motion passes**
- 10:10 Executive Director's report, Martin Hahn
- Notes from small groups during VCEH/VAHC joint meeting are being turned into policy priorities/recommendations by VAHC
  - Lived Experience Committee: Five people including leadership from Marie Lennon
    - Figuring out the functions of the committee going forward
  - VHFA Statewide Conference on Affordable Housing Issues on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> in person in Burlington – if you're on the board and interested in attending but don't have the resources, VCEH can cover your attendance fee
  - We were unable to fill the AmeriCorps VISTA position; SerVermont was only able to fill 5 out of 25 available spots – it is a tricky year.
  - We will be winging our first fundraising campaign.
  - Our work with Apt Associates will be continuing soon
  - **Kate Logan, VCHRYP** – Announcement of transition: Alison Coffenbarger has been serving as HUD Projects Admin for Youth Housing Program for HUD and has made a transition back to direct service role. Drafted a new job description: Assistant Director for VCHRYP. Thank you so much to Alison!
- 10:15 Report on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, Kara Casey.
- Kara gave a presentation a few weeks ago on VAWA; slides and presentation will be available via the website.
  - On Oct. 1, new VAWA housing protections went into effect.
    - Addition to federal housing programs – USDA rural development voucher program; title 38 (low-income veterans' program); any newly created federal housing programs will also automatically be included in VAWA
  - Strengthens protections against nuisance ordinances; protects tenants from being penalized for calling law enforcement
  - Adds words: “experience trauma or lack of safety related to” in front of “or fleeing or attempting to flee” to better protect folks who have experienced sexual violence

- 10:25 Report and discussion on changes to the Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program and meetings with Local Housing Coalitions, Katarina Lisaius and Sarah Phillips, Vermont Department for Children and Families.
- Effort underway to do outreach and have conversations with partners around the state to talk about what is next for VERAP.
    - Reminding about changes
    - Talking about strategies and priorities
  - Tight timeframe for this – Katarina and Sarah have been given task by AHS to collect this data by the end of the month (October). Thanks to everyone for meeting with us during the tight timeframe.
  - Asking: how do we bring consumer voices into this work? A one-and-done focus group is not a helpful process; on-going consumer advisory board led by Martin is perhaps a more meaningful to engage this group on an on-going basis

10:40 Brief reports on projects to be considered for 2022 HUD CoC funding:

**Competitive NOFO (Available every year):**

Agency of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity

CE funding: about 8 40-hour week positions doing CE assessment and CE housing navigation; administrative funds for reporting and similar; some agencies receive

Brattleboro Housing Authority

Christine Hazzard: Continue Shelter + Care program – serves people with vouchers and partners with 3 agencies (Groundworks, Pathways, HCRS) for supportive services; entered in mainstream voucher as well to move folks from Shelter + Care into mainstream voucher

Institute for Community Alliances

Meghan Morrow-Rafty: Supports their existing team that tackle data-driven issues to help end homelessness and provide technical assistance to HMIS leads and other HMIS users in our community

NewStory Center

Jennifer Yakunovich: Serves DV/SV survivors. RRH funds to help survivors get into permanent housing (housing navigation); house up to 8 households & support current and new staff members

Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

Fourth year of YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project): RRH, TH-RRH, Housing Navigation Project, Landlord Liaison Project, Special Activities to help navigators help clients with diversion projects (keep them in current projects); served over 200 youth in the past year in these projects

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

Funds to cover our HUD-related activities at our CoC

Vermont State Housing Authority

Daniel Blankenship: Work with all local housing coalitions

PSH (Shelter + Care) – Serves folks who are chronically homeless (Statewide coverage)

PSH (A Way Home) – Housing retention specialists serving about 15 households

RRH – Serving folks in emergency shelter & in unsheltered homelessness

**Special NOFO (Special process related to rural homelessness):**

Groundworks Collaborative

Jon Hoover (by way of Martin Hahn): Special NOFO allowed for Supportive Services only grant – support outreach services to unsheltered houses in Windham County

Homeless Prevention Center

Angus Chaney: RRH tenant-based rental assistance; scattered site model. Homeless families with severe service needs. 24 months rental assistance. Working in a number of other counties. At any given time, conservatively this project would support 19 families (roughly 43 people)

Vermont State Housing Authority

Daniel Blankenship: Serving new sites in rural areas including underserved areas such as Springfield and the Northeast Kingdom

- The NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) for applying for funds from HUD is one of the purposes of our HUD CoC.

11:00 **Vote warned:** For HUD’s FY22 Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness, approve submission of rural homelessness Application and Project Priority Listing by the VT-500 Balance of State CoC.

Documents related to the Special NOFO are [linked at the top of this page](#), including the Application, Project Priority Listing, and CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- **Mary moves to approve; Marie seconds; Jessica, Kim, and Robert Abstain; all else vote yes; motion passes**

11:15 Open Office with staff from the Agency of Human Services

11:30 Adjourn

| Name                    | Board Member Position            | Affiliation                       | Present? |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Jess Graff              | Co-Chair                         | CVOEO                             | Y        |
| Kara Casey              | Co-Chair                         | VT Network                        | Y        |
| Bill Schrecker          | Treasurer                        | Vermont Housing & Finance Agency  | Y        |
| Amanda Hilliker         | One rep for victims of DV/SV     | Voices Against Violence, CVOEO    |          |
| Jason Brill             | One rep for veterans             | U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs    |          |
| Kate Logan              | One rep for Youth                | VCHRYP                            | Y        |
| Marie Lennon            | Rep with lived experience        |                                   | Y        |
| Whitney Nichols         | Rep with lived experience        |                                   | Y        |
| Ari Kisler              | VT-AHS                           | AHS, DCF, OEO                     | Y        |
| Daniel Blankenship      | One representative for VSHA      | Vermont State Housing Authority   | Y        |
| Meghan Morrow - Raftery | One rep for the HMIS Lead Agency | Institute for Community Alliances | Y        |
| Hannah Heinchon         | Representatives at large         | WYCSB                             |          |
| Star Barden             | Representatives at large         | NEKYS                             | Y        |
| Cherry Sullivan         | Representative at large          | Upper Valley Haven                | Y        |
| Sophie Pickens          | Addison CoC                      | John Graham Housing & Services    |          |
| Mary Gerisch            | Bennington CoC                   | Bennington Housing Authority      | Y        |

|                 |                             |                               |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Robert Little   | Caledonia & Essex CoC       | Rural Edge                    | Y |
| Marcella Gange  | Chittenden CoC              | CEDO                          |   |
| Ben Kaufmann    | Franklin/Grand Isle CoC     | Samaritan House               | Y |
| Kim Anetsberger | Lamoille CoC                | Lamoille Community House      |   |
| Ramsey Papp     | North Windsor & Orange CoC  | Capstone Community Action     | Y |
| Casey Winterson | Orleans CoC                 | NEKCA                         |   |
| Jessica Makela  | Rutland CoC                 | Homeless Prevention Center    | Y |
| Lee Trapeni     | So Windsor & No Windham CoC | Springfield Supported Housing | Y |
| Dan Handy       | South Windham CoC           | Groundworks                   | Y |
| Zack Hughes     | Washington CoC              | Peer Plus Inc                 |   |