



**VCEH Balance of State Continuum of Care**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday January 17, 2023  
10:00-11:30 am

**Meeting Minutes**

**Consider approval of minutes for VCEH Balance of State Coalition meetings held on November 15, 2022. [Minutes are available here.](#)**

- **Marie makes motion to approve minutes, Mary seconds, motion passes**

**VCEH organizational update and staff report**

- Year-end fundraising appeal – the response was lukewarm; we’re building a database of donors; link to donate on our website if you like!
- Dues campaign will soon been initiated – please have your organization pay your dues for your VCEH membership!
- Closed out our HUD planning grant in Dec; new HUD planning grant of 140,000 to VCEH starts this year to support our coordination and planning around the continuum of care (incl. Homelessness Awareness Day etc)
- Federal initiative to nationally reduce homelessness by 25%. [LINK for more information](#)
- Bill Schrecker was on the board as a member of VHFA and has moved to EverNorth and has stepped off the board.
- Organizational Update:
  - Martin has given notice that he will be leaving VCEH at the end of May 2023 and VAHC now has an interim director – time to revisit the possibility of a VCEH and VAHC merger
  - For feedback on the merger, or questions, email [vahc.vceh.collaboration@gmail.com](mailto:vahc.vceh.collaboration@gmail.com)
  - Jointly with VAHC has hired Greg Hessel as a consultant to move us through the possibilities and considerations in this merger process
  - This is for the VCEH 501c3, not the VT BoS Coalition – that will remain separate

**Update on the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist, Daniel Blankenship, VSHA**

- HCV opened October 1, 2022 - first time it had opened fully in over 5 years.
- Enormous response from across the state and the country (though VT residency is a preference)
- As of Jan. 12, received 1,900 vouchers including the 500 VSHA is currently issuing to folks on the waitlist. 43 have been issued and 146 have been denied (withdrawal requests or documentation not turned in)
- The VSHA HCV waitlist has been fully closed effective **1/23/23**, [including all preferences](#), until further notice.
- VSHA’s waiting list continues to be open for the Section 8 Project-Based Voucher Program.

## **Report and discussion on organizational development work with consultants Abt Associates**

- Work with Abt Associates: Contact with HUD to strengthen this group here (VT BoS Coalition)
  - Working on our governance document – Bring it closer to what is mainstream for a continuum of care nationwide
  - A workgroup of individuals from the board is working on the revision to the charter
- We will be visiting local coalitions this winter and spring to talk about the VCEH-VAHC merger and the VT BoS Coalition governance document
  - In preparation for this process, really review the governance charters and policies & procedures manual

## **Update on the Permanent Supportive Housing "A Way Home" Program, Daniel Blankenship, VSHA**

- Serve households who are chronically homeless, dedicated+ definition
- This is match-based project-based vouchers; opens eligibility to a wider variation of disabling conditions
- 15 households per case manager as these are high-needs folks
- Paid through HUD continuum of care program directly
- Services are voluntary with Coalition PSH programs through providers encourage people to stay connected

## **Report from the field:**

- Report from Erhard Mahnke from Senator Sanders' office
  - Passed FY23 appropriations bill – will fund the gov. until Sept. 23
  - Extension of federal debt limit & appropriations act may run into trouble in the house
  - Democrats still have a clear majority in senate; Sen. Sanders is now chair of the health committee
  - HUD Budget: 61.8 billion for HUD (8.1 billion increase); 3 billion increase for vouchers & 12,000 new vouchers nationwide; reforms to how HUD sets FMR – language in final bill to assure HUD considers local market conditions; 225 million dollar program to assist manufactured housing communities; McKinney-Vento Program 400 million increase, new 75 million PSH program with 30 million set aside for small population state → some of that funding should be coming to Vermont!
  - [FY 23 HUD Appropriations Bill Summary](#)
  - [FY23 Budget Chart for Selected Federal Housing Programs](#)
- This year's HUD NOFO application allows for applying for capital dollars to invest in housing!
- Sen. Leahy secured significant funding for housing in Vermont in his final year in the senate, including 8 million to VHCB for building housing in downtown areas.

## **VCEH committee reports: Coordinated Entry, Homelessness Awareness Day, Point in Time Count, Veterans**

- The legislative committee working with VAHC; Kara and Martin are go-to folks for this, so please reach out to Kara or Martin!
- Homelessness Awareness Day was on January 19<sup>th</sup>!
  - [HAD around the state](#)
  - [HAD Homepage](#)

- [HAD at the statehouse](#)
- [Veterans at the Statehouse](#)
- [Photos & media coverage of HAD](#)
- Veterans Committee: As of the end of November, over 37,000 veterans have been housed this year nationwide. Locally, the VA goal of 84 veterans housed has been exceeded with 95 veterans.
  - Hiring in the Burlington area for a case manager (for new or current social workers)
  - Meghan Snitkin, Jason Brill, and Sarah Russell presented A Shared Mission: Lessons from Vermont's Homeless Veteran Response System Wednesday, January 18 with the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans
- PIT Count was on the evening of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>!
  - [ICA PIT & HIC Page](#)
  - [VCEH PIT Page](#)

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	Y
Kate Logan	One rep for Youth	VCHRYP	
Marie Lennon	Rep with lived experience		Y
Whitney Nichols	Rep with lived experience		
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
Ramsey Papp	Representative at large	Capstone Community Action	Y
Sophie Pickens	Addison Coalition	John Graham Housing & Services	Y
Mary Gerisch	Bennington Coalition	Bennington Housing Authority	Y
Robert Little	Caledonia & Essex Coalition	Rural Edge	
Marcella Gange	Chittenden Coalition	CEDO	
Ben Kaufmann	Franklin/Grand Isle Coalition	Samaritan House	Y
Kim Anetsberger	Lamoille Coalition	Lamoille Community House	Y
Cherry Sullivan	North Windsor & Orange Coalition	Upper Valley Haven	Y
Casey Winterson	Orleans Coalition	NEKCA	
Jessica Makela	Rutland Coalition	Homeless Prevention Center	Y
Lee Trapeni	So Windsor & No Windham Coalition	Springfield Supported Housing	Y
Dan Handy	South Windham Coalition	Groundworks	
Zack Hughes	Washington Coalition	Peer Plus Inc	