



VCEH Balance of State Continuum of Care
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 18, 2023
10:00-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

10:00 Call to Order & Attendance

Board meeting business:

10:05 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC meetings held on March 21, 2023. Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>.

- **Mary makes a motion to approve minutes, with a friendly amendment from Kara to revise the reference to “links”; Chelsea seconds; motion passes**

10:10 VCEH organizational update and staff report

- Welcome to some relatively new VCEH members Hodan & Abby!
- Fully funded for the FY22 annual CoC funding (VSHA, BHA, ICA, OEO for CE, NewStory Center, VCEH for planning grant were recipients) & Special NOFO was funded with two major grants (Groundworks and VSHA were recipients)
 - State of VT was awarded 22 stability vouchers
- Recognize & remember Leah Rosin-Pritchard from Groundworks & remember her in our work going forward

10:15 Reports from Housing Opportunity Program grantees:

Ari Kisler, OEO

Kara Casey, Vermont Network

Meghan Morrow, ICA

- All public comment that has been requested with go into FY24 HOP planning. Thank you for participating in the survey!
- Review the [draft Annual Plan](#), which is open to public comment
- Report for last fiscal year is available [HERE](#)
- Open application period for FY24 funding [Notice of SFY24 HOP Funding Opportunity](#)
- All grantees please report once a year to their local coalition and CoC board
 - Presentations today from:
 - Kara at VT Network, a HOP Grant recipient
 - Meghan at Institute for Community Alliance, a HOP Grant recipient

Other business:

10:30 Report and discussion led by the Balance of State CoC Governance Workgroup

- Whitney Patterson & Dusty Olsen of Abt Associates, HUD Technical Assistance Consultants contracted with HUD to support communities & their CoCs
- Group has been meeting to analyze how the VT BoS Continuum of Care is functioning
- Looking at: **Current Meeting Structure**
 - Each meeting is currently mix of board business & items more suited to VCEH non-profit board or CoC memberships meetings or committees

- Creating clarity around board function and responsibilities and personal board representation
 - Currently, our membership definition is loose (membership includes not just board members but our full membership)
 - HUD requires two designated membership meetings annually
- All VT BoS CoC boarding meetings are open for members to attend
- **New options:**
 - Monthly meeting with agenda structured so membership topics are first and then members may drop off for board business in last 30 minutes
 - Board holds a board membership every other month with no board business
 - Alternate meetings monthly between board business only (with members welcome to attend) and membership interest business only
- Looking at: **Board Makeup**
 - Polls to assess feedback of board members and membership on future board makeup; this feedback will be brought to the governance workgroup!
 - [Descriptions of Board Makeup Poll Questions](#)

11:15 Review proposed executive order to merge the Council on Homelessness and the Housing Council, David Riegel, AHS

- Executive order on Council on Homelessness expired at the end of December 2022
- Considerable overlap with Council on Homelessness & Housing Council
 - Meet quarterly, pulling in leaders from statewide organizations and groups
- Create 10-year plan for tackling homelessness and housing from both perspectives
- Martin will be on small planning committee to discuss this subject
 - If you are interested in broad thinking on state's response to homelessness or have feedback, reach out to Martin mhahn@helpingtohouse.org or David david.riegel@vermont.gov

11:25 Report from the field: housing asylum seekers in the Northeast Kingdom, Casey Winterson, NEK Community Action

- Major increase in border crossings at Derby Line (Folks coming through Newport, Swanton, and to St. Johnsbury)
- People are coming possibly because they are dissatisfied with support they're getting in Canada. Most folks are looking for through pass-through and not staying in Vermont.
- Booking folks through AHS, buses, taxis, hotels, & helping them be safe for the night and get passage the next day
- Many non-English speakers (some speak Spanish or French). Looking to set up a translation service in the next few days
- Suggestion to transport hubs (i.e., WRJ, Montpelier) in Vermont to begin making plans
 - Volunteers for rides; assistance with setting up transportation and planning

11:35 Announcements

- Ari: HOP NOFO Webinar Overview of Notice & Application next Thursday April 20th, 11 AM (will be recorded and posted)
- Jason:
 - [Spring Ahead: A Veterans Path Out Of Homelessness](#)
 - [VA2K 2023](#)
 - [VA2K 2023](#)

- Kara: [VT Network Annual Conference in May in Burlington with a theme of Restoration](#)

11:40 Adjourn

Name	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present?
Jess Graff	Co-Chair	CVOEO	Y
Kara Casey	Co-Chair	VT Network	Y
Alyssa Peteani	One rep for housing providers	VHFA	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
Chelsea Boston	One rep for Youth	VCHRYP	Y
Marie Lennon	Rep with lived experience		
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
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	Y
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	
Casey Winterson	Orleans Coalition	NEKCA	Y
Jessica Makela	Rutland Coalition	Homeless Prevention Center	Y
Lee Trapeni	So Windsor & No Windham Coalition	Springfield Supported Housing	
Dan Handy	South Windham Coalition	Groundworks	Y
Zack Hughes	Washington Coalition	Peer Plus Inc	