**Youth Action Board**

**VT Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) &**

**VT Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP)**

**Statement of Purpose**

This Youth Action Board (YAB) exists to provide VCEH and VCRHYP input on the development and implementation of a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness; ongoing policy making decisions, particularly related to preventing and ending youth homelessness; and ensuring housing interventions for young people address:

* Stable housing
* Permanent connections
* Education/ employment
* Well-being

**Membership**

The Youth Action Board will consist of 3-12 members, aged 14 through 24 years old, 2/3rds of whom must either be currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness or housing instability. Member terms are two years and renewable for multiple cycles. Members will represent a diversity of Vermont’s population and be from varied geographic, experience, and identity backgrounds. To retain active membership, members must be present for at least 50% of meetings in a twelve-month period. New or renewing membership requests are approved by the existing YAB members.

**Leadership**

Through majority vote, the YAB will elect a board co-chairs from among its members who will serve a term of one year. The co-chairs may serve more than one term, but must be elected for each term. The co-chairs will be help define the YAB meeting agendas with the YAB support person (see below), and facilitate the YAB meetings. Additionally, when appropriate and needed, the co-chairs are the designated signatories for partnership and support agreements, as approved by the YAB.

**Support**

The YAB is supported by staff of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, who also supports the VCEH Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee and are voting members of the VCEH. As needed and/or when appropriate, youth serving on the YAB will be supported by their caseworkers or other youth serving personnel to support meaningful participation.

**Meeting Schedule**

YAB meetings will be held at least quarterly (4 times each year). These meetings may happen in-person or through phone/video conferencing. Each meeting will last for approximately two hours and timing will be determined based on the availability of members. Additional input will be solicited on an as-needed basis throughout the year through electronic and phone communication.

**Member Compensation**

Members will be compensated for their time participating in YAB activities. Members will receive:

* $25 for participation in meetings up to 1-hour long
* $50 for participation in meetings between 1-2 hours,
* receive gas cards to help offset the costs of transportation to in-person meetings, and
* receive compensation for feedback solicited from VCEH between meetings at a predefined rate depending on the estimated time needed to read and respond to requests, anticipated compensation for between meetings tasks is $25 per hour.

The YAB co-chairs will be compensated an extra $25 per meeting for their facilitation role, and also be compensated at $25 per hour for planning time working with the YAB support person before the meetings.

**Decision Making**

Decisions will be warned at least two-weeks prior to voting. 60% of current YAB members must be present or provide an electronic vote on warned decisions. Voting will take place in scheduled meetings or through online polling.

**Representation on the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness**

The YAB will be an established standing sub-committee of the VCEH. The co-chairs will work with the YAB support staff to relay decisions and agenda items between the YAB and VCEH. The VCRHYP currently occupies the youth representative voting seat on the VCEH and will honor and reflect YAB voting decisions on behalf of the YAB when a member of the YAB cannot attend.

Any YAB member is welcome to attend the VCEH meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 10AM-12PM at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 15 Summer St, in Randolph, VT. Agendas and information can be found here: <http://helpingtohousevt.org/>

**YAB Point of Contact**

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