Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
10 AM - 12:00 PM
Held Via Zoom

Misc. business:
- Report from Martin Hahn, Executive Director
- Notice from HUD – VT approved for over 6 billion for CoC Funding
- Updated our website!
- Dues went out! Please email Martin with any questions or clarifications.
- Annual meeting this summer: guest speakers, panel, etc. **July 28th, 10 – 2 PM.**
  Save the Date coming
- Consideration of **February 15, 2022 minutes**
  Zach motions to approve to the minutes with last minute update, Mary seconds, unanimously approved
- Kara nominate Bill Schrecker to become our treasurer, Zach moves to second, unanimously approved

**Vote Warned:** Elect Organizing Directors for VCEH:
- Kara Casey
- Star Barden
- Jess Graff
- Michael Redmond
- Marie Lennon
- Lee Trapeni
- Sarah Phillips
- Ramsey Papp
  - Introduced re-structuring again with visual graphic from Molly
  - Zach: Question around why the organizing board won’t be everyone here
    -- Organizing board will be subset of this board for due to speed/ease. This group will continue on as VT BoS CoC Board!
  - Zach makes a motion to approve, Sophie seconds, Daniel abstains; motion passed

Introduction to Vermont’s Consolidated Plan for US Department of Housing & Urban Development funding, with Arthur Hamlin from VT Dept. of Housing & Community Development
- Consolidated Plan page found on site: [Housing and Urban Development (HUD)](https://www.hud.gov/directory/)
- The Consolidated Plan is also where OEO provides the planned use of HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, which are part of the Housing Opportunity Grant Program.
- Public participation input is very important to HUD so please feel encouraged to participate
- VT Dept. of Housing & Community Development Board is working to improve outreach and engagement with communities – especially those previously overlooked.
Reports from the field: annual meetings, staff changes, launch of a pilot project, local advocacy, achievements, challenges...

● Zach – Recognized Paul Hartmann at Downstreet who passed away recently

● Meghan – Will be leaving sometimes beginning/middle of April for maternity leave. Adam Smith (director) will be back-up during that time. Louise, Karina, & Help Desk will be available. Wisconsin team will be helping with migration.

● Kara – Update from the Network: Moving to former Keurig building in Waterbury in April.

● Louise (from ICA) – PIT & HIC: Just about collected everything we need for BoS and getting prepared to report to HUD. Working on setting up BitFocus Clarity systems. Our HMIS blackout period begins April 1 – we will NOT have access to ServicePoint or Clarity. System Admins will have read only access to Service Point – so if you need something please reach out to coordinate. Newsletter went out with training access for BitFocus Clarity. [NOTE FOR MOLLY: INCLUDE IN MAILCHIMP]

● David (From VAHC) – Omnibus Housing Bill in Senate Finance Committee – Permit reform; expanding eligibility for designations; allocation to first generation homebuyers; funding for manufactured homes; VHCB to utilize funding; increase in tax credits; wastewater connection permits – cutdown on costs & more! On Member portion of VAHC website.  https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.226

Congressional Delegation Updates

Pollaidh Major (Sen. Leahy), Erhard Mahnke (Sen. Sanders), Thifeen Deen (Rep. Welch)

● VAWA has been reauthorized! Heartfelt thank you from Kara for these efforts!

● Major – Sen. Leahy and Judiciary Committee with be glad to hear it!

   ● Today, bill headed to President Biden’s desk (4 feet tall/2,000 pages) omnibus spending for fiscal year 2022!

   ● Gives largest increase to domestic spending in last four years

   (6.7% increase the board); 11% to home programs; 4.8 Billion for CDBG; 3 Billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (CoC Funding)

   ● Community projects in state are eligible for congressional spending – each senator was each able to add projects to this bill.

   ● No COVID funding in omnibus spending bill. Looking on how to move forward.

   ● Colleague Emily will be the point person on all things housing in upcoming weeks while Pollaidh is on maternity leave! Email Emily at Emily_Nosse-Leirer@leahy.senate.gov

● Mahnke – Sen. Sanders.

   ● Increase in Rental Assistance Vouchers – increase in 25,000 vouchers.

   ● Infrastructure improvements for mobile home parks around the state

   ● Deadline for FY23 Congressional Spending applications due in April -- LINK on Sen. Sanders website.

   ● 740 million dollars to National Housing Trust Fund – Vermont will receive the highest amount ever, little more than 3.1 million dollars.

   ● Manchin interested in stripped down version of Build Back Better bill. Senate will return to work on Build Back Better in early spring.

● Deen – Sen. Welch

   ● 2 billion investment in mental health (289 million increase)

   ● 3.9 billion (100 million increase) in substance use treatment;

   ● $366 million for rural health programs, $37 million increase

   ● 3.8 Billion for LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) 50 million increase
● All 10 on congressman's projects were approved.

Introduction to House America initiative, with Sarah Phillips from VT Department for Children & Families and Alex Farrell from VT Dept. of Housing & Community Development

● VT joined House American Initiative in Fall – dedicate COVID funds to housing
● Asked to indicate how many new units / how many households we can re-house using COVID recovery funds (ARPA) from Jan. – Dec. 2022
● Unit creation goals: 560 Units; 1,000 Households rehoused (Already rehoused 1,300)
● From Sean Thomas (Vermont State HUD Director): Vermont was the first (and still only) state to step forward since the project roll out in the late fall. The smallest shall lead.
● Burlington joined on for a city-state partnership! Opportunity to connect our cities (Brattleboro, Barre, Montpelier) with other cities working on this. Could be something for local CoCs to think about – Connect your mayor or municipal officials to Sean Thomas sean.w.thomas@hud.gov
● Used CE Data to help figure this all out! Thank you all!

Committee Updates, including:

● Education & Training: Come join our committee, or bring someone in your local housing committee who is interested. Anyone who is part of local CoCs is so welcome.
  ● Tackling questions such as: How do we provide training in the upcoming years? In-person training? More module training?
  ● We'll be reaching out with survey asking: What are your training needs?
  ● Check out our Current Training Modules

● Coordinated Entry
  ● CE Implementers call on Wednesday – expanded to an hour and half. First 45 minutes are a time for CE Lead Agencies to meet with assistance and referral partners to problem solve and second half will be Lead Agency community practice working group. 2 staff from each Lead Agency to create shared best practices and understanding of CE together. Making a map out of collectively developing tools and resources. Staff in leadership or administrative role please.

● HMIS/Bitfocus Clarity Question Answers: All data ever put into HMIS will still be accessible, but cut-off date of 2017 decided about 9 months ago with CoC and HMIS Advisory Committee (RYE projects need 5 years back of data)

● Legislative: Send out comprehensive legislative updates & ways to communicate with each about reaching out to legislators and providing testimony etc.

Overview of the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance, Marcella Gange

● CCHA is the Continuum of Care for Chittenden County – sister organization to the Vermont Balance of State CoC.
● 20 – 25 organizations that are steering committee voting members
● Committees just like we do (Chittenden – They're just like us!)
● Re-commit to work with Built for Zero – a nationwide program with technical assistance to talk to other communities around ending homelessness. New position special assistant to help end homelessness – recruitment will be complete in next couple of weeks
• Mayor has 10-point plan to end homelessness in city of Burlington. City of Burlington continuing resource center with CVOEO & New emergency shelter in pod structure – announcing site soon & look for operating partnerships for that site.
• Excited to collaborate with VCEH/VT BoS CoC so please reach out

Open Office with staff from the Agency of Human Services
• DCF Transitional Housing Project Launching – Training
  • Save the Date: DCF Transitional Housing Program Kick Off Friday, March 25, 11am – Noon Training for Community Partners
• ERAP funds for housing stability services – People can apply for funding at the end of this week and will be due at end of April. Funds will be available for 3 years. Will be seminar about this in late March.
• HOP (Housing Opportunity Grant Program) – Notice of Funding will come out around April 1 and due about 6 weeks later

Noon Adjournment

Board members attending:

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<th>Board Member Position</th>
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<td>Jess Graff</td>
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<td>Kara Casey</td>
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<td>Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez</td>
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<td>Pathways Vermont</td>
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<td>Voices Against Violence, CVOEO</td>
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<td>Jason Brill</td>
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<td>Ari Kisler</td>
<td>VT-AHS</td>
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<td>Meghan Morrow - Raftery</td>
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<td>Sophie Pickens</td>
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<td>Zack Hughes</td>
<td>Washington CoC</td>
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