



VCEH Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday February 21, 2023
10:00-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

10:00 Call to Order & Attendance

Board meeting business:

10:05 Consider approval of minutes for VCEH Balance of State CoC meetings held on January 17, 2022. Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>.

- **Mary makes a motion to approve; Lee & Kim second; motion unanimously carries**

10:10 VCEH organizational update and staff report

- VCEH dues requests have been sent – if you haven't received, please let Martin know at mhahn@helpingtohousevt.org
 - These are VCEH's only unrestricted use funds
- VCEH VT BoS CoC applied to HUD in a special request for funding for rural areas and unsheltered homelessness and our application was successful! We received 1.7 million for A Way Home Program at VSHA and 400,000 for ReachOutWorks and Groundworks.
 - Hopefully this funding will become renewable
 - Thanks to Sarah Phillips for her significant work on this application!
- Reminder to [sign up for the VCEH listserv](#) for the best way to keep up with statewide and regional housing and homelessness news
- **Jess makes a nomination of Alyssa Peteani, Community Development Underwriter at VHFA for vacant position on board of housing partner (previously filled Bill Schrecker of VHFA); seconded by Kara; motion passes!**
- Update on VAHC and VCEH merger
 - Hired consultant Greg Hessel has met with VAHC and VCEH merger committees to get a lay of the land
 - Committees have met to talk about structures, finances, and communications
 - Both full boards met and made the decision to continue to move forward with merger discussion and bring the conversation to a larger audience
 - You can email vceh.vahc.merger@gmail.com with your thoughts

10:20 Vote warned: Consider amendments to the statewide Homeless Management Information System, Policies & Procedures, Meghan Morrow Raftery, Institute for Community Alliances

- Main revision: re-vamped violations and repercussion piece – third violation has been updated with a fee structure (user and agency violation). Updated vender name, agency contacts, access roles, and other semantics
- **Daniel makes a motion to approve these changes; Marie seconds this motion; motion carries with Cherry abstaining**

10:25 VCEH committee reports:

- **CE Committee**
 - In the new VAWA act, there is a new definition of category 4 homelessness so Ari, Kara, and Stephanie from CCHA are meeting to talk about these small changes that might need to be made for CE. Any changes will be presented.
 - CE Committee also looking at more structural issues with CE and will be sharing a survey soon.
- **Veterans Committee**
 - Working with Sean Thomas from HUD on re-invigorating the mayor's challenge to end veteran homelessness
 - VA secretary's national challenge to house 38,000 veterans over 2022 – 40,401 individual veterans were placed into PH nationally (41,760 total). Goal exceeded by 6.3%!
 - Vermont and a few counties in NH – Goal was 84, and 103+ veterans were placed in housing.
 - Jason: It was a true testament to partnership and collaboration and a great community-wide commitment to get that many Veterans out of homelessness and into permanent housing! [VA housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans in 2022](#)
- **HMIS Advisory Committee**
 - [HMIS Advisory Committee Homepage](#)
- **Homelessness Awareness**
 - Thanks to all who made our Vermont Homelessness Awareness Day 2023 a success!
 - [Check out the info, photos, media coverage and more about all the events around the state!](#)
- **Point-in-Time Count**
 - ICA still waiting for a lot of HIC numbers from providers. If you've gotten emails and made updates OR if your report is correct, let ICA know! The quicker ICA gets the reports, the quicker they can get data to HUD. Be on the lookout for new reports if you have made updates to HIC!
 - Please confirm your PIT reports if you've not done that; they are overdue.
- **Legislative** (working with VAHC who has added homelessness to their agenda)
 - There is funding in the budget adjustment act to expand GA program until the beginning of June.
 - Important bills to pay attention to: homeless bill of rights; bill around capping rent increases; [rental registry bill \(being taken up this week\)](#)

Other, Reports & Discussion

10:40 Report from the Veteran's Administration on a funding opportunity for case management. From the VA: Jason Brill, Tracy Sweeney, and Heidi Sistare

- Case management grant for housing retention for veterans that are currently housed or moving from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing. [Fact sheet on this grant](#)
- Email tracy.sweeney@va.gov with questions

- 10:50 Report on the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, Sean Thomas, HUD State Director
- Biden's House America Initiative: 25% cut in homelessness by end of first term (Dec '21 – Jan '25)
 - House America (State of VT chapter) – hit re-housing goals but just shy of unit creations
 - House American (Burlington chapter) – hit both re-housing and unit creations goals
 - Both Burlington and Vermont re-upping their goals for 2023
 - HUD is taking more of a focus on rural homelessness
 - New initiative: Thriving Communities technical assistance grant addressing planning needs of communities of 250,000 people or less with a qualified transportation project on-going;
- 11:00 Report on the new Landlord Relief Program, Lily Sojourner at OEO and Caprice Hover at VSHA. More information on the program can be found here, <https://landlordrelief.vsha.org/> and people are encouraged to watch a recording of the program launch here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scudq7CMOaU>.
- Funding through DCF and OEO to VSHA to administer & create a statewide risk pool or mitigation fund; tool to work with landlords for real or perceived risk. 5,000 – 10,000 for certain eligible costs: damages beyond significant wear and tear; vacancy loss (unit needs to be brought up to code); back rent and utilities NOT eligible
 - [Helpful documents and information on Landlord Relief Program](#)
 - [Landlord Relief Program Homepage](#)
- 11:15 Report from the field: Rides to Recovery, Ross MacDonald at VT Agency of Transportation and Mary-Claire Crogan at Tri-Valley Transit
- Rides to Recovery: Improving mobility options for most vulnerable folks
 - Connect with your regional provider: [See regions and regional organizations here](#)
 - Windham and Southern Windsor Counties [MOOVer!](#)
 - Bennington County [Green Mountain Community Network Inc.](#)
 - Rutland [Marble Valley Regional Transit District](#)
 - Addison, Northern Windsor, & Orange Counties [Tri-Valley Transit](#)
 - Upper Valley [Advanced Transit](#)
 - Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden, Lamoille, & Washington Counties [Green Mountain Transit](#)
 - Northeast Kingdom [Rural Community Transportation](#)
 - [Go Vermont](#) – One Click, One Call resource
 - Regional bus providers, carpools, dial-a-rides, & more
 - Reach out to Ross at Ross.MacDonald@vermont.gov and providers in your area about your needs!

Name	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present?
Jess Graff	Co-Chair	CVOEO	Y
Kara Casey	Co-Chair	VT Network	Y
	Treasurer		
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	Y
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	Y
Zack Hughes	Washington Coalition	Peer Plus Inc	