



## VCEH Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday June 20, 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 May 16, 2023.

Minutes are available here, [HERE](#).

- **Mary makes a motion to approve, Ramsey seconds, motion passes and minutes approved unanimously.**

10:10 VCEH organizational update and staff report

- Welcome Addie Lentzner, our new summer intern for VCEH! She is a student at Middlebury and has been active in Bennington on issues around homelessness and poverty.
- Last week, VCEH hosted a training with Disability Rights Vermont on voting rights for persons experiencing homelessness. [SLIDES](#) and [VIDEO](#) of the training are available on our site and more information will be coming out around this including informational flyers for shelters and similar organizations and more.
  - Vermont has very open process for people being able to vote! Check it out!
- We also held a [NOFO Training](#) last week about the application to HUD for CoC funding that will be starting soon! Please reach out to Martin if your organization is interested or have questions about this funding at [mhahn@helpingtohousevt.org](mailto:mhahn@helpingtohousevt.org).
  - Keep up with the 2023 NOFO [HERE](#).
- Point-in-Time count data has been finalized and uploaded to HUD and the [2023 Point-in-Time Report](#) has been released.
  - The number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the single night in January increased by about 18% from last year. This could be due to a number of things including lack of housing availability and loss of rental assistance subsidies.
  - Number of families experiencing homelessness increased by 36%.
- VCEH (the small 501c3 that is the collaborative application for this board, the VT BoS CoC) & VAHC merger
  - VCEH board and VAHC board & membership came out strongly in support of this merger. We will have more information about this moving forward and we have drafted a job description for the ED of this new merged organization.
  - ***This will not change anything about the VT BoS CoC Board.***

#### Other business:

10:15 Report on a preliminary plan from UVM to apply to HUD for funding for “community-engaged research designed to address homelessness,” Yoshi Bird, UVM

- Research into how homelessness and housing issues are impacted by municipal policies, planning, zoning, and drafting

- Working with regional and local town planning groups over three years
- Adding layers around zoning and affordable housing to the [Vermont Planning Atlas](#)
  - Check out the [NH Zoning Atlas](#) and [CT Zoning Atlas](#) for reference.
- [Check out the description of the project](#)
- You can reach Yoshi at [Yoshi.Bird@uvm.edu](mailto:Yoshi.Bird@uvm.edu)

10:30 Open Office with AHS, Sarah Phillips, Director of Office of Economic Opportunity & Nicole Tousignant, Economic Benefits Director

- [Relevant DCF Webpage](#)
- AHS Open Office Hours on Mondays, email Sarah Phillips at [Sarah.Phillips@vermont.gov](mailto:Sarah.Phillips@vermont.gov) for more information

11:00 Renee Weeks, AHS Director of Complex Care and Field Services, *here on behalf of Dave Riegel, policy director*

- Continuing a project to create usable dashboards accessible by many groups built from all collected Coordinated Entry data
- Groups involved working on details and hopefully will bring back to this board for a vote on this project in July

11:00 Changes to HUD data standards, Louise Masterson, ICA

- This year there are a number of changes to specific verbiage in data collection and how data is collected
- Coordinated Entry – This is changing quite a bit but don't know what this is going to look like yet. Some data elements are retiring.
- All HMIS users will be required to take a training on this that will be available on the ICA website
- Please reach out to the VT HMIS help desk with questions: [ythmis@icalliances.org](mailto:ythmis@icalliances.org)

11:10 VCEH committee reports:

Coordinated Entry  
Membership Committee  
Legislative Committee  
HUD CoC Funding Committee  
Point-In-Time Committee  
HMIS Advisory Committee

Veterans Committee  
Youth Committee  
Education and Training Committee  
Homelessness Awareness Day Committee  
Strategic Planning

- Veterans Committee: WRJ HUD-VASH team has paused all referrals to HUD-VASH program and the decision will be reassessed on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - Effective 6/2/23, the WRJ VA HUD VASH team paused all new referrals to the program until August 1st, 2023. This decision is largely due to the number of unhoused HUD VASH participants currently in the program. Our team is also down case management staff which limits our capacity to take on any new referrals.
  - They are actively working to hire new staff (see job postings on USA Jobs for both White River Junction and Burlington).
  - We will not have a waiting list and will notify if that changes.
  - Questions or concerns can be directed to HUD VASH Program Coordinator [Leigh.Russell3@va.gov](mailto:Leigh.Russell3@va.gov)

11:15 Announcements

- Vermont 211 has reduced hours to 8 AM – 11 PM every day including weekends and holidays. Hopefully this will not be permanent.

Name	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present?
Jess Graff	Co-Chair	CVOEO	Y
Kara Casey	Co-Chair	VT Network	
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
Kate Logan	One rep for Youth	VCHRYP	
Marie Lennon	Rep with lived experience		Y
Whitney Nichols	Rep with lived experience		Y
Ari Kisler	VT-AHS	AHS, DCF, OEO	
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	Y
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	Y
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	