

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

VT Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday August 19, 2025
10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JlK0MkdKMlM0QT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4485 0126 Passcode: 810280

Meeting Minutes

- 10:05 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC Board meeting held on Tues. July 29, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
Daniel moves, Jess seconds, motion passes
- 10:10 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko
- Thank you for a great membership meeting!
 - [Wall of Gratitude](#)
- 10:20 VT Legal Aid Update on GA Program Decision with Maryellen Griffin, VT Legal Aid
- The Vermont Human Services Board decided that everyone's 80 days of GA emergency housing did reset at the start of the new fiscal year (July 1st) for those who qualify under the current eligibility requirements. This decision was made because the language of the budget bill that funds the emergency housing program only referenced FY26.
 - ESD is not implementing this decision across the board and is still telling people that they have used their 80 days.
 - Clients who want to appeal their denial should state on the phone that they want to appeal to the Human Services Board and ask for their denial notice in writing (via email).
 - Clients can also ask for benefits pending appeal to start using housing in the meantime.
 - Vermont Legal Aid is close to their limit of how many people they can help with their appeal process, so they are asking service providers to assist in their clients' appeal processes. Their representative doesn't have to be an attorney.
 - So far, Legal Aid is not seeing people lose their appeal – if they qualify under the current eligibility requirements.
- 10:40 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Frank Knaack
- There is a possibility of a special session at the Vermont Legislature on how to respond to the federal cuts, but it's not likely to happen as federal budget decisions are delayed – it will likely be addressed in the regular session starting in January.
 - Trump proposed a federal budget that would have a harsh impact on communities we serve – the proposal would put ESG & CoC funding into a block grant and reduce them.

But both congress and senate versions of the budget don't do that & continue to have separate line items for ESG & CoC.

- The budget seems somewhat more positive than it did a few months ago, but even if funds get approved legislatively it is possible/likely that the executive branch would not spend the funds or pass it down to the states, and the issue could go to the Supreme Court.
- Trumps Executive Order on unhoused populations targets folks with mental health conditions and substance use disorders and would use confinement as a response to unhoused populations. Its focus is on deprioritizing housing first and pushing mandatory treatment as part of getting access to benefits. Its left to various agency heads to come up with an implementation process, and so far we have not heard anything about that.
- Federal budget spreadsheet from NLIHC
https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Senate_HUD_Budget-Chart_FY26_v1.pdf
- HHAV Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9th at Judd Hall, Vermont State University Campus.

11:00 Extreme Weather Shelter through Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) Rick DeAngelis

- VIA received an award from the state to help encourage and support a network of extreme cold weather shelters in Vermont.
- Open to funding either a stand-alone shelter or any other shelter that wants to provide additional beds.
- The purpose is to prevent cold related illness and death this winter. The program will run from Dec 1 – April 1, 2026. Expected up to 20 nights, activation will be at -10 degrees Fahrenheit or below including windchill.
- There will be an application process in early September, with a decision by October. Reimbursable costs include personnel/operations, utilities/services, supplies/equipment, and infrastructure. Targeting 6 communities – Burlington, Rutland, Bennington, Montpelier/Barre, NEK, Brattleboro.
- \$900,000 are available for funding.
- [Presentation slides.](#)
- [Guidance document from OEO.](#)

11:15 VT BoS CoC Committee Reports [View VT BoS CoC Committees](#), make sure Committee Charters are submitted by April VT BoS CoC Board Meeting (& other announcements)

Membership Committee
PLEE Subcommittee
NOFO/Scoring/Ranking Committee
PIT Committee
HMIS Advisory Committee

Coordinated Entry Committee
*Veterans Committee
Strategic Planning Committee
Education & Training Committee
Youth Committee

- Membership committee: Announced plans to create an annual award to present at the annual membership meeting. Will convene in the next few months to discuss that award.
- NOFO: No updates on potential new NOFO
- PIT Committee: PIT Report was released a few weeks ago.
<https://helpingtohousevt.org/2025-point-in-time-count/>

- CE Committee: Pulled together a working group on Lead Agencies – will bring policy to the CE committee soon.
- Strategic planning: Frank will head this process beginning soon.
- Education and training committee: Will be getting people together soon to create this committee – plan to create an annual survey to inform our yearly training plan. This meeting will be quarterly.
- Youth Committee: Meeting next week. Looking into the Idea of having statewide best practices model for services the committee.

- Committee Report Form
 - [PDF](#), [Word Document](#), [Google Drive Documents](#)
- Committee Charter Template
 - [PDF](#), [Word Document](#), [Google Drive Documents](#)
- Confirm 2025 meeting dates (quarterly)
 - VT BoS CoC will create yearly committee calendar
 - Send your committee dates to Grace at gshyer@hhav.org
- Maintain active participant list updated yearly in January

11:25 Board Members & Members: Any suggestions for topics for next meeting?

2025 VT BoS CoC Board Members

Name	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present?
Kim Anetsberger	Co-Chair & Lamoille Rep	Lamoille Community House	
Mary Gerisch	Co-Chair & Bennington Rep	Bennington Housing Authority	x
Ari Kisler	One rep for VT-ASH	AHS, DCF, OEO	x
Rebecca King	One rep for victims of DV/SV	PAVE	
Jason Brill	One rep for veterans	U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs	
Kate Logan	One rep for Youth	VCHRYP/Elevate Youth	x
Gary Stroud	Rep with lived experience	Brattleboro	
Marie Lennon	Rep with lived experience	Middlebury	
Rewa Worthington	One rep for Housing Partners	Evernorth	
Lou-Anne Wood	One rep for Complex Care	AHS-Vermont Chronic Care Initiative	x
Cheryl Jackins	One Rep for Mental Health	Pathways Vermont	
Daniel Franklin	One Rep for Substance Use	Recovery Vermont/VAMHAR	x
Jeanne Montross	Addison Coalition Rep	HOPE	
Jess Graff	Franklin/Grand Isle Coalition Rep	CVCEO F/GI Community Action	x
Chris Mitchell	Caledonia & S. Essex Coalition	AHS	
L'Tonya Johnson	North Windsor & Orange Coalition	Upper Valley Haven	
Casey Winterson	Orleans & N. Essex Coalition Rep	NEKCA	x
Jessica Makela	Rutland Coalition Rep	Homeless Prevention Center	

Lee Trapeni	So Windsor & No Windham Coalition Rep	Springfield Supported Housing	x
Libby Bennet	South Windham Coalition Rep	Groundworks Collaborative	x
Kathi Partlow	Washington Coalition Rep	Downstreet	

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