

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

VT Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JlKMkdKMlM0QT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4485 0126 Passcode: 810280

Meeting Agenda

- 10:00 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC Board meeting held on Tues. August 18, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
Mary moves, Lee seconds, motion passes
- 10:05 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Frank Knaack
- NLIHC - https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Senate_HUD_Budget-Chart_FY26_v1.pdf -
 - Trump proposal was going to gut financial assistance, would merge financial assistance programs into block grants and similar things with CoC and ESG funds into block grants and
 - Senate proposal actually increases financial assistance available
 - Likely won't know what fed government will do
 - Will likely be a continuing resolution but might be a shut down
 - Will keep y'all as updated as possible
 - VT special session probably wont happen – becuae budget wont really hit until the regular session starts in January
 - EO unhoused – last we heard from HUD office is that theres been no movement to implement this executive order but we are maintaining concefn and monitering federal and state level – to see if there is any municipal movement toward criminalization of homelessness
 - Document from HHAV with info on why this type of criminalization is counterproductive
 - Meghan: CoC Builds NOFO maybe moves toward this? Some executive order language/topic was attempted to be addressed/funded through this NOFO & there is a stay currently. Might go to the supreme court
 - Starting next month, will have updated legislative priorities for the 2026 session and ways for people to get involved in advocacy.y.
 -
- 10:10 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko
- In-person/Hybrid BoS CoC Board Meeting in October
 - [Google Form attendance](#)
 - Virtual Membership Meeting in November
 - Governance Charter changes will be reviewed at October Board Meeting

- Will vote on chair terms, governance charter
- Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Application Reminder
 - Timeline Due October 1
 - Office Hours Wednesday Sept. 17th and 23th

10:20 Updates on the FY25 CoC Program Grant NOFO Cycle, Abby Miller, Housing Innovations

- TH-RRH; RRH Projects
- Scoring & Ranking Committee: New Scoring, CoC Priorities, Involuntary Reallocation Policy
- Possible implications of this potential NOFO
- Collecting gender information as an optional field
- Last year it was supposed to be a 2-year NOFO cycle, but the administration decided to issue a new nofo this year with quite different funding priorities outlined in it.
- Based on the email from the HUD secretary, nofo will likely lift up transitional housing as viable component that you can apply for, joint component TH/RRH will probably also, possible that street outreach might be added in. there is now at least a mechanism that HUD knows how to fund and. Administration wants to reduce unsheltered
- PSH is unlikely to be funded as a new project
- RRH will likely continue as a new project allowable fund
- Don't want to over or underestimate – these are just potentials
- HUD has wide latitude to advance policy priorities with this competition
- Scoring will maybe be related to criminalization efforts – maybe heavy on reallocating PSH funding
- Potential that competition is completely restructured so might be very unfamiliar
- Housing first will likely be pulled – and may even be a requirement of services
- Thinking about what required services means – nothing is a monolith, think about ways that services can be required and human centered and not forced upon
-
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KMbNiL-67vODrcweKs-pyJN6-1RndGusegM3M9WHHAY/edit?usp=sharing> – covers TH, RRH, joint component, street outreach
-
- Transitional housing has not been shown to be effective for ALL populations but has been shown to be effective for some populations & service design really matters.
- Kara: philosophical implications – if we as a COC should have a values convo about . we have historically wanted to get as many points as possible – do we want to be aligning ourselves with policies we don't believe in? and that aren't going to be setting up households and families with success. The administration seems to be setting people up to transition off of subsidies. How can people transition off of these programs without housing and now without any long-term subsidies?
- Can the transition in place model fit into TH-RRH? Abby said no.
- Will – veterans have a lot of experience with the transitional model- he can try to get all the directors and supervisors together to present to the CoC board on how they have worked with hat model in the past
- Jess asked for a potential training on transitional housing – who it works for and who it doesn't work for

- Scoring and ranking committee will be meeting tomorrow and going over the scoring and ranking tool from last year. Has a lot of power to say these are the priorities that we are advancing as a CoC in rank order. We have generally prioritized renewals first. There is a voluntary reallocation policy, we want to lift up an involuntary reallocation policy that the scoring and ranking committee will decide on. Can be for lack of spend down but also poor performance and the coc saying we don't want to fund this type of project anymore
- Getting into territories where there are going to be lapses – some 2025 grants can start as early as jan 1 (not ours) – we odnt know if they will allow this to happen
- Daniel: is the coalition working with oeo/the state on strategies how the state can take up funding not funded by the CoC. Swap or different configuration
- Ari: there is a lot of priorities at the state level being driven by the governor and secretary's office – pressure is being pushed to emergency shelter development and reducing cost of sheltering people. Doesn't feel like this is as possible to fill gaps of federal funding at this moment.
- ICA brought the question – do you want to continue collecting gender information, knowing that the admin has removed gender from HMIS data standards and using “sex assigned at birth” question instead. ICA put MOU together if we do want to collect it. October1 is when the data standards change so we will take it off the profile, but the data will still be there if existing. We can put the question back and it could be optional. sexual orientation is not collected here so we are just talking about gender here.

11:00 Presentation from Vermont Interfaith Action, Melissa Battah, Executive Director

- VIA is a faith based community organizing network. Interfaith multifaitn no faith organization. If your values align with theirs you can join as an individual members. Wants all faith
- Work on health care education corrections reform immigration, affordable housing and homelessness, community resilience – work against any acts of hatred and immigration work
- Affordable housing and homelessness used to be separate but these organizing groups work together now – voice has been most powerful in trying to keep folks in the emergency housing program muntil we havea plan where they can exit with dignity. Realized didn't matter 3000 phone calls to the governor- he wants to gut the program regardless
- Operate in 6 counties – Chittenden, bennington, washington, windsor, windham and Addison counties, along with congregation joining in Lamoille
- Last winter had several congregations set up and operate extreme cold weather operations and with more and more people being exited plus housing lost due to flooding.
- <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/programs/ECWSP> guidance documnet
- application <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/partners/funding>
- currently accepting applications through October 1st
- operate in 6 different counties – bennington, barre/montpelier, rutland, chittenden, Brattleboro, NEK
- no applications have been submitted yet – if you know of anyone planning to apply, get them in touch with melissa
- <mailto:melissa@viavt.org>
-

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

HMIS update: HUD has not release an fy2026 data standards manual outside of the vendors so any updates to the data vendors -we only know what the vendors are able to tell us. Will be putting out a training about the data standards what we know but it's not coming from HUD. Also cancelled the last two hmis Hud calls – no communication about data standards since July and even then it was very minimal .

DV/SV: not na offical committee yet. Had second meeting and split into subgroups – coordinated entry and training. If you are interested in being on committee or either subgroups please reach out to Kara

Kate: most recent meeting in august – meeting quarterly, subgroups including cochairs meeting more frequently. Working on community plan to end youth homelessness in Vermont and started by updating the YHDP coordinated community plan – updating the needs assessment right now and subpopulation analysis. Don't have dedicated capacity to the project so it will be as able.

CE committee: convened last month work has been happening in smaller workgroups and planning out what next few month s looks like . includes beginning our annual evaluation process which will generate a report and presentation for this board

PLEE – need to elect a new representative to the board. Will be sending out a doodle poll this week for our next meeting and also want to be involved in the NOFO process in the next months

Daniel franklin: advocacy question – how can we use our collective voice and relationships with legislator to build some veto proof coalitions at the state level . mental health advocacy day – need to follow up on that

Libby: can we have the transitional housing model trainings

Balance of state cochairs and coc meets with CCHA – going to have a joint committee across the two cocs around legislative policy to ensure alignment

- Committee Report Form
 - [PDF](#), [Word Document](#), [Google Drive Documents](#)
- Committee Charter Template
 - [PDF](#), [Word Document](#), [Google Drive Documents](#)
- Maintain active participant list updated yearly in January

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

2024 VT BoS CoC Board Members

Name	Board Member Position	Affiliation	Present?
Kim Anetsberger	Co-Chair & Lamoille Rep	Lamoille Community House	x
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	x
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	x
Lou-Anne Wood	One rep for Complex Care	AHS-Vermont Chronic Care Initiative	x
Cheryl Jackins	One Rep for Mental Health	Pathways Vermont	x
Daniel Franklin	One Rep for Substance Use	Recovery Vermont/VAMHAR	x
Jeanne Montross	Addison Coalition Rep	HOPE	x
Jess Graff	Franklin/Grand Isle Coalition Rep	CVOEO 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	x
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	x