

# **Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care**

## **VT Balance of State Continuum of Care**

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 16, 2025

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzM6Q1JKMkdKMIM0QT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4485 0126 Passcode: 810280

### **Meeting Minutes**

- 10:00 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC Membership meeting held on Tues. November 18, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
- Jess moves, Emily seconds, motion passes.
- 10:05 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko
- CoC Program Grant FY25 NOFO Update
    - NOFO was withdrawn because of lawsuits by multiple states just prior to hearing. New NOFO with appropriate edits will be coming out but we have no other information and no idea of timeline. We will continue our local competition in preparation for when the next NOFO drops – with the expectation that there will be addendums when the actual application is released.
      - Question was raised whether the board has any say in continuing the local competition without a NOFO dropped because the application is a significant lift. Our bylaws say that the collaborative applicant makes all decision regarding the local competition, so the decision does not lie with the board.
      - Ari asked if there is a conflict if we have to change the scoring tool after we receive applications? We don't think the scoring will change but we expect that we will have application addendums and will have scoring tools approved before we receive final applications when the official NOFO is dropped.
    - Sam Stratton, AG Office, on Vermont's lawsuit filed with other states challenging the original NOFO: our lawsuit challenged the NOFO legally and from a policy perspective; the suit asked for a preliminary injunction, and challenged some provisions, jurisdiction, caps on renewals and cap on permanent supportive housing. The judge decided not to issue a TRO because of HUD rescinding but is still considering a preliminary injunction and is considering whether to issue legal guidance on future issuances of NOFOs.
  - Board Member Structure: Board seats up for election in January; discussion of adding board seats for law enforcement, business community

- Non-Local Coalition Rep. Member Seats will be up for election in January 2026 for the term of January 2026 – January 2028
  - One Rep for VT-AHS, Ari Kisler, VT OEO
  - One Rep for victims of DV/SV, Kara Casey, VT Network
  - One Rep for veterans, Jason Brill, VA
  - One Rep for Youth, Kate Logan, Elevate Youth Services
  - Two Reps with Lived Experience, Marie Lennon & Vacant
  - One Rep for Housing Partners, Rewa Worthington, Evernorth
  - One Rep for Complex Care, Lou-Anne Wood, VCCI
  - One Rep for Mental Health, Cheryl Jackins, Pathways
  - One Rep for Substance Use, Daniel Franklin, VAMHAR
- Please email myself and Grace if you would like to remain on the board!
- Membership Committee will be meeting to discuss vacant positions and other board seat topics.
  - Will discuss at the January board meeting whether we will vote for four more board seats: law enforcement, business, and elected official. We have made efforts to keep the board smaller in the past.
  - A few folks voiced that they are not opposed to having these representatives fill their own board seats.
  - These are missing seats at the table and could be great for alliance building
- **Vote Warned: VT BoS CoC Board Vote to have Membership Vote on Official Alternates to Board Members in January**
  - Libby moves, Jess seconds, motion passes.

- 10:20 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Michael Redmond & Erhard Mahnke
- Our new Executive Director, Chad Simmons, will be starting in January! He currently is finishing his role at the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.
  - HHAV is working on our legislative priorities with Chad and our lobbyists. Frank left us with the policy guide.
  - Tier 1 priorities: \$37 million VHCB property transfer tax and \$40 million additional for all the types of housing they fund; \$5 million for VHIP program; full funding for HOP - \$40 million; \$1 million additional funds for HOP financial assistance through the budget adjustment act; full funding for GA program - \$44 million and lifting of the caps; VSHA shortfall voucher fund
  - Tier 2: ACLU decriminalization of homelessness bill, VHFA down payment assistance program, and more.
  - Look out for the full list of priorities in newsletters and on our website.
- 10:35 **Vote warned: Vote to approve Emily Cindy Wood as Representative with Lived Experience to the VT BoS CoC Board**
- Kara moves, Kim seconds, motion passes.
- 10:40 **Vote warned: CE Committee recommended changes to the Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures related to Veterans**

Brief summary of recommended changes:

1. Removing Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Rapid Re-housing from list of programs that are required to participate in Coordinated Entry, based on changing guidance from the federal level regarding access to Veteran-specific resources.
2. Removing content related to the Vermont Veterans Committee due to the sunsetting of this committee as a sub-committee of the Balance of State.
3. Updating the definition of “Veteran” based on updates at the federal level.
4. Removing information about the Federal Benchmark Generation Tool (FBGT) due to the discontinuation of that tool.
5. Updating the referral process section for Veterans to allow SSVF to act as a specialized assessment partner for the Balance of State.

Note: if recommended changes are approved, the CE Committee will revise the Housing Crisis Referral Form and work with Economic Services Division to review their CE referral form to support appropriate referrals to SSVF for assessments.

- 10:50 Updates on Unsheltered Count with Institute for Community Alliances (VT BoS CoC Homeless Management Information System, HMIS, Provider)
- PIT count will be January 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6pm until 6 am the next morning. More resources will be coming out via newsletters, the ICA website and the BoS CoC website.
  - We have not received an official notice from HUD about the 2026 PIT.
  - The 2026 paper form will be very similar to years past, but a notable change is the anticipated required HUD question that will be asked which is the sex field – assigned sex at birth, male or female.
  - Another significant change is that folks are going to be inputting PIT data directly into HMIS this year into a specific unsheltered agency and program. Those who have HMIS access need to request access to that agency. Those who do not have HMIS licenses need to send their paper forms to their PIT contact or CE Lead Agency for data entry.

11:15 VT BoS CoC Committee Reports

Membership Committee

PLEE Subcommittee

NOFO/Scoring/Ranking Committee

PIT Committee

HMIS Advisory Committee

Coordinated Entry Committee

Strategic Planning Committee

Education & Training Committee

Youth Committee

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

Membership Committee: will start having a recurring monthly meeting. Will send an invite to the board.

CE Committee: the annual evaluation process is underway .the materials related to that are due at the end of January, will be working on the report in January, and will present it to the board in March.

Youth: topic of our last meeting was getting an update on Medicaid policy that will affect our programs, and immediate youth public policy needs. We also formed an advocacy subcommittee that will meet in between quarterly committee meetings.

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	x
Mary Gerisch	Co-Chair & Bennington Rep	Bennington Housing Authority	x
Ari Kisler	One rep for VT-ASH	AHS, DCF, OEO	x
Kara Casey	One rep for victims of DV/SV	VT Network	x
Jason Brill	One rep for veterans	U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs	x
Kate Logan	One rep for Youth	VCHRYP/Elevate Youth	x
	Rep with lived experience		
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	x
Casey Winterson	Orleans & N. Essex Coalition Rep	NEKCA	
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	