

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

VT Balance of State Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 17, 2026

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JKMkdKMIM0QT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4485 0126 Passcode: 810280

Meeting Agenda

- 10:05 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC Membership meeting held on Tues. December 16, 2025 Minutes & January 20, 2026 are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
- Emily moves, Jess seconds, motion passes.
- 10:10 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko
- NOFO Update
 - NOFO renewals have been submitted. In the THUD bill, HUD is required to appropriate funds for our renewal projects by July 1, and the FY26 NOFO is mandated to be released on June 1, 2026.
 - HUD is trying to get the preliminary injunction thrown out by the court, which would allow them to re-release the FY25 NOFO. The courts will respond to the request by March 2nd.
 - **Board Members Alternatives: Please submit by Monday, March 9th!**
 - Virtual VT BoS CoC Membership Meeting on March 17th
 - Hybrid VT BoS CoC Board Meeting on April 21st at the Upper Valley Haven!
- 10:15 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Chad Simmons, HHAV ED
- HHAV Budget Adjustment Act priorities: \$5M appropriation for the VSHA contingency fund, \$1.3 million for HOP financial assistance, and \$1 million for LAOB's Homes for All program
 - The House Committee on Human Services scrapped the Homeless Response Bill H.594 and release a new draft of a bill that combines parts of that bill, parts of H.91 from last year, and proposals by advocates including HHAV and CCHA. The bill attempts to define and codify all aspects of VT's homelessness response system including prevention/diversion, shelter services, specialized shelter services, permanent supportive housing, use of hotels/motels for shelter. It also encourages the BoS CoC and CCHA to enter into conversation about merging CoCs.
 - Email [Grace](mailto:Grace@hhav.org) to join HHAV's Homeless Response legislative workgroup.
- 10:30 Q&A for Board Members! We answer your questions!

- Suggested onboarding idea: connecting new board members with more tenured board members for coaching, education opportunities.

11:00 **Further Discussion on adding Board Seats to the VT BoS CoC Board for Person Connection to the Business Community (1), Law Enforcement (2), and Elected Officials (1).**

- We will vote on this governance charter change at the next Balance of State meeting in March – it will be a full meeting of the membership.
- The board is already set up to have a certain number of special interest board seats, so the consensus is to add four new special interest seats, so seats can be flexible over time
- Membership committee will meet to begin recruitment of these new board members after the March charter vote, will make sure seats are filled by individuals who are aligned with our work.

11:15 VT BoS CoC Committee Reports

Membership Committee
 PLEE Subcommittee
 NOFO/Scoring/Ranking Committee
 PIT Committee
 DV/SV Committee

HMIS Advisory Committee
 Coordinated Entry Committee
 Strategic Planning Committee
 Education & Training Committee

Membership committee: Met to discuss board member recruitment and started planning for the annual membership meeting. The theme this year will be successful collaborations, and each LHC will be invited to have a short presentation. Each LHC will also be invited to nominate a person for an award.

CE Committee: Evaluation workgroups met to go over partner survey, consumer feedback and data, Ari will begin working on the evaluation report which will be brought to the CE committee for feedback and presented to the BoS board at the March meeting.

Committee to End Youth Homelessness: The legislative workgroup began meeting monthly. Next committee meeting is 2/23.

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

2026 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
Emily Cindy Wood	Rep with lived experience	Rutland	x
Marie Lennon	Rep with lived experience	Middlebury	x
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	
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	x
L'Tonya Johnson	North Windsor & Orange Coalition	Upper Valley Haven	x
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	

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