

# Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

## VT Balance of State Continuum of Care Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 21, 2026  
10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JlKkMkdKMIM0QT09>  
Meeting ID: 811 4485 0126 Passcode: 810280

### Meeting Minutes

10:03 Consider approval of minutes for Balance of State CoC Membership meeting held on Tues. March 17, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>

- Mary moves, Daniel seconds, motion passes

10:05 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko

- Reminder In-Person VT BoS CoC Membership Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Vermont University in Randolph, Judd Hall. This will be a membership meeting so anyone is welcome to attend, not just board members. Local housing coalitions will be presenting this year on successful collaborations, and will also be presenting awards to an individual from each region.
- Please send Molly your Board Member Alternate!
  - This will be voted on in the August 18<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting
- Share SFY27 Training Plan Draft
  - This is still in draft form, and was created in response to a survey that we had over 75 responses to. Training topics chosen are based on our 4 most popular training topic responses from the survey:
    - Coordination w DMH/CCHBCs
    - Pre CTI/CTI (we are doing pre-CTI this fiscal year, so next year would be CT)
    - Coordinating w Area Agencies on Aging
    - Coordination with FQHCS
    - Addressing Barriers to Getting Housed
    - Addressing Barriers to Maintaining Housing
      - Mary suggests possible trainers – Legal Aid, renters 101
  - Feedback:
    - Kara: A training on addressing housing barriers won't dismantle systems, our partners already do what they can do

- Ari: a reframe - it would be helpful to train providers on reducing barriers through tenant selection policies and what it means to provide housing to people exiting homelessness. Need to be clear on who the training is for
      - Rewa – working with a housing sustainability initiative – creating a document library for folks on available resources
- NOFO update: the FY25 NOFO continues to be enjoined but the FY26 NOFO will be dropped by June 1<sup>st</sup> and we will begin working on that soon
- PIT count: HUD opened the portal for submission, we have submitted our data and we will be hearing from ICA soon on our SPMs in our May meeting

10:15 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Chad Simmons, HHAV ED

- The legislative session is nearing its end with a key caveat -- it might wrap up most business including budget by early May and then come back and work on education and finance reform. Governor Scott saying he will not approve the FY27 budget until the education and finance reform is finalized.
- Budget:
  - H.951: budget - \$37.65 million vhc and affordable housing investments full statutory funding for property transfer tax but no additional one-time funding
  - Affordable housing development funding \$37.65M, full statutory funding for VHCB, but no additional one-time funding
  - \$82.6M to support VT's homelessness response system. This includes base funding for HOP, shelter operations and a new rental assistance program through VSHA, as well as one time for shelter development
  - \$1M for VSHA rental arrears
  - \$800K for the Manufactured Housing Improvement Program (MHIR)
  - \$4M in base funding for the VT Housing Improvement Program.
  - \$1,680,529 for the Land Access & Opportunity Board (LAOB). Note that this is short in base funding by \$104K and *does not* include any one-time funding, as requested.
  - H.938 passed the house overwhelmingly put homeless response systems into state statute. Admin – changes they want to see are main one is a they want the homeless response system to stay with esd/DCF, HHAV testified in support last week and shared a number of concern. Action committee meeting tomorrow afternoon Wednesday . senate health and welfare. We are not sure at this
- H.938 passed the house overwhelmingly. It codifies the homeless response system into state statute. HHAV testified in support of the bill with a number of concerns and has been holding an action committee meeting regularly.
- H.772 – Currently in senate judiciary. It would expedite the eviction process & no trespass for tenants and guests of tenants who might be participating in safety or health challenges. Aside from those provisions we have concerns that the bill will increase homelessness. Meeting with senate leadership to understand the pathway of the bill – there is a lot of concern from senators and advocates

10:35 Presentation of [Coordinated Entry \(CE\) Evaluation Report](#), Ari Kisler, VT Office of Economic Opportunity

- The Coordinated Entry Evaluation is a several month undertaking of the CE Committee and the Lead agencies. The report is an analysis of the CE system in Vermont over the period July '24 to June '25. Three sections: partner survey, consumer feedback, and data analysis.
- Partner Survey feedback helped identify training priorities of the CE system across the state – HHAV will keep in mind as T&TA provider over the next year
- Consumer feedback analysis
  - Three high level themes – consumers felt heard and respected by staff, there continues to be a need for more clarity about what happens during CE process, consumers in several regions identified that it took too long to be connected to housing navigation (this is not something we can directly address through CE but we need to make sure clients are informed and we need to be transparent)
- Data analysis themes:
  - Lead Agencies largely met statewide performance targets for timely engagement. Average time from referral to initial outreach was 2.96 days (meeting the 3-day target), and average time from referral to assessment was 6.49 days (meeting the 7-day target)
  - 78% self reported with disability
  - There was an increase in permanent housing destinations from 2024 to 2025 (but keep in mind reenrollment rate)
  - Length of time enrolled in CE decreased this year but still much higher than 2021
- Read more in the report!

11:05 VT BoS CoC Committee Reports

DV/SV  
 NOFO/Scoring/Ranking Committee  
 PIT Committee  
 HMIS Advisory Committee  
 Coordinated Entry Committee

Education & Training Committee  
 Strategic Planning Committee  
 Committee to End Youth Homelessness  
 Membership Committee  
 PLEE Subcommittee

- Committee Charter Template
  - [PDE](#), [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	
Favor Ellis (sub for 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	
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	
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	
Lee Trapeni	So Windsor & No Windham Coalition Rep	Springfield Supported Housing	
Libby Bennet	South Windham Coalition Rep	Groundworks Collaborative	
Kathi Partlow	Washington Coalition Rep	Downstreet	