

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

VT Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 16, 2026

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JlKlMkdKMlM0QT09>

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. April 19, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
- Jess Graff moves, Daniel Franklin seconds, Jason abstains, motion passes
- 10:05 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko
- Reminder In-Person VT BoS CoC Membership Meeting on August 18th
 - [Memo from VT BoS CoC Membership Committee on LHC Presentations and Awards](#): We are asking each region to share a short presentation on a success story: ex: a collaboration, resource that's working well, new housing. We are also asking each region to nominate an individual, group, or organization for an award (each LHC).
 - At Judd Hall, Vermont State University Campus in Randolph
- 10:10 **Vote Warned: Electing Rebecca Lewis, Northeast Kingdom Community Action, as Orleans N. Essex Representative to the VT BoS CoC Board**
- Mary Gerisch moves, Daniel Franklin seconds, motion passes
- 10:15 HHAV Organizational & Legislative Update, Chad Simmons, HHAV ED
- [2026 Legislative Summary](#)
- 10:35 FY26 CoC Program Grant NOFO Discussions
- Board Member Update and [Board Member Alternates](#)
 - Updates on HUD CoC Program Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity FY26
 - Competition for new and renewal projects opens mid-June and closes mid-July
 - Information Sessions
 - Thursday, June 18 1:30 – 2:30 PM [Join here](#)
 - Wednesday, June 24 12 – 1 PM [Join here](#)
 - Review updates on FY26 NOFO
 - Consolidated application due to HUD by August 28
 - Nofo dropped on June 1. all of our projects have received their letters about fy25 funding

- The collaborative application is due 8/28, for funding that would begin in 2027 and end in 2028.
- Notable changes to this year's NOFO:
 - Tier 1 is set at 60% (renewals grants) -- this is usually set at 80-90%. The NOFO that HUD tried to drop in the fall was at 40%, so this is an improvement.
 - HUD is emphasizing that they want TH and SSO projects, which is a pivot from HUD's traditional stance in support of PSH projects. 1.3 billion is specifically set aside specifically for TH and SSO. There is \$430 million set aside for family permanent supportive housing.
 - HUD is also incentivizing projects that are in "opportunity zones"
 - Rural cost areas are now allowable for all CoC projects, not just SNOFO, which helps our CoC: new allowable payments are short term emergency lodging, repairs to units, staff training, prof development, skill development and staff retention activities.
 - HUD will not penalize applicants for complying with the terms and conditions of prior HUD competitions
- Info Sessions
 - Information Session #1 Thursday, June 18, 9:00 – 10:00 [Meeting Link June 18 Session](#)
 - Information Session #2 Monday June 22, 2:00 – 3:00 [Meeting Link for June 22 Session](#)

10:55 **Vote Warned (Non-conflicted Board Members ONLY – see below) on [CoC reallocation policy updates](#) and [renewal evaluation scoring tool](#)**

- We voted on some of this in the fall, so this policy is not all new. This is a reallocation policy for projects that are underperforming.
 - Projects have the chance to voluntarily reallocate (part or all), or the BoS can identify involuntary reallocation if necessary. Funds from projects that voluntarily reallocate are pooled with other funds available.
 - Voluntary reallocation may happen if: the recipient can't certify new HUD requirements, they have determined they are unlikely to perform well in the local competition, or other recipient reasons.
 - Involuntary reallocation: projects that have underspent more than 10% of their award may be reduced, and those funds could be reallocated. Projects may also be involuntarily reallocated if they score 60% or lower, have significant unresolved findings, or in the case of HUD priority shifts in the CoC program.
 - Emily Cindy Wood moves, Kara Casey seconds, motion passes
- Renewal scoring tool
 - New scoring criteria:
 - Project agrees to require service participation as a condition of its CoC funded program and attaches documentation of its service participation requirements – 20 hours per week of engagement in services activities or employment for all program participants, except individual over age 62 or with disability
 - Will not operate drug injection sights or safe consumption sites
 - Emily Cindy Wood moves, Mary Gerisch seconds, motion passes

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

- Coordinated entry committee: We had a meeting to collect feedback on our CE TA provider's policy & procedure recommendations . Columbus group will present at this month's meeting – they have been connecting with lead agencies across the state and folks have asked for them to present on their services.
- Youth committee: youth homelessness awareness day went well. The takeaway was that we need to center youth leadership, so the advocacy subcommittee will be planning a youth action board meeting

Announcement:

Daniel: VSHA was level funded – we don't have to take vouchers, but we can't add new ones. They are implementing 23 project-based vouchers serving mostly folks who are homeless in Newport, Waterbury and Addison County. And they have continued availability with VASH vouchers serving veterans who are homeless.

2026 VT BoS CoC Board Members

Board Members currently eligible to vote on NOFO-related items (you are NOT eligible to vote if your organization receives funding directly or as a sub-recipient from a CoC Grant or if your organization is planning on applying to the FY26 NOFO):

Mary Gerisch, Kara Casey, Jason Brill, Emily Cindy Wood, Marie Lennon, Rewa Worthington, L'Tonya Johnson , Kathi Partlow

You may be listed here and still not eligible to vote if your organization is applying for the FY26 CoC Program Grant NOFO, and the VT BoS CoC is not currently aware! Please be cognizant!

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
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	
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	
Daniel Franklin	One Rep for Substance Use	Recovery Vermont/VAMHAR	x
Jeanne Montross	Addison Coalition Rep	HOPE	
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	Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center	
	Orleans & N. Essex Coalition Rep		
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	
Kathi Partlow	Washington Coalition Rep	Downstreet	