

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care

VT Balance of State Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 21, 2026

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144850126?pwd=WTJxdHcxZTRNbzF6Q1JlKMkdKMIM0QT09>

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. June 16, 2025 Minutes are available here, <https://helpingtohousevt.org/minutes/>
- Kara moves, second by Cheryl, motion passes
- 10:05 Updates on H.938/Act 143 with VT DCF, Sandi Hoffman, Commissioner of VT Dept. for Children and Families; Miranda Grey, VT Economic Services Division; Lily Sojourner, VT Office of Economic Opportunity
- Act 143 was signed into law June 16 * creates a coordinated shelter and services framework with new specialized shelter models. It reduces and reimagines the use of hotel rooms.
 - Staggered implementation: changes to hotel program coming 9/1/26, but full implementation FY28
 - GA changes:
 - 700 rooms April thru November, 1000 rooms for winter weather
 - Will use HOU-SING clinical assessment tool: assess best level of placement within levels 1-4 of Continuum, acuity and urgency of need & imminent level of risk households will face if not sheltered. This tool would also include a mechanism for referral to CE.
 - Phase implementation:
 - phase 1 eligibility and length of stay determination
 - phase 2 full implementation across all levels for eligibility, placement and services/case management
 - Majority of emergency rules will represent current practice. The draft emergency rules will demonstrate future change
 - Most aspects of act 143 will not be implemented until fy28
 - DCF plans to offer several opportunities for providers and interested parties to provide feedback
 - The HOU-SING assessment is currently **only set to prioritize hotel usage**, and it will not align with any other assessments that clients are doing

- Chad: HHAV/BoS CoC can help convene engagement opportunities to utilize the expertise of our memberships. HHAV will engage with DCF / OEO to make this happen.

10:30 Discussion on Proposal for CE Supervisor/Support role, Lily Sojourner, VT Office of Economic Opportunity

- [OEO Memo](#)
- This is an opportunity to create capacity around CE support/supervision
- OEO is asking the BoS CoC to create a process to identify an entity that can be the CE systems manager – would provide direct service support to CE Lead Agencies across the BoS. The creation of this role/process is in response to the increasing need for dedicated support for/improvement of the CE System.
 - This role will NOT be held by OEO
 - RFP process starting in the fall, with a plan for full implementation of the role starting in FY28
 - OEO will remain the fiscal agent for CE HUD funding
- Any interested entity could apply via the Balance of State RFP – a Lead Agency could be the entity, but the implementation would be statewide
- Likely will be a FTE position, with TA from HUD provider ABT

10:45 **Vote Warned (Non-conflicted Board Members ONLY – see below) on**

- [New project scoring rubric](#)
 - Email vote
- [VTBoS Ranking Policy memo](#)
 - This is how BoS CoC is deciding which projects are going into which ranked tier.
 - Tier 2 projects are competitive nationally, tier 1 funds are protected. A higher percentage of funds are to be competed for this grant cycle
 - Policy:
 - Tier 1: all renewal non-transition projects are ranked according to renewal evaluation scores. Reallocation will be applied to lower scoring projects to ensure that renewals remain in tier 1. Also in tier 1 is HMIS & Coordinated Entry.
 - Tier 2: first, new TH/SSO that are submitted as transition or replacement applications with renewal grants awarded in 2025. Then new TH, SSO/SO, SSO-CE that are not transition/DV bonus. Then, if there are funds available, then new PSH projects that are not being submitted as transition grant or DV bonus. Then New DV bonus
 - The Scoring and Ranking committee can decide based on their discretion what is best for the CoC, regardless of ranking – this is in the reallocation policy.
- [VTBoS Drug policy](#)
 - CoC funded housing projects will not operate drug injection or safe consumption sites, distribute drug paraphernalia on or off property, or permit the distribution or use of drugs

- This policy only applies to CoC funded **housing projects**
- Emily moves, Lee seconds, motion passes

11:00 Annual HOP Presentation from VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Kara Casey, Director of Housing Training and Technical Assistance

- HOP grantees are supposed to do presentations to their local coalition but VT Network is statewide, so they present to this body.
- Network's role: DV/SV statewide admin – financial and programmatic assistance – manage and administer subgrants monitor and planning, training and TA, financial assistance, HMIS comparable database support
- Statewide numbers as of q3: 627 households, 628 adults, 305 children, average length of stays 89, percentage that met with case manager within 3 days 78.85%
- 71 rooms. 7 orgs in the BoS with shelters in Franklin, Washington, Caledonia, Orleans, Bennington, Lamoille, Rutland, Windham and Windsor. Also 1 in Chittenden. There are also 6 orgs with motel pools.
- Financial assistance: spent 117,000, served 65 households, 34 homeless, 31 at risk. 32 were housed w/o a subsidy, 30 housed with subsidy.

11:15 VT BoS CoC staff report, Molly Shimko, CoC Program Director

- Reminder In-Person VT BoS CoC Membership Meeting on August 18th
 - [Memo from VT BoS CoC Membership Committee on LHC Presentations and Awards](#)
 - At Judd Hall, Vermont State University Campus in Randolph, [RSVP HERE](#)
 - **REMINDER FOR EMERGENCY VT BoS CoC Board Meeting on Wednesday August 5th at 3 PM**

11:20 HHAV Updates, Chad Simmons, Executive Director

- HHAV annual meeting September 22nd. Looking for spaces in Barre & Montpelier.
- Working collaboratively with OEO and DCF on informing and engaging our membership on emergency rules and permanent rules. We want our members to be proactively engaged in forming those rules.

11:25 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

HMIS advisory committee – our vendor is switching interfaces and that change will be going live October 1st. published one announcement in our newsletter but will be announcing more. Impacts HMIS trainings & that will be described in an upcoming newsletter

Libby

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	x
Mary Gerisch	Co-Chair & Bennington Rep	Bennington Housing Authority	
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	
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	
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	
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	Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center	
Rebecca Lewis	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	