

Minutes

Vermont Council on Homelessness

December 12th, 2013

2:00 – 4:00

Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Room

State Street, Montpelier

Introductions and Announcements:

Present: *Hilary Melton (Pathways VT), Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez (Pathways VT), Susan Bartlett (AHS), Elizabeth Eddy (BROC), Jan Demers (CVOEO), Paul Dragon (VT OEO-DCF), Connie Snow (W&WHT), Rick DeAngelis (VHCB), Sarah Phillips (VT OEO-DCF), Linda Anderson (CVCAC), Amy Perez (CVCAC), Andy Snyder (AOE), Morgan Brown (N/A), Jack C Kearnan (VIA), Erhard Mahnke (VAHC), Sarah Carpenter (VHFA), Kristin Prior (AHS), Auburn Watersong (VT Network Against DV & SA), Liz Whitmore (DOC), Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Dave Yacovone (DCF), Richard Giddings (DCF), Paul Dupre (DMH), Brian Smith (DMH), Maura Collins (VHFA), Angus Chaney (AHS).*
Participating by Phone: *MaryEllen Mendl (211), Rachel Batterson (VLA), Margaret Bozik (CHT), Jeanne Montross (HOPE)*

Angus welcomed Morgan Brown as new board member.

All council meetings for 2014 have been scheduled. (See below.)

Public Comment: None

Presentation and Discussion on Tax Credit Housing – Maura Collins, VHFA

Maura distributed a profile of assisted housing in Vermont and reviewed the profile of tax credit residents. 70% of residents of all assisted housing have the benefit of rental assistance.

Maura responded to questions and facilitated discussion.

There was a discussion of different aspects of affordability of both rental assistance (Section 8) and non-assisted, affordable units. Erhard stated that nationally Vermont rates high for targeting very low income households.

Comparison to other HFAs: Other HFAs are not doing an analysis, but a national study is in the works.

Maura discussed the process by which projects are selected for a tax credit allocation. The allocation plan requires that applicants for LIHTC talk to local service providers. Incentives are available if an applicant targets 10% of units to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or institutionalization. Maura distributed an article about trends among the states for incentives to integrate supportive services with tax credits. VHFA isn't planning any changes in the allocation plan at this time but welcomes comments/suggestions.

Housing First presentation – Hilary Melton and Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez, Pathways Vermont

Vermont received SAMHSA funding to establish a Housing First program for chronic, mentally ill homeless persons. Supportive Housing model; treatment team with housing. Program has evolved with funding to serve 200 people who haven't connected with the system for a long time. Multi-disciplinary approach: Services team, housing team. Everyone has rental assistance of one type or another. Located in six counties. Federal funding ends in nine months; discussion about what will happen post SAMHSA. Brian Smith talked about PATH.

Other Updates:

Family Supportive Housing – Paul Dragon and Sarah Phillips (OEO) reported on how the program is operating throughout the state. Intensive case management and housing targeting families in shelter or motels. Plan to house 60 families by June 2014. Focus on asset-building with the families.

Manufactured Housing – Rick DeAngelis of VHCB updated members on VHCB's innovation project which has designed and built super-efficient manufactured homes. (Handout distributed).

Point in Time counts – Jeanne Montross (HOPE) reported. The aim is to produce a coordinated report to be released earlier this year.

Tentative meeting dates for 2014 (All times are 2-4 PM)

February 27th – Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Rm.

April 24th – Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Rm.

June 26th – Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Rm.

August 28th – Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Rm.

October 23rd – Williston, location TBD

December 18th – Pavilion 4th Floor Conf. Rm.