

Minutes of the Vermont Council on Homelessness
August 17th, 2016 2:00 – 4:00
Waterbury State Office Complex
280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont

Present:

Jan Demers (CVOEO), Rita Markley (COTS), Deborah Hall (HPC), Liz Whitmore (DOC), Beth Meyer (AOE), Margaret Bozik (CHT), Sarah Phillips (DCF-OEO), Geoffrey Pippenger (DCF-ESD), Angus Chaney (AHS), Maura Collins (VHFA), David DeAngelis (BHA), Connie Snow (WWHT), Paul Dragon (AHS), Donna Sherlaw (at-large), Will Eberle (AHS Field Services), Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Laurie Hurlburt (AHS), Renee Weeks (Upper Valley Haven), Sarah Russell (BHA), Diana Carminati (United Way NWVT), Elizabeth Eddy (BROC), Pat Burke (SEVCA), Vickie Sterling (Women’s Freedom Center), Tim Palmer (HFI), Doug Sinclair (Charter House), Jenny Hyslop (VHCB), Jen Hollar (VHCB), Ashley Greenfield (HPC), James Bastien (VAMC-WRJ), Nancy Owens (HVT), Dana Lawrence (DCF-Family Services), Bethany Pombar (VCRHYP), Liz Genge (Downstreet), Laura Wilson (Cathedral Sq.), Kim Fitzgerald (Cathedral Sq.), Erin Ahearn (CHCB), MaryEllen Mendl (UW 211), Meghan Morrow (ICA), Maura Collins (VHFA), Kara Casey (VT Network), Patricia Singer (DMH), Lindsay Casale (Pathways VT), Susan Bartlett (AHS IFS), Marcy Esbjerg (CEDO), Elizabeth Ready (John Graham), Mia Eyth (John Graham), Larry Oaks (CSH), Alison Harte (CSH)

Angus called the meeting to order at 2:03. A quorum was present.

Introductions:

Public comment: No one present offered public comment.

New guidance from U.S. Dept. of Education Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act State Planning -Beth Meyer, Vermont Agency of Education

The McKinney-Vento act was reauthorized in December. Changes go into effect October 1st. Beth outlined a number of these changes - which are generally positive for students and families experiencing homelessness – and distributed two handouts.

- Letter from U.S. Education Secretary John King:
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/160726.html>
- Summary document by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):
<http://www.naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/legis/NofootnoteSUMMARYJuly16.pdf>

Vermont's Agency of Education is preparing a consolidated plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Education. They anticipate a draft in December or January and Beth will forward information when it is available for review and comment.

60% of homeless students served in Vermont are living in "doubled-up" situations. AOE is glad to see changes around definition of school of origin. In general, there is a presumption that continuing to attend the school of origin is in the best interest of the child. Vermont has 58 local education agencies (LEAs) and the small amount of sub-grant funding available from McKinney-Vento is sliced very thin. This also poses a potential problem in terms of a reluctance for supervisory unions to identify homeless children given the additional transportation costs borne by the district. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places more focus on outreach and enumeration of homeless children. Because Vermont does not receive much funding through McKinney-Vento, accessing Title I funding is critical. Contact info for local McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons is available online and AOE will soon be migrating their website. Paul: Can the liaisons connect through Coordinated Entry and Assessment? Beth: Yes. Sarah: The liaisons are identified as referral partners.

Beth will send links to the two documents she distributed and encouraged members to contact her directly at Beth.Meyer@vermont.gov with specific questions or to assist in development of the plan.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the April minutes was moved by Rita Markley and seconded by Margaret Bozik.

All voted in favor with abstentions from members and guests not in attendance at the April meeting.

Developing Vermont's Roadmap to End Homelessness – Stakeholder Conversation with CSH

Jen Hollar (VHCB) outlined the Roadmap project and introduced Larry Oaks and Allison Harte from the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Larry facilitated a stakeholder discussion with council members and guests covering six main topic areas:

1. What current strategies and programs to address homelessness are working well in VT?
2. What are the barriers to implementing effective strategies to end homelessness in VT?
3. There's an acute shortage of housing in VT; how does this shortage affect your work?
4. In the area of partnering –including partnerships between non-profit organizations and partnerships between non-profits and for profit companies – what's working well? What's needed?
5. There's a substance abuse and addiction crisis in VT and the homeless are disproportionately affected by it; what are the barriers to identifying and assisting this population?
6. A relatively small number of frequent users of public systems (shelters, jails, emergency rooms) end up using a disproportionately large amount of public resources as they cycle through these systems over and over; what can be done to reverse this?

2016 Upcoming VCH Meetings - All Times 2-4 PM

October – 19th • Waterbury State Office Complex (**Mountain Ash** Conference Room)

December - 16th (Friday) • Waterbury State Office Complex (**Ash** Conference Room)