

VERMONT COUNCIL ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
FULL COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024
1:30-3 P.M.

ATTENDEES

- Chair: Alex Farrell, Commissioner of DHCD
- Chair (filling in for Comm. Winters): David Reigel, Housing Policy Director, AHS
- Shaun Gilpin, DHCD
- Nedah Warstler, DHCD
- Angela Smith-Dieng, Adult Services Division Director at DAIL.
- Adnan Duracak, Dept. of Mental Health
- Angus Chaney, Homeless Prevention Center
- Katy Preston, Agency of Education
- Zak Hale - Hale Resources, LLC
- Pollaidh Major, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Frank Knaack, HHAV
- Daniel Blankenship, Vermont State Housing Authority
- Will Towne, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, CCHA
- Chadd Viger, Recovery House Inc.
- Patrick Shattuck, RuralEdge
- Monica Hutt, Governor's Office
- Rebecca Plummer, Vermont Legal Aid
- Lily Sojourner, VT Office of Economic Opportunity, DCF
- Angela Smith-Dieng, DAIL
- Kathleen Berk, Vermont State Housing Authority
- Derek Miodownik, VTDOC
- Rowan Hawthorne, VDOL
- Kim Anetsberger, Lamoille Community House
- Ari Kisler, Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity
- Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Beverly Boget, Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
- Jess Hyman, CVOEO Housing Advocacy Programs

AGENDA REVIEW, ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.
- Minutes were not approved; tabled until next meeting. Previous minutes and the [Tactical Action Plan](#) were provided via chat
- Commissioner Farrell advised that after review by legal, the committee was not subject to open meeting law, so the requirement to publicly post agendas and minutes has been removed. The group will continue to do so, but internally.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

- Public comment closed at 1:36 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE TASKS & GOALS

Commissioner Farrell: Welcomed members and introduced the subcommittees and their descriptions (using [this](#) PowerPoint Presentation). This meeting marks the beginning of the ongoing work of the council and serves as a launchpad towards its' collective goals. Each subcommittee will decide on their own their meeting cadence, with a recommendation for committees to meet every two weeks (especially between now and September), as the next report is due September 30, 2024. Now that we've gone through the legislative session, some of the original work has either become moot (or their significance has changed).

Committee Members asked for clarity about long-term goals, expectations, and big-picture benchmarks. There's hesitancy to re-committing time and energy into a council as the work done last fall/winter didn't seem to be used as a tool or discussion point to inform the most recent Legislative Session. What is the strategy or action steps expected of the committee moving forward? Members also expressed concern with doing the research and putting energy into the council -and subsequently "owning" the outcomes- that the group didn't necessarily have influence over.

Monica Hutt: Perhaps instead of a "laundry list of ideas," each subcommittee could choose one or two short, powerful priorities that turn into more manageable, quantifiable actions focused on a few important things as opposed to many.

Commissioner Farrell: Noted council's concerns. The biggest advantage of an interagency Council is the full array of experts and resources being focused on this issue. There was broad consensus that the Council should narrow their focus in this year's, and subsequent reports, and that the original Tactical Action Plan lacked focus and prioritization. There was agreement to narrow each committee's focus to one to two main priorities and provide a deeper dive and more specific recommendations.

In the meantime, the individual groups will be meeting on their own, and chairs will keep the other group leaders informed of progress.

Next full council meeting date: September 10, 2024

ASSIGN SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members were asked to respond via the Teams chat to choose their desired subgroup.

They were provided selections included committee names, description, and chairpersons were:

1. **Unit Generation:** *From Temporary Shelter to Permanent Housing*
Chair: Alex Farrell
2. **Supports:** *The Systems and Services.*
Chair: Chris Winters
3. **Special Populations:** *The People We Serve.*
Chair: David Riegel

Decided to separate into 3 Subcommittee Groups (below and attached) to discuss action items and meeting cadence within subcommittees:

Next Full Council Meeting Date & Topics

Decided to meet September 10 as report is due the 30th

ADJOURNMENT

- The full meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm, and subgroups met with the expectation for chairs to report back to one another.