

Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Council Members:

Pollaidh Major- VHCB Designee
Rachel Hale – Hale Resource Designee
Will Towne – Spectrum Youth Services
Adnan Duracak – DMH Designee
Mary Moulton - WCMHS
Jay Ramsey - Director of Workforce Development, DOL
Mary Moulton - WCMHS
Derek Miodownik- DOC Designee
Monica White –DAIL
Chris Winters – DCF

Committee Members:

Katy Preston – AOE
Rebecca Plumber - Vermont Legal Aid
Beverly Boget – VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Daniel Blankenship - VSHA Designee
Miranda Gray – DCF/ESD
Lily Sojourner – DCF/OEO

Absent:

Kelly Dougherty - VDH Designee
Monica Hutt – Governor's office
Theresa Wood – State Representative
Kim Anetsberger – Lamoille House
Chadd Viger -Recovery House
Kathleen Berk - VSHA

Guests:

David Riegel – AHS
Kristin Kellett – AHS
Nichele Carver, Senior Regional Advisor, USICH
Justin Davis, AHS CO

Agenda 11.15.2023

- Call to order (1:33)
- Review agenda
- Public comment : No comment
- Update on Housing Development Subcommittee- No update from 11/8/23 -
- Approval of Minutes (11/8)
 - Motion: Will Towne – Spectrum Youth Services
 - Second to approve: Rachel Hale – Hale Resource Designee
 - Discussion: None
 - All in favor. Approved.
- This week’s topic: - “All In” and Regulatory Reform
 - “All In” Federal Strategic Plan – Nichele Carver, US Interagency Council on Homelessness
 - Regulatory Reform – Rebecca Plummer, Vermont Legal Aid
- Define key strategies, tactics, or plans with measurable performance metrics (2:30)
 - “All In”
 - Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
 - Keeping people housed in the units they already have works
 - Emergency rental assistance
 - Eviction moratoriums
 - Direct cash transfers
 - Dedicated service providers showed up to help those in need
 - 180 action steps the Federal Government will take- this can be a blueprint for a state or local plan
 - Current deficit of 7.3M affordable homes in the US
 - Asking the crisis response system to prevent and solve homelessness is like asking the emergency department to prevent and solve diabetes
 - Short term goal is to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025. Do we want to set a goal for VT?
 - Foundations: Equity, Data and Evidence, Collaboration
 - Solutions: Housing and Supports, Crisis Response, Prevention
 - Child Foster system
 - Healthcare
 - Criminal justice system
 - If rents/cost of living is high, you will have higher rates of homelessness
 - Take back the narrative
 - Small group conversations, data, analogies.

- Regulatory Reform
 - Eliminate No Cause Evictions, replace with just cause
 - No cause can be used as work arounds for discrimination, code complaints, habitability issues.
 - Security deposit and junk fee (pet, application, etc.) regulation
 - Security deposits have gone way up
 - Burlington and Brattleboro limit it to one month's worth of rent
 - Very hard to get security deposits back
 - Boston requires money placed in separate interest bearing account and money goes back unless something egregious.
 - Code enforcement
 - Incentives for landlords to keep units up to code.
 - Burlington won't allow an eviction through court unless units are in code compliance
 - Rent regulation
 - Limits on frequency and degree landlords can increase rents
 - Will additional regulation disincentivize landlords from wanting to bring more units online??
 - Some approaches can be used to incentivize more units. Carrot not stick...

- Confirm next and future meeting topics

- 11/20 – Tactical Plan Recommendations
- 11/27 – Full Council Meeting
- 11/29- Recommendation Work
- 12/6- Recommendation Work
- 12/13- Recommendation Work
- 12/19- Full Council Meeting

- Close meeting (3:00)