

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)
Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Thursday, February 5th, 2026; 9:00am – 11:00am
Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, Burlington

MINUTES

1. Introductions & Announcements

10 Minutes

The re-entry program has restarted through the Agency of Human Services.

On February 11th Common Good is hosting a webinar regarding recent federal actions.

Travis Poulin mentioned had the following update regarding the Community Accountable Community for Health (CACH) funds administered by CCHA:

- Individual Assistance funding spent to date: \$9,065.57 Remaining **\$934.43**
- Bulk Purchases funding spent to date: \$8,282.91 Remaining **\$1,717.09**

The CCHA now has grant funds available for organizations engaging with our unsheltered population. Grants will be issued on a reimbursement basis. You can submit your application using this [Form](#). You can reach out to [Bryce Bierman](#) if you have any questions.

The Vermont Treasurer's office is running a "10% for Vermont" program to provide low-interest loans for priority housing projects in the state.

2. Moment of Silence – Perry Thornley

An obituary will be created in Perry's memory.

3. Approves Minutes and Agenda

5 Minutes

a. Approval of the [January Meeting Minutes](#)

Travis Poulin motioned to approve the January meeting minutes. Jonathan seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 16 for, 0 opposed, & 2 abstentions.

b. January 20th - E-Vote Acknowledgement

c. Approval of the February Meeting Agenda

Travis Poulin motioned to approve the February meeting agenda. Jen Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 18 for, 0 opposed, & 0 abstentions.

4. Executive Committee Vacancy – Lacey Smith Thank You

5 Minutes

5. Legislative Reports

15 Minutes

a. Senator Sanders' Office – Andrew Frost

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In the recent package of appropriations bills Sen. Sanders worked to secure the largest increase in mandatory funding for Community Health Centers in a decade, brought 22.5 million in congressionally directed spending to Vermont for affordable housing and shelter, and we understand that the THUD bill also funds Housing Choice Vouchers at renewal rates. We're now turning to the FY27 appropriations process and are hopeful to have more information about Congressionally Directed Spending soon. We're also continuing to track the HUD CoC NOFO process as that continues to unfold.

b. Senator Welch's Office – Miles McGurriman

They secured \$19 million for the Vermont Housing Conservation Board for housing projects. All of the information can be found on their website.

c. Congresswoman Balint's Office – Thomas Renner

d. Housing & Homeless Alliance of Vermont – Chad Simmons

The legislature will be focused on education finance and healthcare as their priorities this year. H.594 is a bill proposed to create a tiered system of eligibility for people experiencing housing accessing housing. HHAV testified regarding the proposed bill stating they are not in support of the bill as proposed. Yesterday, Theresa Wood, announced the committee will be going in a different direction. HHAV is advocating for eligibility to be as broad as possible for accessibility to shelter. Affordability is a primary concern for the legislature and Governor this year.

Jessica Radboard thanked Chad Simmons and Paul Dragon for their testimony at the legislature that has helped guide the path of housing solutions in the legislature this session.

Vermont is considering two programs;

1. Voucher Contingency Fund – money local housing authorities could access. This would be one-time funding.
2. Bridge Funding for Rental Assistance – Specifically for older Vermonters and people with disabilities. The timeline for the rental assistance would be ongoing. The bridge program is not intended to replace Vermont Rental Assistance. It is intended to support households who may be losing their vouchers.

6. Breakout Groups – Vermont Housing Legislation

15 Minutes

a. [H.594](#) –

The legislature has decided not to move forward with the bill after opposing testimony. HHAV is working on new proposal in collaboration with ACLU. They are working to set up a model where shelter spaces can ultimately be converted into permanent housing.

b. [ACLU Response Proposal](#) –

ACLU testimony at the House Human Services Committee from last week as a [PPT](#) and in [recorded form](#).

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Durational residency requirements as a condition for obtaining a benefit that is a necessity of life has been held to violate the both the constitutional right to travel and the Equal Protection Clause. See, e.g., *Shapiro v. Thompson*, 394 U.S. 618 (1969); *Saenz v. Roe*, 526 U.S. 489 (1999); and *Memorial Hospital v. Maricopa County*, 415 U.S. 250 (1974). Proof of residency requirements that create a de facto durational residency requirements (e.g., leases, utility bills, and a VT driver's license) are clearly unlawful. The best evidence that a person resides in Vermont and plans to stay in Vermont is their physical existence in Vermont and self-attestation of their intent to stay.

The Human Services Board addressed this issue in the past. Their decisions affirm that the sole question appropriate for determination of residency is an intent to stay indefinitely and to return if temporarily absent. See, e.g., [FH 14582](#), [FH-14447](#).

- c. What thoughts do you have after reviewing the newly proposed bill and the ACLU alternative proposal? What are some reforms and investments that can help people now in the short-term? What are long-term reforms or investments that can be made as well?**

7. Breakout Group Recap

15 Minutes

What are our priorities for a homelessness response bill?

We liked that there was more funding more shelters provided in the final version of the building. More people are housed out of shelters than the hotels.

How do we track and define Vermont residency? Do folks need a lease before their count starts for days until they are considered a resident?

Look at the Massachusetts motel program for families bill from 2025 as a comparison.

Moving from state to state is expensive, which may discourage folks from moving to Vermont for support resources.

How do we build up small SRO shelters around the state? These could be converted into long-term affordable housing more easily.

We would like to see a state funding increase for shelters like the PODS, something that is a contained community design. We would like to see shelters devoted to people with special intensive needs. We want to see more true housing first programs.

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We would like to see preemptive release services. Increase in funding for permanent supportive housing.

We would like to see additional homelessness services providers. We like the idea of turning motels into shelters that could then be converted to permanent supportive housing.

We want a system where people have equity and a voice. We want to balance between addressing the current and long-term housing needs.

8. VOTE – Collaborative Applicant Transition – United Way **10 Minutes**

Jane motioned. Taylor seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 15 in favor, none opposed, two abstentions.

9. NOFO Update **20 Minutes**

a. Collaborative Applicant Update

CEDO has officially transitioned the Collaborative Applicant role to United Way of Northwest Vermont. This sets the CCHA for sustainability as United Way is less political in nature and will be able to remain a neutral partner. The plan is to continue with the second year of the originally funded 2-year 2024 NOFO, with renewals receiving the same funding as last year. CEDO is working with United Way to prepare for this fall when a new NOFO is released.

b. Permanent Supportive Housing Grant Transition Update

CEDO has historically administered these grants, but is now transitioning these responsibilities to Vermont State Housing Authority over this year. The HUD transition timeline may take several months. Taylor Thibault thanked the wider group for everyone who has stepped up to assist in these NOFO efforts through this exhausting application period.

10. Data Review **15 Minutes**

a. [Coordinated Entry](#) – Stephanie Smith

b. [Unsheltered Data – Community Resource Center](#) - Brenna Bedard

The remodel construction for the Community Resource Center is finally finished!

c. [Unsheltered Data – COTS Daystation](#) - Jonathan Farrell

Community Health Centers of Burlington partnering with the Daystation to provide connection to health services.

The COTS Waystation is currently undergoing a COVID-19 outbreak. Daystation services will be closed until Monday February 9th.

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11. PIT Count Recap

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Our Streets Outreach team did a great job hiking through trails to connect with unhoused neighbors for the count. The Extreme Cold Weather Shelter opened the day after the night of the PIT Count, so the count will be more accurate this year. Last year, the shelter opened the night of the PIT Count, which skewed the numbers for the count. The final count will be tallied in the coming weeks.

12. Shelter Updates – Written Reports Only – The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter will be opening this Saturday and Sunday.

a. CVOEO

b. [COTS](#)

c. Anew Place

ANEW Place is currently operating a 20-bed sober shelter at 89 North Street. We have capacity for 14 men and 6 women. Currently, our male beds are all accounted for, but we have room for potentially 4 more women. ANEW Place requires guests to have 30 days of sobriety before admission. The referral form is located on our website (anewplacevt.org) under 'Who We Are' and 'Contact Us.' We maintain a waitlist and do not do same day admissions. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

d. Spectrum

The Landing (ages 16-23) – 177 Pearl Street

- 8 bed capacity
- Currently full
- Must submit referral
 - Online at www.spectrumvt.org
 - By phone during business hours, 802-864-7423 ext 302
 - Emergency after-hours referrals by phone, 802-863-7423 ext 202

The Nightly Shelter (ages 18-24) – 179 South Winooski Avenue

- 10 bed capacity
- 3 open beds
- Low barrier, first come first served, no referral necessary
- Check current bed capacity
 - During business hours, 802-825-1556
 - After hours, 802-324-2934

Contact [Christina Brown](#) if you have any questions.

e. Steps to End Domestic Violence

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Steps is not operating any additional beds. We are still operating our 21-unit shelter and have 22 designated hotel rooms. We do not operate a waitlist as we have to pull folks directly from the hotels in to shelter when a room becomes available. The shelter is always full. If someone is fleeing Intimate Partner Violence, they can call our 24/7 hotline to complete a screening.

We encourage questions and participation in discussion and place great emphasis on hearing from people with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing insecurity. If you are a person who has lived experience, you will be provided with a stipend for attending; please let us know after the meeting concludes. Please reach out to us prior or let us know when you arrive at the meeting should you need any accommodation(s).

Thank you so much for joining us.