

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)
Fall Community Meeting
Thursday October 9th, 2025; 5:30pm-7:30pm
Burlington City Hall - Contois Auditorium
149 Church Street Burlington, VT 05401

MINUTES

1. Introductions & Announcements

10 Minutes

The Committee for Temporary Shelter (COTS) is hosting a ribbon cutting for the opening of their WayStation building on October 27th.

The Pride Center of Vermont is closing on October 10th. Steps to End Domestic Violence has agreed to assist with their incoming hotline calls.

2. CCHA Elections: VOTES WARNED

15 Minutes

a. Vote Warned: Steering Committee Voting Member Slate

Chelsea Alsofrom is the updated voting member for Pathways.

Jason Brill is also a voting member for Veterans Inc.

Travis Poulin motioned to approve the Steering Committee Voting Member Slate with the amendments as mentioned. Sarah Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 33 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and four abstentions.

b. Vote Warned: Sub-Committee Co-Chair Slate

Amy Carmola nominated Crystal Jones to act as Co-Chair.

Sarah Russell motioned to approve the Sub-Committee Co-Chair Slate with addition of Crystal Jones as the new Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair. Lacey Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 24 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and five abstentions.

c. Vote Warned: Executive Committee Slate

Travis Poulin, Lacey Smith, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, and Jane Helmstetter all agreed to renew their commitment to their respective Executive Committee seats. Jen Hunter motioned to approve the Executive Committee Slate. Kim Laroche seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 21 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and six abstentions.

3. Governance Charter Update: VOTE WARNED

10 Minutes

a. **Proposed:** Removal of the Veterans Committee

Sarah Russell motioned to approve the CCHA Governance Charter, as amended.

Robert Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 24 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and four abstentions.

b. **Proposed:** Addition of Joint CCHA-BOSCoC Policy and Legislative Committee*

Sarah Russell motioned to approve the CCHA Governance Charter, as amended.

Robert Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 24 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and four abstentions.

4. **Fiscal Agent Transition**: VOTE WARNED

10 Minutes

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) has sent their termination letter of the fiscal agency for CCHA. United Way of Northwest has stepped forward to be the new fiscal agent for CCHA. Bryce will move from VHFA and become an employee of United Way of Northwest Vermont.

Jane Helmstetter motioned to accept the VHFA Fiscal Agency Termination Letter. Jonathan Farrell seconded the motion. The motion carried by way of 19 votes in favor, no opposing votes, and five abstentions.

5. **Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness**

10 Minutes

a. **Seasonal Shelter Capacity – Sarah Russell**

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) has agreed to operate an Emergency Cold Weather Shelter at the Miller Center this winter season.

6. **Data Review**

10 Minutes

a. Coordinated Entry - 12-Month Review – Stephanie Smith

See the linked report above.

b. **Unsheltered Homelessness – 12-Month Review**

- Community Resource Center (CRC)

The drop in attendance is likely due to the move of the CRC. They have just moved to their new location at 228 North Winooski Avenue.

The new location provides a 30% increase in the capacity they can serve onsite.

A member of the public expressed the need for additional bathroom and shower services at the CRC or some other location.

- **Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)**

Most of their guests are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, which is a switch from their historical guests who normally came from another shelter program in the community.

A member of the community complained that they were removed from the Daystation by the police and could not retrieve their belongings.

The uptick in the counts has occurred over the last two years; however, the ending of GA Motel program likely contributed to the increase in people served by COTS.

A member of the public complained about the ease in which he was charged with trespassing by the police.

Another member complained that her employment offer at the COTS WayStation was revoked because her partner was charged with trespassing on COTS property.

7. Department of Housing and Urban Development NOFO

10 Minutes

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not been released and the government shut down has delayed the release. The CCHA is working with a consultant to create strategy to respond to the upcoming release of the NOFO. A RFI will be released shortly to understand how some of our members can meet the new requirements of the expected NOFO; the CCHA is looking for priorities of street outreach and transitional housing, along with a decrease in the priority from HUD for Permanent Supportive Housing. Much of the CCHA application funds have been committed to Permanent Supportive Housing, but a transition to the other resources is happening to meet the new priorities of HUD.

8. Legislative Updates

5 Minutes

a. Frank Knaack – Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont (HHAHV)

The initial budget proposed by the presidential administration showed less funding for the needs of the Alliance. The House and Senate budget proposals did improve the funding to meet the needs of homelessness prevention. The upcoming Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is showing a new HUD strategy of moving funding from “blue states” to “red states”.

HHAHV will be advocating for additional affordable housing production and additional funding for the Housing Opportunity Program.

9. Affordable Housing Development

15 Minutes

a. [Vermont Housing Finance Agency](#) – Nate Lantieri

VHFA supports different homebuyer programs throughout the state. See the linked presentation above to view the current funding programs available to Vermonters. 480 apartments have been built in Chittenden County over the last year, with 179 additional units in production. This type of data regarding Vermont housing be found at [HousingData.org](#). The site follows individual housing projects in the pipeline.

A few projects to mention include the Post Apartments, Cambrian Rise, and the Bay Ridge Development.

b. [Champlain Housing Trust](#) – Miranda Lescaze

CHT’s new Bay Ridge neighborhood in Shelburne includes 94 new permanently affordable new homes - 68 apartments and 26 shared equity condominiums for sale. Twenty of the apartments are rehabbed and include 8 studios and 12 one-bedrooms. These are complete and residents are moving in now. The 48 new construction apartments include 15 one-bedrooms, 12 two-bedrooms, 16 three-bedrooms and 5 four-bedrooms. These are leasing up now and will be ready for occupancy late October. Twenty apartments at Bay Ridge are designated for households experiencing homelessness.

CHT's 10th Cavalry Apartments in Colchester includes 65 new permanently affordable apartments. Fifteen apartments are designated for households experiencing homelessness.

Two new developments are under construction:

Post Apartments in downtown Burlington will include 38 new permanently affordable apartments and two first floor nonprofit community spaces. Of the 38 apartments, 8 will be studios, 26 will be one-bedrooms, and 4 will be two-bedrooms. Nine apartments will be designated for households experiencing homelessness, five of which are targeted to homeless veterans working with the Veteran's Committee on Homelessness. Post Apartments should be ready for occupancy in January 2026.

100 Cambrian Way in Burlington will include 40 new permanently affordable apartments - 11 one-bedrooms, 20 two-bedrooms and 9 three-bedrooms. Eight apartments are designated for households experiencing homelessness. These apartments should be ready for occupancy in August 2026.

Additional projects in CHT's pipeline include 70 new apartments in the next year or so including 322 St Paul in Burlington for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, Riggs Meadow in Hinesburg, and 255 Lafountain in Winooski.

10. [Strategic Plan](#) Implementation Update

15 Minutes

a. Implementation Progress & Annual Retreat Recap – Nicole Kubon

Running short on time, the Strategic Plan Update was tabled until the November meeting. Nicole Kubon mentioned the importance of opening the conversation to voices of people with lived experience of homelessness. Honoring the words shared tonight is the priority instead of sharing the update from the annual retreat.

b. Break-Out Groups: How can CCHA support advocacy efforts in Vermont? What legislative efforts should we prioritize?

The robust public comment and reflection was allowed to carry on in place of the breakout groups.

11. Public Comment & Reflection

10 Minutes

A member of the public offered perspective on the urban gentrification in the Burlington area. They would like a pathway to long-term, stable housing. We need to build more housing and prioritize that vs. the federal investments potentially committed to the highway interchange to

link South Burlington and Burlington at exit 14 on interstate 89. Housing is the infrastructure our community needs. They called for more empathy for people who are experiencing homelessness.

Another member of the community mentioned that people are not sleeping in the park because they want to. This individual lost their housing because their partner was shot; however, they were recently housed after five years of homelessness. They mentioned people do use drugs in the homeless community, but it is one of the few ways they were able to cope. The community needs more organizations to step up and help. More long-term housing could have been built for the price it cost to host so many people in the General Assistance Emergency Housing motel program. If there are not public bathrooms, where are people supposed to go? People in the homeless community fear rape and robbery on a regular basis. This individual has been trying, unsuccessfully, to secure a psychiatrist for over a year now. If food resources are taken away, an increase in theft of food is likely to occur. They voiced support for the idea of a safe injection site to keep people safe and prevent additional stress on emergency services.

Another member of the community mentioned he was removed from the General Assistance Emergency Housing motel program after being sent to a family motel. This experience forced them back on the street. They asked, "Is this normal?" Sleep deprivation, drug addiction, and hunger make it difficult to live on the street with no place to go.

Another member of the community also mentioned that many programs in the area advertise services that they don't provide.

Another member of the community mentioned they have been homeless here for nearly three years. They are not on the street because they want to be, they are homeless because they have a disability and cannot afford rent. The motel program has been unreliable, which has turned them off from attempting to interact with the program. The help here is far better from where their traditional home is. "Imagine how much permanent housing could be provided for the price paid to keep the motel program in operation." It is frustrating when services are suddenly not provided on a specific day when they are advertised; people count on those resources to survive.

Another community member mentioned they have lived in the Burlington community their entire life. They have been homeless for the last six years. They work seven days a week and volunteer one night per week at the Salvation Army. They wish there was more communication from the Alliance member organizations to the homeless population. They said more gatherings like this need to occur in the community. They have spent over \$5,000 helping other people in the homeless community over the last six years in homelessness.

Nicole Kubon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm.

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.