Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

October 14, 2025, 2:00PM-3:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Jean Hamilton

Attendees	Committee Members
Board ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs, VT Council on Native American Affairs ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers -VT ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance **Staff** Ornella, Jean	
Guests & Public Amy Schollenberger	

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 2:14PM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Name, Nominating Organization Check-in - Dan: Joshua House nonprofit organization in Newport is fundraising for a property to be purchased. ***Review 10/7/25 minutes*** Agenda Building FY27 discussion
2. Discussion/ Updates	FY27 Discussion - Staff presentation on current thinking and questions about budgeting.

	- Shelter discussion
	  - Winter shelter will cost well over $1M. Administration has been denying motel vouchers at 50%, meaning money that has been appropriated is being held by the administration.
	  - We can provide $200k from our current grants fund and then prepare for reclaiming our $1M in BAA with the shelter providers.
	- Housing Coach for IDD community discussion
	  - Secure housing coach for IDD an/ or disability community could make a big difference with people on the street. There are real human rights abuses happening right now.
	  - Does a housing coach need to be differentiated between types of disabilities? Susan recommends: the housing coach should have the most open door/widest definition of 'disability' to allow people to self-define disability as the 'tests' for disability are not human centered, and don't make a lot of sense in real world experiences.
	  - Act 69 report may recommend AHS fill two housing coordinator positions, in DAIL and AHS.
	  - Fits a pattern of agencies obstructing/eliminating services by slowing down hiring/resourcing processes.
	  - What processes will we need to ensure that we are not running afoul of any resource prioritization? Disability status will not be used to prioritize grant resources, rather will be used to match clients with the housing coach that has expertise in housing needs and barriers for people with disabilities.
	  - Sarah Launderville and VCIL do great work with referrals.
	- Discussion of the notion that grant funds are "100% fraud free". You will always have some people that try to rig the system. What we need to have is that the advantage to people who try to rig the system is very small relative to the people who benefit. We can't get caught up in the kind of thinking that is obsessed with the very few people who may manage to get an undo benefit, rather than the benefit.
	- Caution about making sure that whatever we do, we don't play into existing systems.
	- Mark: I am personally opposed to LAOB positioning any resources inside existing institutions/processes.
	- Are we giving money to existing shelter organizations?
	- Our response to emergencies is not just to bail people out, it is to create a path
	- We are addressing three disasters right now
	  - Housing crisis
	  - Extreme drought – wildfire risk
	  - Pandemic of substance abuse – see Brian's data from their fellowship

	- Rural development is not being broached by developers, because they don't want to put the work in.
	  o Solar Geothermal organizations like Ace, Sister Fire, Windward Community Project
	  o There are a number of orgs that we could pull together to develop rural ecosystems of community development. Supply chain purchase power, co-learning on issues like rural water supply.
	
	Approved Meeting Minutes 10.7
	
	Susan Aranoff Obtains
	
	Dan Coutu Obstains
	
	All in favor
	
	Minutes approved.

3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	ACTION STEPS - Update Policy Committee meetings to be 1.5 hrs.
Meeting Adjourned at 3PM	

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85208858637
Meeting ID: 852 0885 8637

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz