Land Access and Opportunity Board: Shelter for All
January 29, 2026, 12:00PM-1:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendance:

Jaada Longmore, VRJA

Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers

Mary Gerisch, NAACP

Staff: Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Jean Hamilton, Arealles Ortiz, Kiah Morris

Guests: None

Not Present:

Mark Hughes, VRJA

Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC

Sonali Samarasinghe, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

Agenda:

-Check in

-Postpone Approval of Minutes to Next Meeting Thursday 2/5/26: 1.9.26 & 12.19.25 DRAFT

-Emergency Shelter Grant Update

-Brainstorm on what to build into Emergency Shelter Grant contracts

-Resilience Hub Grant Update

-Chadd HHAV invited to SFA Meeting

-Shelter for All Committee Schedule (Weekly, Thursdays Noon-1PM?)

Minutes:

Emergency Shelter Grant Update:

Our shelter awardees have been notified.

We are writing contracts, part of that will include what the deliverables are and reporting requirements.

We want feedback on what do we want to hear back from the grantees.

Brainstorm on what to build into the Emergency Shelter Grant contracts:

Comment: We want to keep the reporting requirements simple and straight forward. Dreaming that this will give us a glimpse of what folks are going through and get an idea on how to serve them better. As well as identify if the systems supporting them or not? Then the LAOB can do the work and advocate for those folks.

Comment: Are we able to do a check-out about how the shelters incorporated the principles outlined in the application? How have they integrated those principles into their work?

Comment: Could we incorporate what would be some good next steps for shelters to step into more access & opportunities?

Comment: We could create a report and ask how they are going to measure progress. What were the barriers?

Question: Are there any guardrails around sensitivity we should be aware of?

Response: What about a check out interview? We could send them questions ahead of time and have the option to send in their responses. If they decide to come in for an in-person interview, we could ask them to bring a front service provider to be apart of the interview. We could incentivize this part of process.

Response: It would be good to have people other than administrative folks involved in the process to weigh in.

Response: It would be good to keep reporting requirements consistent and clear.

Response: Have we already asked what their existing reporting requirements are? If they are already doing grant reports, they could send us that information so they're not rewriting everything into a new report.

Update on Emergency Grants Continued:

We are meeting with the lawyer at VHCB who writes the grant contracts. We are getting a doodle together for orientation meetings with the goal of contracts made and signed.

Resilience Hub Grant Update:

We have received 2 applications so far. We also created a webinar on our website that shows how to complete the LOI (letter of intent) process. Next steps are LOIs will continue to run until the February 14th . On February 15th, RFP (request for proposal); the full grant application will be available. Rad Weavers group will provide comments on the RFPs. An additional webinar will be available February 19th so people can see what the grant looks like and what is expected. We will then ask Shelter for All committee to review applications and make final selections.

Chadd from HHAV(Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont?) invited a SFA Meeting:

The intention is to circle up on what Shelter for All has been working on. Where does it align with HHAV? What are they working on right now? Lastly, to check in about our appropriations request because it's on the HHAV platform.

Shelter for All Committee Schedule: Shelter for All is on our schedule for next Thursday February 5th 12-1PM.

We can pick up if this schedule works. Weekly, Thursdays Noon-1PM?

Next Steps:

Review 1.9.26, 12.19.25 DRAFT

Revisit spending down of funding allocated to 'housing for all' subcommittee.

Shelter for All Committee Schedule

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz