Land Access and Opportunity Board

Special Board Meeting

May 29th, 2026, 2:15-4:15 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta- Figueroa, Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendee	Present	Not Present
Board	● Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC ● Sonali Samarasinghe, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) ● Mark Hughes, VRJA	● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs ● Emily Carris-Duncan, Vermont Every Town Project ● Alyssa Beauchamp, Liberation Ecosystem Inc. ● Mary Gerisch, NAACP ● *No active board member*, Pride Center of Vermont ● Andre Comandon, Office of Racial Equity
Board Alternates	● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont DDC	● Samantha Langevin, Liberation Ecosystem Inc. ● Ashley Devereaux, NASW ● Jaada Longmore, VRJA ● Rich Holschuh, VCNAA ● Caitlin Scott, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity
Guests & Public:	Nick Parker	
Staff:	Ornella Matta- Figueroa, Tay Margison, Jean Hamilton, Arealles Ortiz, Kiah Morris	

Agenda

1. **Convene May 29, 2026, virtual meeting of the LAOB at 2:15PM**
   a. Welcome, Overview
   b. Touchstones
      i. Listen generously. Speak your truth from your heart & mind.
      ii. Make the way we work together an example of what's possible.
      iii. Trust that we all hold a piece of the puzzle & we need each other's pieces to understand the whole picture.
   c. LAOB Board Member & Staff Introductions: Name, Identifiers, Seat and Location (county)

2. Agenda Items:	- Check ins: Are you up to anything fun this weekend? - LAOB Community Engagement Survey https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfX1dumSfUdZx8OUSZvzOCqwksYJSY1_uza-LdmGWMYi5SfiQ/viewform Programs to be discussed: - Small Scale Developer Training Program - Secure Housing Coach Program - Emergency Shelter Grants - Resilience Hub Grants - Public Comment
3. Discussion	Overviewed LAOB Community Engagement Survey: We are trying to get a sense from the board to help build a plan for community engagement this year. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfX1dumSfUdZx8OUSZvzOCqwksYJSY1_uza-LdmGWMYi5SfiQ/viewform

	Small Scale Developer Training Program Update: - Overviewed the demographic spread of participants enrolled in the Small-Scale Developer Program. - LAOBs programming in the Small-Scale Developer Training program includes the Community of Practice & 1on1 Technical Assistance. - Racial Distribution of participants: 74% identified as White, 14% Preferred Not to Answer, 5% Black, 4% Multi-Racial, 1% Latino, Native American, or East Indian. - There were 15 welcome meetings, 7 readiness Meetings with HELM, 5 on-going TA awards for 1 on 1 Technical Assistance. - Program Elements in Development: -Mobile App for Community of Practice platform. -Scheduling/planning workshops. -Roll out of pre-development grant program. -Fundraising for pre-development revolving loan fund. -Affinity group development. -On-going one day workshops with IncDev. -Program visioning with collaborating organizations (DHCD, VHFA) Comment: Just love this work. Comment: Would like a copy of this presentation. Question: How does someone get technical assistance? Is there an application process? Response: To access any of the Homes for Small-Scale Developer Programming you submit an intake form where you can opt into the community of practice and/or one on one technical assistance. People can also reach out to Tay directly. - Meeting Break (5mins)

	Emergency Shelter Grants: - $198,350 were distributed in grant funds. Seven Emergency Shelter programs were funded. - $64,726 have been invoiced out of $198,350 in awards and contracted funds. - 2 grantees have completed spend down and submitted final reports to LAOB. - Different Grantees expressed struggled to complete their invoicing, do not have a spend down plan, or are trying to submit proposals before the fiscal year blackout period. - All unspent funds from FY26 will be used to fund future grant initiatives. - Administratively, the process has been clunky with the first LAOB grant program and many lessons learned. - We hope to utilize an automated process in the future to support the full life of our grant, contract, and award offerings. Community Resilience Hub Grants: - $400k were distributed in grants. Eight projects were funded. - Awardees were organizations and entities that were centered in community responsiveness. - Grant award notifications were received by all awards and we're collecting additional information needed to draft agreements. - Our proposal is to redistribute funds from the Secure Housing Coach Program to distribute additional awards up to $50k for additional applicants. Comment: There was a request from board members to get more clarity about what LAOB needs to do to protect its ability to carry forward money. Response: Our CFO and budget analyst have given us recommendations on the best way to present our carry-forward information to Department of Finance and Management. Secure Housing Coach Program: - The goal is to have 3 coaches total; focusing on Direct Case Management and Community of Practice. - Job Postings were created but not yet distributed. - Expected program launch mid-fall 2026. Essential Duties and Responsibilities: - Provide hands-on housing navigation to community members. - Participate in and engage with the overall Secure Housing Coach program.

	- Track, manage data and progress of participants. - Collaborate with staff and partners inside and outside the organization. Question: Where will the secure housing coach position be posted? Who would be the panel of interviewers? Response: It will go through VHCBs job application processes, as well as other job posting channels from our communities. We will receive redacted applications. The panel of interviewers will include staff at the LAOB as well as some folks that work deeply in housing. We are hoping to post the job in July and a hiring process will take place from August through September. Question: Will this position be for one year only or multiple years? Response: The position will be permanent, full-time, and renewable each year. Question: Where will the coaches be? Response: They will be with LAOB staff. 50% of their time will be spent on case management. We have not yet determined what that looks like in the field. Suggestion: As we're contemplating the rollout of these coaches, let's be thinking about how the coordinated entry process plays into the secure housing coach program.
4. Public Comment & Board Responses:	It was really great to listen to and appreciate all the information.
5. ACTION ITEMS	•
6. Meeting Adjourned: 4:15PM	