Land Access and Opportunity Board: Shelter for All

June 11, 2026, 12:00PM-1:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendance:

Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers, VT Chapter

Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Staff: Kiah Morris, Arealles Ortiz, Jean Hamilton

Guests: No members of the public were present.

Not Present:

Mary Gerisch, NAACP Rutland

Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Tentative: Sonali Samarasinghe, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Agenda:

- Check ins: Name, Nominating Organization
- Prompt: Do you collect anything?
- Update & Progress Report on Emergency Shelter Grants
- Public Comment

Minutes:

Zach Hughes makes a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters concerning contract details of grant awards.

Mark Hughes seconds that motion.

All were in favor.

Zach Hughes makes a motion to exit executive session.

Mark Hughes seconded that motion.

All were in favor.

Comment: The emergency shelter grant final reports will be available to our board members via our LAOB.Board secure folder.

H.938 Discussion:

Link Shared: https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/H-0938/H-0938%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf

Comment in the chat: This bill proposes to establish a continuum of support and services to prevent or divert households from homelessness and to address the needs of Vermonters who are homeless.

Comment: This bill is attempting to create a system of care that runs parallel to the current continuum of care. This bill wants to merge Chittenden County Continuum of Care and the Balance of State Continuum of Care without providing evidence of authority to do so. This policy is relevant to this group as we work toward housing for all. Would like to talk about how the LAOB is going to engage with H.938.

Comment: LAOB sits on the steering committee for the statewide housing conference.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1aYpDXmDbx

Is this a place we should be thinking of as an anchor organizing space?

We received a concerning email from someone on that steering committee. They said that there are very limited scholarships available to people who want to join, otherwise the cost to register is $200. They were so limited on scholarships that the people who plan to host the affinity group spaces still have to register.

HHAV is planning to prioritize their attendance dollars to support unhoused community members attending this conference.

Comment: The state has moved forward without changing the tax system and with cutting the budget. So, we may find that people will be asking for more because there are less funds in general. Would like not to be supplementing everything and be selective. We should be giving stipends and scholarships based on need and not identity.

Next Steps:

- Meetings Minutes Review: 4.16.26
- How is LAOB going to engage with H.938.

Meeting Adjourned at 1PM

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz