Land Access and Opportunity Board: Shelter for All

September 17, 2026, 12:00PM-1:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Kiah Morris

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendance:

Susan Aranoff, Vermont DD Council

Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Zach Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

Staff:

Arealles Ortiz

Kiah Morris

Jean Hamilton

Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Guests/Public:

Grey Berreda

Not Present:

Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter

Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Mary Gerisch, NAACP Rutland

Tentative:

Andre Comandon, Office of Racial Equity

Agenda:

-Check ins
-Prompt: What are you looking forward to going into the fall?
-Review 5.28.26 & 6.11.26 DRAFT Minutes
-Secure Housing Program Update
-Public Comment

Minutes:

Review 5.28.26 & 6.11.26:

Zach Hughes makes a motion to approve 5.28.26 & 6.11.26 minutes as presented.
Jaada Longmore seconds that motion.
Susan Aranoff abstains due to absence.
All were in favor.

Secure Housing Program Update:

We will announce 3 hired coaches soon with an October start date.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Provide hands-on housing navigation to community members.
- Participate in and engage with the overall Secure Housing Coach program.
- Track and manage Data and Progress of participants.
- Develop and manage a community of practice for housing navigators statewide.

The secure housing coaches will be working 50% Direct Case Management & 50% Community of Practice.

The community of practice will be made up of a network of folks working in housing navigation. We have contracted consultants who can provide anti-oppressive, justice oriented, subject-specific education on best practices and considerations for effective wrap around support.

The secure housing coaches will be providing educational programming (such as: Fair Housing Act, Ethical Story Collection) and a series of workshops for:

-Unhoused Individuals
-Youth graduating from the Foster Care System
-Individuals with disabilities

-Indigenous Community
-Veterans

Secure Housing Coaches self-directed utilization of expertise will include:

-Case management system surveys and recs
-Housing resource directory advisement
-Data indicator determination/VT Legal Aid
-Program reporting
-REIB Equity Audit in program design
-Advocacy (Testimony)
-Collaboration with VHCB
-Other topics selected by coaches and community of practice members

Question: Is our goal to keep the Secure Housing Coach Program for more than one year?

Response: Yes, the coaches' salaries are built in our base budget.

Question: How will the Continuum of Care be weaved into the Secure Housing Coaches work?

Response: Many of the coaches will weave in all their clients' needs to feel secure in their housing and have the support they need to achieve a sense of place.

Public Comment:

Very interested in the information collecting of this program, how we will be supported in navigating these systems, and meeting individuals where we are.

Also interested in the potential projects we could have to support this and see who else has been doing this as an opportunity to build community and connections.

Response: Want to thank the public for coming in and you all are our guide.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM