

Minutes

HUD Consolidated Plan Advisory Board

April 3, 2023

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

DHCD, 1 National Life Dr
Dean Davis Bldg., 6th Floor Calvin Coolidge Mtg. Room, Montpelier VT
and by virtual Teams Meeting

Board members: Joann Troiano (VT Association of Public Housing Directors, Virtual), Martin Hahn (VT Coalition to end homelessness, virtual), David Riegel (AHS, virtual), Megan Roush (VHFA, virtual), Adam Grinold (BDCC, virtual), Kathleen Berk (VSHA, virtual), Debbie Ingram (VT Interfaith Action, virtual)

Staff: Arthur Hamlin (DHCD, in person), Ann Karlene Kroll (DHCD-Federal Program Director, in person) Nathan Cleveland (VCDP, in person), Ron Rupp (VHCB, in person), Ari Kisler, AHS (virtual)

Public: no one from the public attended in person or virtual/phone

1) Introductions

Arthur opened the State Con Plan Advisory Board meeting at 2:33 p.m. Ron Rupp from VHCB was present. AKK federal programs director at DHCD and Nathan Cleveland CDS w/VCDP were in person with Arthur. Ari Kisler, David Riegel, Megan Roush, Kathleen Berk, Debbie Ingram, Adam Grinold, and Martin Hahn participated virtually.

2) Advisory Board overview

The Advisory Board assists the Department in getting input from a wide range of Vermonters to ensure that the views of low- and moderate-income people, people living in slum and blighted areas and in areas where CDBG, HOME and ESG funds are used have been included in the plan. Its members include representatives of affordable housing developers, agencies for the homeless and persons with disabilities, tenant rights groups, public housing agencies, faith-based groups, seniors, and regional planning and economic development organizations. Julie Curtin provided comments at the public hearing supporting the proposed increase of the CDBG set-aside for SS/HOC funding. Written comments and input can be emailed to Arthur by May 3, 2023.

Notes/Minutes from February 10, 2023 Advisory Board meeting. Arthur asked for clarification about the Land board. The comment was about whether that was an opportunity to help with public outreach to underserved Vermonters.

Program updates (DHCD, VHCB, OEO)

VCDP – increasing the Accessibility Modification Grants (AM) set aside to \$600,000 and increasing the grant size limit from \$100,000 up to \$150,000; increasing the Scattered Site RLF set-aside to 35% ; adding a target/set aside of \$500,000 for projects that support transitional recovery housing that includes wrap around services for individuals being served to supplement the states Recovery Housing Funds for FFY2023. CDBG currently holds three Community Development board meetings annually, considering reducing to only 2 meetings per program year.

ESG – targeting 250 households down from 400 as ESG best fits emergency housing shelter grants. Only about \$700,000 annually.

3) Advisory Board input

The public hearing was held today 4/3/23 at 1:30 p.m. Written comments were provided by HOC's to support increasing the CDBG set-aside from 25% of annual CDBG allocation to 35% of the annual allocation. DHCD will take written comments until May 3, 2023.

Megan Roush; question on data in plan, is it based on the CDBG grants awarded or completed; DHCD – it is based on grants awarded. Did we meet our homeless goal of 25 housing units?

Adam; Commented on pg. 29 allocation priorities – increasing community development projects and decreasing economic development projects. Expected resources included prior to this section identified which funds would go to each priority. Chart of funding allocation priorities shows 25 jobs, in previous section references 30 jobs. Nate Cleveland noted the proposed change is due to other funding sources for economic development. Adam noted that economic development still has limited resources in VT to support development and the RDC provided comment that CDBG is a crucial source to maintain for ED projects to be able to pursue. [DHCD clarification: 30 refers to number of jobs, 25 is percent of funds allocated to the Econ Dev priority]

Martin; can all comments be provided to the Advisory Board. Arthur, we can, and we also provide HUD comments in our plan that is submitted. Does Advisory board weigh in? AKK – not normally our DHCD general counsel crafts DHCD response. Who makes changes based on the comments? It would be great to improve the process to allow board members to weigh in on the public comments prior to changes to the plan being made and submitted to HUD. May be a summer staff retreat topic.

Debbie; funds available to address homelessness and emergency housing. Concern in State budget not enough funding for those living in motels. In the interim can

HUD funds be used. Ari – 5.5M in HOP for emergency shelter grants. ESG support and CDBG can support faith-based organizations through a normal application process.

Megan; HOC's allocation would go from \$2.8M to \$3.5 million; what is the reasoning for the proposed increase? AKK based on the per unit cost and need based on demand for the services/program throughout the state has driven the proposed increase.

AKK; provide comments to the Advisory Board ASAP. Will work to get those out and seek comments from board members.

Next year is an annual action plan update, followed in 2025 by our 5 year plan.

4) Schedule

Feb. 10, 2023:	Advisory Board and Public Hearing
Mar. 14, 2023:	Finish Draft Action Plan
Mar. 17, 2023:	Legal Notice; publish Draft Plan for Comment
April 3, 2023:	Second Public Hearing and Advisory Board meeting
May 3, 2023:	End of 30-day Comment Period
May 17, 2023:	Submit Action Plan to HUD
July 1, 2023:	Program Year Start

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Cleveland, VCDP