

# General Assistance Emergency Housing Task Force

## 7/16/2024 Meeting

### In Attendance

Taskforce Members	Organization/Role	7/16/2024
Shaun Gilpin	Agency of Commerce and Community Development – Appointed by ACCD Commissioner	Absent
Lily Sojourner	Department for Children and Families, Office of Economic Opportunity - Appointed by DCF Commissioner	Present
Miranda Gray	Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division	Present
Elizabeth Gilman	United Way and Vermont 211	Present
Mary Hayden	Appointed by- Long-Term Care Crisis Coalition	Present
Brenda Siegel	Appointed by - Vermont Center for Independent Living	Present
Frank Knaack	Housing and Homeless Alliance of Vermont	Present
Pollaidh Major	Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	Present
Amy Johnson	Vermont Care Partners	Present
Sarah Russell	Experience operating an emergency shelter program	Present
Jubilee McGill	1 Person with lived experience	Present
Shelby Lebaron	1 person with lived experience	Present
Vacant seat	Vermont League of Cities and Towns	vacant

### Notes

The Department for Children and Families' (DCF) Commissioner, Chris Winters, called the meeting to order at 9:06 am with the introduction, going over the open meeting law and selecting co-chairs. Commissioner Winters opened the floor for nominations. Brenda Siegel nominated Jubilee McGill and Sarah Russell which was seconded by Amy Johnson and Frank Knaack. Jubilee McGill and Sarah Russell were unanimously selected as co-chairs.

Jubilee McGill asked the members what they would like to talk about. Most members would like to talk about the General Assistance (GA) Emergency Housing Program and the history of it.

Jubilee McGill would like to propose a different schedule for the meetings and a new schedule will be posted online after the two co-chairs have a chance to discuss new dates.

Decisions will be made by voting for majority/minority. The report might not include language about who voted for what topic, although the report will focus on common recommendations and not individual input from each member.

The members had a chance to review the proposed agenda and made recommendations on moving some of the topics around. Members also would like to add additional topics, such as, notices, disability and accessibility.

Taskforce members discussed having a public comment period set for each meeting. It was agreed to allow public comment at the start of meetings, with a proposal to have extended sessions as decisions approach. Written testimonies and mechanisms for public input were also discussed.

Public comment email to be posted on the website.

Frank Knaack provided an overview of the Point in Time (PIT) count. Link to the presentation: <https://helpingtohousevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-PIT-Report-final.pdf>

Sarah Russell provided information about the coordinated entry system.

Sarah Russell provided an explanation about the definition of homelessness.

Brenda Siegel suggested that the task force connects with a separate committee that includes additional people with lived experience to provide input and information to the task force.

Lily Sojourner shared information about the coordinated entry website and shared this link: <https://icalliances.org/vermont-coordinated-entry-dashboard>. Sarah Russell and David Reigel were able to answer questions and were able to explain the data seen on the website. Members talk about the limitations of coordinated entry and that not everyone who is homeless had a chance to complete the intake. For example, people fleeing domestic violence and people with disabilities.

Sarah Russell also shared the Coordinated Entry data from March from Chittenden County only. Link to shared document: <https://www.cchavt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CE-Data-1.pdf>

David Reigel suggested that the task force looks at what data is available and what it should look like and what would be helpful to have.

Polliard Major shared that Vermont Housing and Conservation Board is also looking to use the coordinated entry system.

Any documentation and information that needs to be posted online will be shared with the co-chairs and they will coordinate with DCF to post.

Shelby LeBarron shared her experience of being homeless and the assistance she received from the GA Program.

Next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9-11am.