

**Letter of Understanding
Between
the Vermont Department of Children and Families
and
the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness**

This letter of understanding is between:

The Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF), Family Services Division, is the Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) that has care, custody, and responsibility for children in foster care and is responsible for the provision of services and supports to youth who have left foster care after age 18 to 21. Vermont has an integrated system of child welfare and juvenile justice and the DCF Family Services Division has responsibility for at-risk youth, youth on juvenile probation and youthful offenders.

And

The Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH), as the primary decision-making body for the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Purpose: This letter formalizes the agreement between the VCEH and DCF to collaborate on the Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care's planning and implementation of a comprehensive community response to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults throughout the state of Vermont. This letter further recognizes the shared goal of preventing and reducing homelessness among foster care and juvenile justice involved youth and transition age youth who are at high risk of homelessness, and a commitment to identify strategies and reduce barriers to do so.

Roles: VCEH has formed a Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee (YHPPC) comprised of youth serving public agencies and youth serving providers to spearhead the development and implementation of a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness. VCEH maintains membership on the Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee (YHPPC) and is applying, through its collaborative applicant, for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) for funding and technical assistance to support this planning and implementation.

DCF has agreed to be a member of the Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee (YHPPC) and has designated the DCF Director of Policy and Planning and the DCF Housing Program Officer to participate in YHPPC meetings and planning. The DCF Director of Policy and Planning will also serve as Co-Chair of the YHPPC. Both staff have been involved in the development of the State's application for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.

DCF contracts with the following entities who will also participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program by serving on the YHPPC and participating in the planning and implementation of a comprehensive community response to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults in Vermont:

1. Vermont's network of Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs which promote stable housing, social & emotional well-being, permanent connections and education & employment to at-risk youth ages 12-23.
2. The Youth Development Program (YDP) which supports current and former DCF foster youth ages 14-22. YDP assist youth to achieve safety, well-being, permanency, and self-sufficiency skills as they transition from custody to young adulthood and independent community settings.
3. Vermont's network of Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Programs for youth at-risk or involved with Vermont's juvenile justice system which provides restorative services that focus on accountability, case management and skill building for the youth they serve.

A RHY Program staff member will serve on the YHPPC and act as a liaison between YHPPC and the 12 RHY programs throughout the state.

YDP's Youth Engagement Coordinator will serve on the YHPPC and act as a liaison between YHPPC and the 12 Youth Development Programs throughout the state.

A BARJ Program staff member will serve on the YHPPC and act as a liaison between YHPPC and the 12 BARJ programs throughout the state.

This letter of understanding will begin March 2, 2018 and continue until one or both parties choose to terminate it and may be amended at any time with the mutual consent of both parties.

For the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness	For the VT Department of Children and Families
Name: <u>Josh Davis</u>	Name: <u>Ken Schatz</u>
Title: <u>Co-Chair</u>	Title: <u>PCF Commissioner</u>
Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>
Name: <u>Pete Kellerman</u>	
Title: <u>Co-Chair</u>	
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