

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Agenda

Thursday, May 30, 2024 6:00 PM

Hartford Town Hall, Room 2

171 Bridge Street, WRJ

You also may attend this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 226 931 007 314

Passcode: yLyY4W

Dial in by phone

[+1 802-377-3677,,167292572#](#) United States, Middlebury

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 167 292 572#

If you cannot access the meeting notice electronically prior to 5:00 on the day of the meeting, please e-mail dtaylor@hartford-vt.org or call 802-295-3075. If you are having difficulty connecting to the meeting electronically, please use the call-in number for the meeting link listed above.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. HCHH Member to do Meeting Minutes
3. Review Order of Agenda
4. Approve April 11, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. Continue Discussion on Hartford Rental Registry - Inviting Deb Colt, Landlord Liaison from UV Haven, to June Meeting
7. Participation on June 27th-29th Housing Insecurity Workshops (see attached)
8. Continue to discuss solutions for the unhoused community - New HCRS fund to prevent homelessness.
9. Home Creators Expo - June 1st at HACTC
10. Update on Town Website Page on Housing
11. News from Committee Members
12. Adjourn Meeting

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness
April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

Attendance:

Members present: John Haffner (Chair), Nancy Trottier, Jen Kravitz, Brandon Smith (Selectboard Liaison), Maggie Burnett, Lori Hirshfield (Staff)

Members absent: Dan Nott

1. Call Meeting to Order

John Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:15PM and read the script regarding the meeting being hybrid with in-person and remote access.

2. HCHH Member to do Meeting Minutes

Maggie Burnett offered to do minutes for this meeting.

3. Review Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of items on the meeting agenda.

4. Approve March 28, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 28, 2024 HCHH Meeting were amended. Jen Kravitz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Nancy Trottier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. HomeShare Public Information Session at Bugbee Senior Center on May 8th

The HomeShare Vermont informational presentation will be held at the Bugbee Senior Center on Wednesday, May 8 at 1PM. Members of HCHH are responsible for promoting the event. Lori Hirshfield passed out hard copies of the event flyer which is also available electronically. Jen Kravitz agreed to deliver flyers to business locations not already covered by the Town Office. Lori will check into promoting the event at the April 15th town voting location.

7. Discussion on Hartford Rental Registry

Creation of a Rental Registry for Hartford was discussed. Reasons for a registry include:

- Providing information for residents looking for rental properties
- Monitoring and compiling all rental information in one place
- Creating data needed for grants and development
- Housing Safety

Other Upper Valley towns have registries (Hanover, Woodstock specifically). HCHH could reach out to see how data was obtained. Nancy asked how it would be maintained and kept current. Lori Hirshfield acknowledged the lack of clarity around short/long term rentals and how this could impact data. Brandon Smith mentioned the need for regulation and compliance. Jen Kravitz and Lori recognized the importance of building partnerships with landlords. Lori also stated that the Town may already have some of the needed information about which properties are rental and the registry could be completed by filling in the gaps.

It was determined that the Committee would continue to consider the objectives for a rental registry. John Haffner will reach out to The Haven to ascertain what information they have on rental properties in Hartford. Lori will investigate current data collection in downtown WRJ and determine if it can provide a jumping off point for a rental registry.

8. Housing Development Program Update/Home Creators Expo - June 1st at HACTC

John Haffner reported that the event will be from 10:00 Am to 3:00 PM at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center. Vendors are signing up to participate in one of three ways:

- Information tables
- Workshops
- One-on-one consultations

More information will be circulating next week.

9. Town Plan Housing Chapter Update

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

10. Town Plan Economic Development Update

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

11. Continue to discuss solutions for the unhoused community (e.g., RV ordinance and other recommendations from Hartford Ad-hoc Committee on Emergency Shelters)

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

12. Update on Town Website Page on Housing

Due to time constraints, tabled until May.

13. News from Committee Members

John Haffner announced that he will be attending the American Planning Association Annual Conference and will report back to the Committee. Lori Hirshfield announced the Hartford Community Coalition's Annual Block Party is scheduled for June 19, 2024. HCHH will participate at the event.

14. Adjourn Meeting

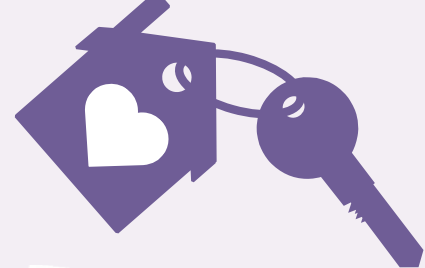
Jen Kravitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Brandon Smith seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:30PM.

Committee Members as of 11/16/2023

John Haffner, Chair (through 12/12/2024)
Jennifer Kravitz, Vice Chair (through 4/03/2025)
Dan Nott (through 11/28/2024)
Nancy Trottier (through 9/18/2025)
Maggie Burnett (through 12/11/2025)
Brandon Smith, Selectboard Liaison
Vacant Position
Lori Hirshfield, Staff

HOUSING INSECURITY

in our community



A TELLING MY STORY WORKSHOP

Who

Community members who are experiencing or have experienced housing insecurity and community members interested in or working on this matter

When

June 27 5:30-8:30PM

June 28 5:30-8:30PM

June 29 10AM-9PM

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE June 29 6:30PM

Where

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
Upper Valley, 320 US-5, Norwich, VT

SIGN UP



tellingmystorymedia@gmail.com



**Free to participate & food provided
Stipends available for those in need**

Telling My Story workshops are aimed at having participants reclaim their voice, explore privilege, and build community through use of the creative and expressive arts.

On May 23, 2024 at 7:57 AM -0400, Lori Hirshfield <lhirshfield@hartford-vt.org>, wrote:

Hi Marta,

I'm on leave right now but want to get back to you. I will forward this to the Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness and put on the agenda for the Committee's May 30th meeting. Hopefully a few can participate. I also need to review my schedule.

When are you looking to confirm participants?

From: marta@academyforchange.org <marta@academyforchange.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 5:51 PM

To: Lori Hirshfield <lhirshfield@hartford-vt.org>

Cc: Pati Hernandez <hernandez.pati@gmail.com>; idajane@gmail.com

Subject: Housing Insecurity Program

You don't often get email from marta@academyforchange.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Lori,

Pati Hernandez and I would love to invite you to our upcoming program on Housing Insecurity in the Upper Valley, a Telling My Story workshop on June 27-29. Ida Griesemer, a shared connection via Pati, kindly thought you might be interested in the workshop and we would be delighted to have you!

Please find more information in our invitation letter below and in the attached flyer. We sincerely hope you can join us,

Marta and Pati

Marta Ceroni PhD (she/her)

Telling My Story Facilitator (former Interim Executive Director)

[Academy for Systems Change](#) Co-Director

802 881 5345 (cell)

Dear Lori,

Our team at Telling My Story warmly invites you to participate in the workshop **"Housing Insecurity in Our Community" on June 27-28-29, 2024** at

the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich**, Vermont (see attached flyer). A Telling My Story program uses story-telling and the arts to build trust across differences as a means to achieve the engagement and genuine connection that can lead to shared responsibility for personal healing, social justice and systemic change.

In October 2023 we ran a similarly focused workshop in Norwich, VT. That process led us to connect with a number of nonprofits in the Upper Valley engaged in supporting housing-insecure community members. We also heard from workshop participants that for this program to have a deeper impact we needed to make our circle bigger and include organizational staff, funders, local government officials and other community members working on this issue in the Upper Valley and surrounding communities.

We aim to provide a space where housing-insecure community members and community members working on this issue can come together outside of their daily lives as equals and find ways to connect and experience each other's and their own humanity. The professional terminology "housing insecurity" contains a whole continuum of life experiences that too often get pushed to the side to focus on the technical, planning, and regulatory aspects of the problem. The focus on problem-solving leaves the people most affected feeling that they are the problem and that their voices don't count. In the October workshop some of our participants in transitional housing wrote "We want to be the solution, not the problem".

Our operating hypothesis is that when we center our own humanity, a different quality of relationships is possible, which can humanize decision-making and give rise to different ways of thinking towards more resilient, imaginative, and loving communities.

We hope you can join us,

Pati & Marta

Pati Hernandez, Telling My Story Founder and Program Lead Facilitator
Marta Ceroni, Telling My Story Program Facilitator

WORKSHOP LOCATION

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley -320 US-5, Norwich, VT

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- > Thursday, June 27th from 5:30 to 8:30pm
- > Friday, June 28th from 5:30 to 8:30pm
- > Saturday, June 29th all day:
 - o > 10am to 1pm morning workshop
 - o > 1 to 2pm community potluck lunch
 - o > 2 to 5pm afternoon workshop

- o > 5 to 6pm community dinner
- o > 6:30 to 8pm public presentation

PARTICIPATION

We understand that you are a busy professional balancing multiple dimensions of your life and service and we hope you will commit to the whole program, i.e. two evenings (Thursday and Friday) and a full day (Saturday). If this is not possible at this time, we would love to see you at the **public presentation on June 29 at 6:30pm at the Norwich Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley**. The presentation is an opportunity for all participants to practice visibility and voice through multiple expressive forms and personal and collective testimonials. A meaningful conversation between participants and the audience follows.

Our programs are free to all. In addition we offer stipends for participants in need. If you have the ability to support this work, we welcome your organizational/personal contribution or sponsorship in the range of \$50 to \$300 via a check to Telling My Story, PO Box 794, Wilder, Vermont 05088 before or during the workshop.

OUR APPROACH

By working to facilitate the self-empowerment of silenced voices, TMS programs bring grit and resilience to marginalized individuals and communities, highlighting the possibilities for real change through both unexpected sources of leadership and unanticipated alliances of groups that have previously seen each other as “others.” Telling My Story exposes the power, value and beauty we can all find in imperfection and vulnerability. By finding this beauty, individuals find voice, love of self, and build stronger, more love-based communities. As we create microcosms of society in our spaces, engaging across differences, we acknowledge the importance of having multiple voices and of recognizing power differentials around any given issue or topic. Everyone participating in a Telling My Story program can experience being seen, valued, and heard, no matter their background.

Detailed program

description https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r9OvpKRP1JAyhuMG0cLf0L5ZXy_CeWBObzla9JP8h6w/edit?usp=sharing

Registrations

https://us01.l.antigena.com/l/1ZujscrVT7Av85_cWVMt8BaJ3CPFCLS1AVNEc7zyX_RgqteYWLvM~LfiXh8ModoU_Bi-nT3W2XPvzNF82Fz~58kjrTSIPr_YMjCCE8O0N7TBibF01VzEBKGV4G6OVdrPxraEQZLQAkzU1SbZnXgOKCFssBo4yUR2HheO-t

Get a feel for the workshop in this 2min video

https://us01.l.antigena.com/l/iP4cjkFm86yl-R9UuC3o75DTHPTM~pLIPu~zpLNi5PFw9-7cMfCmL_B8PG0IT5rVOPlarGaMOcmHVYyeKssQdGEP_-RaYEWxfU7KjFYBOwTOBR4Q7wg8lqC4nunLLhd8X0Rj36viELKuACrii5KDDMF Cabjz5_VqmrrlFG6vHAX5w8gPKsvVuwDACqN0dVVV3f~xea9yVL2xFSVSrolvWZ

Please note that any response or reply to this electronic message may be subject to disclosure as a public record under the Vermont Public Records Act.