

2017 – February 1st – Testimony in House Human Services (11:45 – Noon)

Governor’s SFY ’18 Budget Recommend (AHS Housing Programs)

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Good Morning. My Name is Angus Chaney. I’m the Housing Director for the state’s Agency of Human Services.

The Agency of Human Services strives to improve the health and wellbeing of Vermonters today and tomorrow and to protect those among us who are unable to protect themselves.

All AHS departments recognize the value of stable housing in the lives of the people we serve. Addressing the housing needs of Vermonters today and tomorrow requires options ranging from prevention strategies, emergency responses, and transitional programs, to longer-term housing solutions (such as supportive services, rental subsidies, and greater access to housing). Our departments provide housing services directly and through partnerships with dozens of local non-profit organizations in all regions of Vermont.

I - Agency Overview – 2016 Outcomes [*Handout*]

II – Budget Ups and Downs (in the FY18 budget as changes to the FY17 As Passed)

1. DCF: \$324K to Family Supportive Housing

a. Family Supportive Housing (FSH) has gone from 3 to 5 to 7 sites. The program is currently funded through a blend of General Fund and Medicaid. The figure is an estimate of the federal Medicaid portion drawn in for eligible services. Expansion currently on hold.

2. DOC: 200k reduction to Transitional Housing grants. A review is being done to cancel grants with lowest utilization and/or to consolidate in order to achieve this savings.

- a. DOC identified a 6-bed project in Lamoille which it will not renew as of July 2017. (\$90k)
- b. Moved 6 Phoenix house beds in Burlington from DOC to DMH (20 down to 14) (\$100k)
- c. Chester – moving to scattered site model (\$10k).

3. DOC: 100k reduction COSA film. Contract is currently being drafted, but project will be put on hold. (this was the GF portion)

III – Interconnectedness of Budgets - Roadmap Report – Three legs of the stool: Units, Subsidy, Services

- Impact of the budgets on Vermonters;
 - The ups and downs around housing in AHS ’18 recommend budget are in the correct areas and I do not anticipate them posing hardship for the Vermonters we serve.
- The outlook for Federal funds is much harder to predict.
 - Concerns about impacts to federal non-defense discretionary funding next year.
 - Concerns about immediate impacts of continuing resolutions. One of the most significant is outside our agency, Section 8, but is impacting Vermonters now.
- Currently, approximately 11% of AHS funding spent on housing or housing-related supports is federal (per the ACT 142 Report \$2.5M of \$23M - This does not include Weatherization or Pathways.)