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March 22, 2018

Tiny Houses

Several months ago, Savi VanSluytman, Executive Director of Lamoille Mental Health Services, and Mary Moulton met with Brian Smith at the Department of Mental Health to discuss steps that might be taken to find money for a potential tiny house project in our respective regions. They were successful in securing a grant from the Vermont Housing Conservation Board after meeting with them to share a vision of developing a tiny house model. To advance the idea, the respective community housing and development agencies joined the discussion. In Washington County that is Downstreet and Eileen Peltier began the work of locating a lot that was highly accessible to services. Our goal was to offer a unique housing option to people who are potentially extremely hard to house and provide supports to assist the person to succeed:

- Be an efficient, cost-effective model
- Attractive, durable
- Location of a lot for 2-4 dwellings
- Approximately 400 square feet
- Seek funding through VHCB for the project
- Seeking Shelter plus Care of other financial housing support for this long term housing arrangement
- At least one unit for a youth in transition, if possible

We further sought a partner to develop plans and are currently working with Norwich University School of Architecture to complete plans and seek a builder. Of course, key to completion is a successful application before the VHCB and approval of the lot for siting. We will seek this grant and permits this summer and hope we will then begin a successful tiny house model to assist in ending homelessness in Vermont through key partnerships in our community.