



## UTAH HOMELESSNESS COUNCIL (UHC)

### AGENDA

November 9, 2023, 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Hybrid (Virtual and in person)

140 E. 300 S., SLC, UT 84111

Room 211A and B

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/87853722092>

### DRAFT MINUTES

12:30	1. Welcome and Introductions	Wayne Niederhauser
12:35	2. Roll Call - Roll call was taken. - Quorum was present. a. Committee Members Present: Wayne Niederhauser, Whitney Clayton, Tiffany Price, Bonnie Kier-Herrick, Randy Shumway, Mayor Jenny Wilson, Mayor Cherie Wood, Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Mayor Michelle Randall, Mayor Stevenson, Tracy Gruber, Emily Willis DBA Sophia DiCaro, Nate McDonald DBA Casey Cameron, Rebecca Brown DBA Brian Redd, Sydnee Dickson, Karen McCandless, Carol Hollowell, Jennifer Campbell, Heather Hogue, and Stefanie Jones. Representative Steve Eliason joined after roll call.	Tricia Davis
12:40	3. Approval of Minutes ‡* a. September 21 <sup>st</sup> 2023 <a href="https://secure.utah.gov/pmn-admin/files/1035359.pdf">https://secure.utah.gov/pmn-admin/files/1035359.pdf</a>  SUMMARY - Whitney Clayton called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2023. Wayne Niederhauser motioned to approve the minutes. Heather Hogue seconded. No further discussion was had and the motion passed unanimously. b. October 12 <sup>th</sup> 2023 <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1035493.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1035493.pdf</a>  SUMMARY - Whitney Clayton called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2023. Heather Hogue motioned. Bonnie Kier-Herrick seconded. No further discussion was had and the motion passed unanimously.	Whitney Clayton
12:45	4. Homelessness Coordinator a. State Strategic Plan i. Implementation Committee ii. Media Campaign iii. Reporting to Governor's Office iv. LHC Strategic Plan Alignment Progress  SUMMARY - State Homelessness Coordinator Wayne Niederhauser discussed the outcomes of the press conference with the Governor Cox, Mayors of Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City, and the Utah Impact Partnership on November 9, 2023 about efforts to provide shelter and housing. Wayne also spoke about the need to focus as a state on prevention in alignment with the Strategic Plan. Wayne discussed the upcoming microshelter project in	Wayne Niederhauser  Peggy Green

collaboration with Salt Lake City. Units are on site at a Salt Lake City owned property to provide shelter to 50 individuals. OHS in process to find an operator with the goal to begin operation at that site in December. OHS is hoping to move and expand microshelter at a different, state owned property beginning operations in the spring or early summer. The Medically Vulnerable Population (MVP) non-congregate shelter facility was approved unanimously by the Sandy City Council. Expressed appreciation to the city and providers. This will provide up to 165 additional beds in Salt Lake County for winter and ongoing shelter. Next, Wayne discussed the upcoming legislative session. Expect to have a finalized budget proposal from the Governor on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Wayne is hopeful homelessness response will be one of the Governor's priorities. The Utah Homeless Network unanimously approved a new funding formula presented by OHS for the upcoming request for grant application process for State Homelessness Funding. This will provide more equitable distribution across the state. As part of implementation of the state's strategic plan, a new media campaign that is currently underway in partnership with the Utah Impact Partnership, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and R&R Partners to raise awareness and address misconceptions about homelessness. Wayne also spoke of the need to get convene an implementation committee charged with overseeing efforts around the strategic plan. Some appointments to that committee have been made, but gaps remain in order for it to begin working.

- Peggy Green reported on OHS' weekly reports to the Governor's Office on the implementation of the strategic plan as part of the Utah Home initiative. OHS is reporting on creating three committees under the direction of the strategic plan implementation committee: a health care committee attached to goal 2, prevention and discharge committee attached to goal 3, and cross system initiatives committee attached to goal five. Leadership for the committees will be assigned by the implementation committee
- OHS has conducted learning sessions on each of the goals in the strategic plan for all interested in attending. Wrapping up with a session on goal 5 and a session specific to rural Utah and the Balance of State in the next month. LHCs will report to the UHC on plan implementation through their quarterly reports.

1:15

- 5. Code Blue Update
  - a. OHS and DHHS Collaboration
  - b. LHC Implementation Progress

Tricia Davis  
Peggy Green

**SUMMARY**

- Tricia Davis discussed Code Blue updates and how the OHS is working with DHHS on the administration rules that will be changing per the lessons learned from the first few weeks since code blue has been in effect. Under current rule, temperature was being provided by the National Weather Service and determinations for a county were being made off of broad coverage of the county. After discussion with DHHS, it is proposed to change to focus weather data collection on population centers in a county. Population centers are defined by population based on county class as follows
  - For Counties of the First Class: Municipalities of 50,000 or higher
  - For Counties of the Second Class: Municipalities of 15,000 or higher

	<p>For Counties of the Third Class: Municipalities of 2,500 or higher  For Counties of the Fourth Class: Municipalities of 1,500 or higher  Code Blue declarations would still be for the county as a whole, but that declaration would be based on data collected by the National Weather Services from the centers of the municipalities defined above.  Representative Eliason, the sponsor of the bill that established code blue, said these updates reflected the legislative intent, which was not to base declarations on sparsely populated areas. The Utah Homelessness Network all support these proposed changes. DHHS stated an emergency rule change will be made as soon as possible to reflect these changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peggy Green spoke about the implementation of Code Blue within each LHC. OHS is coordinating with LHC leadership with focus on counties of the First through Fourth Class, but open to all who are interested. OHS has been involved in answering questions, visiting LHCs, and supporting communities as they navigate this new ordinance. Code Blue is sparking conversation and coordination across communities. OHS will be releasing a shared Q&amp;A document to communities to share best practices and experiences across the state. There is an alert on the <a href="http://endutahhomelessness.org">endutahhomelessness.org</a> website directing people to resource maps and information statewide for any in need of help and direction to resources. OHS has also provided contact information for each LHC to DHHS to include in Code Blue declarations.</li> </ul>	
1:30	<p>6. Council and Executive Committee Follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FY23 Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Annual Reporting Follow-up ‡</li> <li>b. Salt Lake County Resource Center Bed Capacity</li> </ul> <p>SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During the October 12, 2023 UHC Executive Committee meeting, it was asked that there be additional presentations by cities and providers on service providers on the public safety projects being funded with Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Funding. Presenters from Salt Lake City and South Salt Lake were prepared to speak on efforts connected to the Geraldine King Resource Center, Gail Miller Resource Center, and Pamela Atkinson Resource Center.</li> <li>- SFY2024 Funding levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of South Salt Lake – \$3,012,975 in public safety funding; \$100,006 for client services and neighborhood and community programs</li> <li>Salt Lake City – \$2,326,998 in public safety funding; 780,203 for client services and neighborhood and community programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Sergeant Ryan Sanders from SLCPD and Amanda Christensen from Volunteers of America, Utah presented on efforts around the Geraldine King Resource Center. Sergeant Sanders team began operating in July and reported success in addressing crimes around the shelter and in Tauffer Park such as drug dealing, illegal camping, and those preying on people experiencing homelessness. Amanda spoke to the positive impacts of having the team in the area and improved coordination between staff and police. Sergeant Sanders also mentioned challenges related to lack of jail space for those committing non-violent crimes. Both spoke to challenges including gaps in the times the team is available and access to appropriate housing and supportive services for those experiencing homelessness.</li> <li>- Randy Shumway asked for more information on how drug cases and others involving people preying on the homeless are handled and if these individuals are released or held in jail. Sergeant Sanders spoke to what he</li> </ul>	<p>Kellie Koester</p> <p>Katie Zimmerman</p>

knew about specific cases he mentioned.

- Representative Eliason asked about enforcement of pedestrian safety amendments. Sergeant Sanders said they are not under orders to not enforce the law, but that it would be a lower priority offense that may not be prioritized over other enforcement unless a call was received about that activity. Representative Eliason said that going forward he would like OHS to collect data on enforcement for homeless shelter cities mitigation funding recipients.
- Tiffanie Price asked about coordination between enforcement and shelter staff to address issues off property that may be caused by clients of the shelter. She also asked about enforcement of quiet hours. Amanda stated quiet hours are enforced and spoke to coordination between police, first responders, and local business to address high utilizers and other concerns as they arise related to clients.
- Mayor Wilson spoke to jail processes for determining release when needed for SL Co jails.
- Wayne Niederhauser asked about response to those experiencing mental health crises and when police are called as opposed to MCOT teams. Amanda said MCOT is called for mental health unless there is a physical danger to others involved. Amanda said MCOT teams are helpful, but face limits at times in ability to respond and connect clients with mental health facilities. Sergeant Sanders also spoke to difficulties in connecting people to mental health resources.
- Tiffanie Price asked how incidents of mental health crisis are tracked at the individual level. Sergeant Sanders said it is tracked by SLCPD and responded to in coordination with social workers. Amanda said VOA also tracks calls to MCOT teams.
- Sergeant Nathan Meinzer from Salt Lake City Police Department and Mike Young from The Road Home presented from the Gail Miller Resource Center. Sergeant spoke about community engagement events that built trust with clients and the local community. Mike spoke to building trust and changing perception of police as a resource rather than just an enforcement body. Both spoke to collaboration around high utilizers and those with higher needs. The Sergeant spoke of community acknowledgement coin that rewards clients for engaging positively with the community and how it helps humanize and individualize those experiencing homelessness. SLCPD shared statistics on engagement and enforcement. Mike Young spoke as to the new strength of the partnership with SLCPD and increased collaboration to address issues where each has appropriate jurisdiction. SLCPD's engagement with local business has provided more feedback to the provider to inform their efforts. Challenges presented included the lack of housing, shelter, and supportive services including behavioral and mental health, particularly for those that do not qualify for commitment or other resources. SLCPD also spoke to challenges around providing a consistent presence.
- Wayne Niederhauser asked under what conditions people are not allowed in the resource center and what happens to those people. Mike Young spoke to the exit protocol developed by the SLVCEH and implemented at the PARC, which primary focuses on violence and physical risks. They collaborate with partners including law enforcement to try to keep those people moving toward positive outcomes.
- Tiffanie Price asked for more data from the police department about impacts on crime. Sergeant Meinzer shared data on contacts with local businesses and the changes in calls and other efforts in the forty days following the

team becoming operational compared to the 40 days prior and the positive trends being seen in the area.

- Tracy Gruber asked how many people are being transported to Huntsman Mental Health Center and LDS Hospital Mental Health Beds. Sergeant Meinzer spoke to difficulty in persuading people to go when they do not rise to the level of involuntary commitment, but that they do transport people when they ask or when the person is committed through legal processes. Tracy asked for clarification on what qualifies for involuntary commitment. Sergeant Meinzer clarified it requires intent to harm yourself or others and the means to carry that plan out.
- Sergeant Cody Coggle from South Salt Lake Police Department and Sarah Strang from The Road Home presented from the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center. Sergeant Coggle spoke to the number of calls around the facility and how they increased in years with expanded winter response beds. Most crimes tend to involve both victims and perpetrators experiencing homelessness. Sarah spoke to increasing trust and collaboration between police, staff, and clients. Weekly collaboration meetings are held and daily coordination takes place. Both spoke need for mental health supports and services. The Road Home and SSLCPD collaborated to apply for grants and hire a crisis clinician who works closely with PD and shelter staff to address mental health needs. Also collaborating around community court needs and court diversion efforts. Challenges include the lack of affordable and permanent supportive housing, lack of supportive services, particularly addressing mental health. SSLPD also mentioned the need for additional training and pivoting to understanding the needs of families with a new facility coming soon.
- Wayne Niederhauser asked if the current standard for commitment limits the ability to respond to mental health crisis. Police departments said there are not enough resources to meet the needs of the current standard.
- Representative Eliason spoke about resources available at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute for those in crisis and that are not yet full.
- Each presented reported data on the shelter outcomes since receiving Mitigation funding. A common theme among all of the presenters was the benefits of collaboration and the need for increased deeply affordable housing.
  
- Katie Zimmerman, Salt Lake County, program coordinator for the Continuum of Care, discussed Salt Lake County bed management processes for the three homeless resources serving single adults, The Geraldine E. King Resource Center, the Gail Miller Resource Center, and the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center.

Presentation:

“When talking about bed management and utilization in this presentation, I will be referring exclusively to the 3 single adult HRCs; The Geraldine E. King Resource Center, the Gail Miller Resource Center, and the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center. Each of these Resource Centers are fully licensed by the State of Utah and compliant with their contracts. They are each monitored and audited each year by both outside and inside entities and are committed to the best utilization of their resources and the highest standards of data quality.

The HRC bed management process is regularly reviewed and updated in order to be responsive to both feedback and changing community factors. The most recent update occurred on July 1st, to better address guest needs and create a safe space for people experiencing homelessness to access the resources they need to find stable housing and end their experience of homelessness. The new process is to assign beds with a 24 hour reservation, beginning each day at 9 am. Each night between 12:00 am and 4:00 am, HRC staff conduct 3 random bed checks. If the same bed is empty for at least 2 of those bed checks, then the bed is listed as open and is reassigned the next morning at 9:00 am. If a client has verified (through a verification process) with staff that they work at night, then their bed will not be reassigned if they are not in it during the bed checks. If a bed is occupied during those bed checks, then that bed is counted as used and reported in the HRC utilization numbers. During the last 2 months, the GMRC reported an average of 3 beds (1.5%) unused overnight. Likewise, PARC reported 5.7 beds (1.9%) and GEK reported 4 beds (2%). Utah Community Action manages our CoC's coordinated intake process and bed assignment system. This was implemented in an effort to have an independent agency uphold efficient and equitable processes in our CoC's homeless response system.

All three of the single adult HRCs in Salt Lake County operate on a 24-hour shelter model. Thus, a bed reservation is also 24 hours long. This 24-hour bed reservation method was a well thought out, informed, and collaborative process. HRC operators and partners consulted with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and current guests to inform the new bed reservation process. It has been shown to be trauma-informed and efficient. The HRC bed management system seeks to be person-centered and accommodating, to the degree that we can, to the individual needs of persons experiencing homelessness. This new process brings more clarity and simplification to staff, clients, and the community at large. Guests now know when any open beds will be assigned. This greatly decreases the uncertainty of when and where to seek a bed. It allows staff to devote more time to delivering supportive services and other HRC functions. The clients feel more secure knowing that they can leave the HRC to go to work, or go to an appointment, and know that they can return to the same bed that they left within the 24-hour time period.

Bed utilization numbers are reported by the HRC operators and Utah Community Action, the coordinated intake agency for our CoC, and the agency hired by the state to be in charge of bed assignment and management. These numbers are reported to the HMIS data team with OHS who conduct annual audits and monitorings to ensure data quality. The HRCs are also subject to monitoring and dozens of audits each year to ensure responsible utilization of resources and data quality. All of these agencies are committed to transparency.

The Salt Lake County Continuum of Care, also known as the Salt Lake Local Homeless Council (LHC), and the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, trusts the data that the HRC operators and UCA have reported and that OHS has verified. The CoC is confident that the current bed management system is trauma informed and the best model for our current operations. We acknowledge the need for more capacity for people seeking shelter and encourage and support adding more options to our system.

In reference to the previous meeting's motion, the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to

	<p>End Homelessness recommends that each of the CoCs establish a process to independently monitor bed utilization numbers within their own homeless services systems, and report on their findings in their quarterly reports to the UHC.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tiffanie Price asked for clarification on how often the CoCs will verify bed counts. Katie clarified that the SLVCEH is suggesting each CoC develop their own process and report back to the UHC through their quarterly reports.</li> <li>- Request from Randy Shumway to clarify prior motions and requests as outlined in final summary below. Today was helpful in evaluating the HRC system in SL County. OHS follow-up on motions in next UHC meeting.</li> <li>- There was an online public question about the current capacity of the Midvale Family Resource Center. That facility was at full capacity.</li> </ul> <p>OHS ACTION ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative Steve Eliason discussed the pedestrian safety amendments ordinance. They requested the OHS gather data on shelter cities enforcing this ordinance to better understand the system level capacity.</li> </ul>	
2:45	<p>7. Utah Homeless Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Co-Chair Updates</li> <li>b. Homelessness Conference Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank you for everyone’s contributions!</li> <li>2024 Homelessness Conference – Fall Date TBD</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heather Hogue indicated that there were no updates from the UHN that had not already been reported on.</li> <li>- Tricia Davis thanked everyone for their participation in the 2024 Homelessness Conference. Tricia also mentioned that the OHS is planning on having the 2025 Homelessness Conference next fall.</li> <li>- Carol Hollowell requested that they were unable to attend the 2023 Homelessness Conference because it was held so close to Winter Overflow beginning. Carol requested that the Winter Overflow planning process is considered when setting a 2024 conference date.</li> <li>- Carol Hollowell discussed the Tooele Harris Community Village open house which will include both housing and shelter. Carol requested that OHS disseminate information about this to the Council</li> </ul>	<p>Heather Hogue/Stefanie Jones</p> <p>Tricia Davis</p>
3:00	<p>SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Randy Shumway requested that they OHS follows up with the Council in the next UHC meeting on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Define what “enforcement of unsanctioned camping” means, how it will be measured, and how it will be monitored and reported</li> <li>o Define which shelters in the County will be considered when determining full capacity</li> <li>o Independently verify that accurate numbers are being reported by each shelter and that accurate processes of counting are being followed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Tricia Davis and Joseph Jensen from OHS shared that they have been working on these items and will have them prepared for the next meet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whitney Clayton called for a motion to approve. Heather Hogue motioned. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	<p>Whitney Clayton</p>

	Adjourn	
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\* Needs approval

# Has corresponding document