

Utah Homeless Network - Utah Homeless Services Board Member

H.B. 298 was passed in the 2024 general session that created the new Utah Homeless Services Board (UHSB). The UHSB will replace the Utah Homelessness Council (UHC).

According to the legislation, the Utah Homeless Network is responsible for appointing one (1) member to the UHSB. The member will be chosen from the Utah Homeless Network Steering Committee.

Utah Code 35A-16-204. Utah Homeless Services Board.

1. a representative, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives
2. a representative, appointed by the president of the Senate
3. a representative appointed by the governor
4. a representative, appointed by the governor
5. a statewide philanthropic leader, appointed by the Utah Impact Partnership
6. the mayor of Salt Lake City
7. the chief executive officer appointed by the Shelter Cities Advisory Council (SCAC)
 - a. The following cities on the SCAC will select one of its members: Ogden, South Salt Lake, Midvale, Sandy, St. George, Logan, Cedar City, Richfield
8. an elected official appointed by the Utah Association of Counties
9. a county employee who oversees behavioral health, appointed by the Utah Association of Counties
10. an individual who represents the Utah Homeless Network
11. the coordinator

35A-16-205. Duties of the Board.

1. In cooperation with the coordinator, update the statewide budget and the strategic plan on an annual basis. The homelessness council board shall provide final approval for:
 - a. the homeless services budget;
 - b. the strategic plan; and
 - c. the awarding of funding for the provision of homeless services as described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(d);
2. In cooperation with the coordinator, shall:
 - a. develop and maintain the homeless services budget;
 - b. develop and maintain the strategic plan; and
 - c. review applications and approve funding for the provision of homeless services in the state as described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(d);
3. Shall review local and regional plans for providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness;
4. Shall cooperate with local homeless councils to:

- a. develop a common agenda and vision for reducing homelessness in each local oversight body's respective region;
 - b. as part of the homeless services budget, develop a spending plan that coordinates the funding supplied to local stakeholders; and
 - c. align local funding to projects that improve outcomes and target specific needs in each community;
5. Shall coordinate gap funding with private entities for providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness;
6. Shall recommend performance and accountability measures for service providers, including the support of collecting consistent and transparent data; and
7. When reviewing and giving final approval for requests as described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(d):
 - a. may only recommend funding if the proposed recipient has a policy to share client-level service information with other entities in accordance with state and federal law to enhance the coordination of services for individuals who are experiencing homelessness; and
 - b. shall identify specific targets and benchmarks that align with the strategic plan for each recommended award . ;
8. shall regularly update the state strategic plan on homelessness to reflect proven strategies to reduce homelessness among:
 - i. the unsheltered;
 - ii. the chronically or episodically homeless; and
 - iii. the situationally homeless;
9. shall develop annual state and local goals for reducing homelessness among the target subpopulations identified by the board;
10. shall work with the local homeless councils to carry out the requirements of Subsection 35A-16-208(3);
11. shall develop metrics for measuring the effectiveness of providers in assisting clients to successfully progress through the services coordinated by a continuum of care;
12. shall create best practices for a service provider to administer services to an individual experiencing homelessness, including promotion of:
 - i. a recognition of the human dignity of clients served;
 - ii. a need to develop self-reliance;
 - iii. the value of work;
 - iv. personal accountability; and
 - v. personal progress toward greater personal independence;
13. shall make recommendations for uniform standards for enforcing pedestrian safety and camping laws and ordinances;
14. shall identify best practices for responding to unsheltered individuals experiencing mental health disorder and substance use disorder;

15. shall make recommendations for strategies to reduce illegal drug use within homeless shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing;
16. shall facilitate client connection to alternative support systems, including behavioral health services, addiction recovery, and residential services;
17. shall facilitate participation in HMIS, where appropriate and in alignment with established HMIS policies, and data sharing agreements among all participants in a client support network, including homeless services, physical health systems, mental health systems, and the criminal justice system;
18. shall make recommendations to the office for defining "successful exit," "unsuccessful exit," and "neutral exit";
19. shall evaluate additional opportunities for the office to become a collaborative applicant;
20. shall coordinate with the continuums of care to provide for cooperative distribution of available funding; and
21. shall work in conjunction with the executive directors of the Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Corrections to create best practices for helping individuals exiting from incarceration or an institution to avoid homelessness.

Qualifications:

- Utah Homeless Network Steering Committee member
- Is willing and able to represent the entire state and UHN as a whole - not only a local area and issues
- Has the available time to commit to attend and engage in all meetings - statutorily required to meet quarterly, but will likely be at a minimum monthly

Priorities for Meeting Discussion:

- Rural representation?
- Service provider representation?
- Individual who works for an organization that represents the entire state?
- Policy minded
- Proactive

Application Process:

- Google form submissions due TBD
- UHN meeting to finalize and vote the week of March 25th.

Timeline:

- Applications for consideration due TBD

Notes:

How do we ensure a communication process for UHSB to UHN?

Processes for voting

Agenda review, UHN is a prep meeting for board

Advisors for UHSB - e.g. lived experience