



Utah Homelessness Network Steering Committee

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Virtual

Zoom Meeting ID: <https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/89822361317>

1:00 – 2:00pm

PNW Meeting Link: [Link](#)

Audio Link: [Link](#)

Agenda [Link](#)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Carol Hollowell, Heather Hogue, James Jetton, Jen Campbell, Joseph Jensen, Karen Kuipers, Kena Mathews, Kim Dieter, Laura Andelin, Nancy Griggs, Peggy Green, Ryan Steinbeigle, Tarra McFadden

Excused/Absent: Debbie Mayo, Kellie Koester, Mack McDonald, Renee Raso, Rhiana Medina

Support Staff: Shalie Ripley, Administrative Assistant
Meredith Vernick, Office of Homeless Services Assistant Director

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Actions
Agenda Item 1	1. Welcome and Introductions	Stefanie Jones
Agenda Item 2	2. Roll call A quorum was present.	Shalie Ripley
Agenda Item 3	3. Steering Committee Business a. Approval of minutes	Stefanie Jones

	<p>i. January 8, 2025: Linked*</p> <p>b. OPMA Training The OPMA training covered key topics, including: Emergency Meetings: These can occur without 24-hour notice in unforeseen situations, but best notice must still be provided, and a majority must approve the meeting. Closed Meetings: Must follow specific procedures, including a roll call vote and at least two-thirds approval. No votes can be taken during closed meetings. Audio recordings are required unless the meeting is about individual health or character. Enforcement and Violations: Violations can result in actions being voided and penalties, including fines or jail time. The Attorney General’s office handles enforcement. Disruptions: Public bodies can remove individuals disrupting meetings, either electronically or in person. Training: Annual training is required to ensure compliance with OPMA. Transparency and proper procedures were emphasized throughout.</p> <p>c. Review Role of Designee Elliot clarified the distinction between a designee and a one-time delegate for UHN meetings. A designee is not simply someone attending a meeting on behalf of a board member for a single occasion; it is a formal, permanent appointment. Once appointed, the designee takes on the responsibilities of a committee member, including completing oath forms and ethics disclosures. A designee is considered a standing member and would assume all voting rights. It was emphasized that attending a meeting on a one-time basis does not make someone a designee.</p>	<p>Ryan Steinbeigle made a motion to approve the minutes. Jen Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Elliot Clark</p>
Agenda Item 4	<p>4. OHS Update</p> <p>a. Legislative Recap Meredith discussed recent efforts to secure funding for homeless shelter programs. The Governor’s budget included \$5.8 million to fund the family shelter in South Salt Lake. However, only \$3.9 million was allocated, leaving a shortfall of \$1.9 million for ongoing funding. The team is exploring private and public sector solutions to fill this gap. Additionally, a request for \$13 million to fund winter/campus operations was made. However, only 7.5 million was allocated (includes ~\$2 million ‘round up’ & \$5.5 million one-time) Efforts are being made to secure funding to keep the winter beds open through the summer. The long-term goal is to develop a transformative campus with year-round shelter beds for 1,000-1,600 individuals, eliminating the need for seasonal winter plans.</p>	<p>Meredith Vernick</p>

	<p>Meredith gave a quick overview of some of the bills that were passed this legislative session:</p> <p>HB 329- Homeless Services Amendments: Addresses shelter safety and accountability. Establishes a shelter counties advisory board.</p> <p>HB 465- Law Enforcement Agency Amendments: Ties shelter mitigation funding to compliance with specific standards. Addresses municipal responsibilities with homelessness and law enforcement.</p> <p>HB 266- Veteran Housing Amendments: Charges the board to coordinate with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to address veteran homelessness.</p> <p>HB 176- County Classification Amendments: Modifies the population requirements for county classification.</p> <p>HB 505- Homeless Services Revisions: Introduces technical updates to service policies and funding structures. Allows a municipality to enforce camping laws on state property.</p> <p>SB 78- Homeless Individuals Protection Amendments: Creates the homeless services provider ombudsman with int Office of Homeless Services.</p> <p>SB 121- Property Loss Amendments: Establishes a fund to compensate property losses related to homelessness activities.</p>	
Agenda Item 5	<p>5. Learning Exchange Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Topics of Interest for Upcoming Meeting 4/17/2025 b. Recap of 2/20/25 Learning Exchange <p>The most recent Statewide Learning Exchange took place on Thursday, February 20. Emily Tanner, a social worker and McKinney-Vento liaison with the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, presented on the school’s services and how Local Homeless Councils (LHCs) can collaborate to better support students. The discussion highlighted the importance of warm handoffs and stronger two-way connections between agencies and the schools.</p> <p>Wayne Niederhauser also provided a valuable legislative update.</p> <p>The next Learning Exchange will be held on Thursday, April 17. Featured presenters include: Cassandra Wambach from Thriving Utah, who will share strategies for capacity building and AmeriCorps placement, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>Captain Lanier is going to discuss the Utah State Public Health One Health Vaccine Program, which offers joint vaccination services for individuals and their pets—an initiative particularly impactful for unsheltered populations.</p> <p>As time permits, each meeting will include a CFR update or a Utah State Strategic Plan Item.</p>	Peggy Green

	One key topic emerging from survey responses is effective diversion as a homelessness prevention strategy, which may be the focus of an upcoming panel discussion.	
Agenda Item 6	<p>6. CoC Report Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salt Lake County b. Mountainland c. Balance of State <p>The three CoC leads provided an update on statewide efforts and recent developments related to HUD FY24 CoC funding. The group has been meeting regularly to strengthen cross-CoC coordination. Some of the HUD contracts within the state have been received:</p> <p>Salt Lake County has received two renewed contracts.</p> <p>Mountainland has received one.</p> <p>Balance of State is still awaiting contracts but expects them soon.</p> <p>In total, Utah was awarded approximately \$16.6 million in HUD contracts for FY24, which support housing/services, community development, and systems support. A required 25% match brings the total commitment to over \$20 million. The group emphasized the importance of reviewing contracts carefully this year, as some language has changed. The CoC leaders also shared data on services, beds, rental assistance, and system capacity supported by these funds, highlighting the vital role CoC programs play across the state—particularly in rural areas where some services are only available through CoC funding.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to stay connected with both CoC and HUD representatives and to maintain high standards in data quality and timeliness, as this significantly impacts funding and system evaluation.</p>	<p>Peggy Green</p> <p>Heather Hogue</p> <p>Tarra McFadden</p>
Agenda Item 9	7. Adjourn*	<p>Stefanie Jones</p> <p>Carol Hollowell made a motion to adjourn. Joseph Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

*Needs approval

‡ Has corresponding document