



## Utah Homelessness Network Steering Committee

Friday, September 12, 2025

Virtual

12:00 – 1:00pm

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

PNW Meeting Link: [Link](#)

Audio Link: [Link](#)

Agenda [Link](#)

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Stefanie Jones, Renee Raso, Ryan Steinbeigle, Rhiana Medina, James Jetton, Kena Mathews, Jen Campbell, Kenton Jepson, Joseph Jensen, Nancy Griggs, Tarra McFadden, Heather Hogue

**Excused/Absent:** Mack McDonald, Debbie Mayo, Karen Kuipers, Carol Hollowell, Kim Dieter, Kellie Koester

**Support Staff:** Shalie Ripley, Administrative Assistant

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	<p>3. Steering Committee Business</p> <p>a. Approval of minutes</p> <p>i. April 10, 2025: <a href="#">Linked</a> ‡*</p> <p>b. Learning Exchange Update</p> <p>The Learning Exchange is currently on hold. This program was previously managed under Peggy Green’s position, and it will remain paused until a new staff member is fully onboarded.</p> <p>c. Homeless Systems Coordination Program Manager Update (BOS Collaborative Applicant)</p> <p>With Peggy Green’s departure, Margay Witzdam has been hired as the new Program Manager over the Homeless Systems Coordination Team. She will also serve as the Collaborative Applicant for the Balance of State. Margay brings several years of experience supporting Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) and Continuums of Care (COCs) both within the state and nationally.</p>	<p>Stefanie Jones</p> <p>Joseph Jensen made a motion to approve the minutes with the edit to update “Review the Role of a Designee” section as discussed. Nancy Griggs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Heather Hogue</p> <p>Joseph Jensen</p>
Agenda Item 4	<p>4. Ombudsman Introduction</p> <p>Wayne Niederhauser shared Judy Kearns has been appointed as the new Homeless Services Ombudsman, officially starting on August 11th. Judy has 15 years of service with the Utah Department of Workforce Services and prior experience as a domestic violence shelter director in Montana. She brings valuable experience working with diverse populations and is expected to adjudicate complaints statewide, though some aspects of her role are still being defined.</p>	Wayne Niederhauser
Agenda Item 5	<p>5. OHS Overview of Statewide Funding Sources ‡</p> <p>Wayne Niederhauser provided an overview of Utah’s homeless services funding. The presentation categorized funding into four quadrants: direct funding, related funding, ongoing funds, and one-time funds. The Utah Homeless Services Board oversees \$64 million in funding—\$36 million in ongoing funds and \$28 million in</p>	Wayne Niederhauser

	<p>one-time funds. Homeless system-wide, dedicated ongoing funds total \$97.4 million, with an additional \$82.6 million in one-time funds over a five-year period. Related funding includes \$128.5 million in ongoing funds and \$119.4 million in one-time funds over a five-year period. OHS reported on 5 years, other respondents reported on the most recent 12-month period. Wayne share this report allows the office to quickly assess and communicate the impact of repurposing funds when requested by the legislature, board members, or other stakeholders.</p>	
Agenda Item 6	<p>6. CoC Statewide Systems Feedback ‡</p> <p>Heather Hogue presented a response letter to Governor Cox’s executive order on homelessness. Developed in coordination with the state’s three Continuums of Care (COCs) and Local Homeless Councils (LHCs), the letter outlines shared priorities and funding recommendations ahead of the upcoming legislative session. Key points include strong support for the new Salt Lake City homeless services campus, with a clear request that it be funded with new dollars rather than reallocating existing resources. The letter highlights that over 91% of individuals in the Point-in-Time count were served through current systems, demonstrating statewide effectiveness. It also raises concerns about growing unfunded mandates and emphasizes the statutory and strategic roles of COCs and the UHN in homelessness response. Additional recommendations focus on prioritizing affordable housing, early intervention treatment, and stronger collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services. The committee discussed some updates be made to the letter before submission. Such as, the location of the proposed homeless services campus needs to reflect that it is in Salt Lake City, not North Salt Lake. Additionally, a reference to the "National Low-Income Housing Alliance" needs to be updated to the correct name. The letter needs to be revised to provide greater clarity around cited data points.</p>	<p>Heather Hogue</p> <p>Heather Hogue made a motion that the committee accept the letter with the changes that were discussed, and in addition, create a shorter, more targeted document for the legislative session to go to state legislators. Jennifer Campbell seconded the motion. Joseph Jensen abstained as an employee of the executive branch. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item 9	<p>7. Adjourn*</p>	<p>Stefanie Jones</p> <p>Ryan Steinbeigle made a motion to adjourn. Jen Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

\* Needs approval

‡ Has corresponding document