



Utah Homeless Services Board

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Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Anchor Location:

Utah State Capitol

350 N. State St., Rm. #445.

Salt Lake City, UT

10:30 am – 12:00pm

Board Members Present: Tiffanie Price, Brandy Grace, Casey Cameron, Ryan Beck, Spencer Eccles, Randy Shumway, Tyler Clancy, Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Jen Campbell, Mayor Cherie Wood, Moe Egan,

Excused/Absent: N/A

Support Staff: Nick Coleman, Hannah Rivas, Josh Romney, Elliott Clark

Agenda Item	Discussion	Led By and Actions Taken
Agenda Item 1	1. Call Meeting to Order a. Roll Call- it was determined a quorum was present b. Approve Mar. 24, 2026 Minutes *‡ c. Review Staff Motion Sheet ‡	Randy Shumway & Hannah Rivas Randy Shumway called the meeting to order at 10:36 am. Randy called for a motion to approve the March 24, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Jen Campbell made a motion to approve. Brandy Grace Seconded the motion. The board passed the motion unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 2	2. Approve Consent Calendar a. 2026 Innovative Winter Response Solutions RFGA *‡ <i>i. Staff recommend awarding \$493,407 to Iron County Care and Share</i> b. FY27 Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Application *‡	Tyler Clancy Tyler Clancy made the motion to approve the consent calendar, and Mayor Mendenhall seconded the motion. The board approved this motion unanimously by voice vote.
Agenda Item 3	3. Homeless Coordinator Updates a. Project BRIDGE *‡ Tyler Clancy presented the staff recommendation to authorize distribution of \$1.2 million from the Pamela Atkinson fund, along with reallocating unspent funding from contracts with The Road Home and Fourth Street Clinic. The funding remained unspent due to a warmer winter season. Clancy noted this was a one-time opportunity, and both organizations expressed willingness to support the effort if provided funding flexibility. b. Office of Homeless Services Tyler thanked the staff at the Office of Homeless Services for managing a challenging transition period and balancing multiple priorities over recent months. The office announced ongoing hiring efforts, including new job postings, and shared enthusiasm about bringing new team members onboard.	Tyler Clancy Tyler Clancy made a motion to approve staff recommendations for Project Bridge funding request. Jen Campbell seconded the motion. The board passed the motion unanimously by voice vote. Tyler provided a brief update on OHS staff.
Agenda Item 4	4. Key Pillar Briefing: Criminal Justice “High-Utilizers” ‡ Nathan Meinzer led the discussion on the Governor’s first strategic pillar: High Utilizers. High Utilizers are individuals repeatedly cycling through arrests, medical care, and homeless services. There is a need for targeted support and intervention pathways to help individuals break out of these cycles and achieve stability. Analysis showed that approximately 77% of identified individuals had experienced homelessness or interacted with homeless service providers and nearly 49% had experienced homelessness for 5 years or longer. Reported	Nathan Meinzer

system costs totaled approximately \$51 million including shelter and service costs, police and court expenses, and hospital-related medical costs.

OHS was able to identify a “super high utilizer” group in which 25% of individuals accounted for 50% of all arrests, averaging 11 or more arrests annually. Of the 255 individuals studied, 84% had interacted with homeless services or experienced homelessness. Approximately 46% experienced homelessness for seven and a half years or longer, this highlights a long-term cycle of instability and a repeated cycle of incarceration and homelessness for these individuals.

The 255 individuals generated an estimated \$16 million in combined costs, including police, court, shelter, and hospital expenses. In coordination with the Salt Lake City Fire Department, OHS was able to identify 48 individuals with 11 or more annual emergency response interactions. Emergency response costs for those 48 individuals exceeded \$600,000, excluding hospital expenses. The data showed a 70% likelihood of hospital transport among this group, totaling 371 hospital visits in one year. Combined emergency response and hospital costs for the 48 individuals were estimated at approximately \$2 million, increasing average medical costs per person from about \$18,000 to \$41,000 annually.

The success of Project Connect was highlighted, supported by Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Chief Redd, and the Salt Lake City Police Department, with eight participants having no further police interactions after receiving tailored services. The micro-shelter program also committed 12 dedicated units to support Project Connect participants.

Analysis of 255 high utilizers showed nearly 10,000 charges in one year, with 61% involving both new offenses and outstanding warrants. Approximately 87% of offenses were misdemeanors, while violent crimes accounted for only 2%, supporting opportunities for diversion and treatment-focused interventions. Drug-related offenses made up 33% of charges, with many involving paraphernalia possession and behavioral health concerns linked to substance use and mental health crises. Trespassing and shoplifting were identified as common offenses, while camping-related enforcement represented only seven charges out of 10,000.

Estimated sentencing exposure ranged from 115 years minimum to nearly 9,000 years maximum across all offenses. The need for structured supportive housing, diversion pathways, and coordinated case management is needed to break cycles of homelessness, incarceration, and crisis response.

Mayor Erin Mendenhall noted that high utilizers are often also victims of crime, suggesting overall system impacts may be underestimated. Discussion concluded that coordinated, individualized interventions and broader system collaboration could improve outcomes for high utilizers

	Members discussed the need for additional data on sentencing outcomes, jail time, and case consolidation for high utilizers to better understand justice system impacts. The importance of consistent case management and human connection to help individuals maintain housing, employment, and recovery was also discussed. Josh Romney asked about long-term intervention models, treatment-focused housing, and cost-effective solutions used in other states for high utilizers. It was discussed while specialized interventions may not directly reduce homelessness budgets, they improve system flow by helping high utilizers access appropriate services and freeing shelter and program capacity for others in need Mayor Erin Mendenhall referenced the Leifman Group framework and stressed the importance of developing measurable business-case data to demonstrate long-term cost savings and human outcomes. Tyler Clancy and other participants emphasized the importance of collaboration among state leaders, municipalities, providers, and individuals with lived experience to address complex homelessness and behavioral health challenges. Discussion highlighted the need for stronger data-sharing partnerships and defined agreements among providers, healthcare systems, and agencies to better evaluate outcomes while protecting privacy. Closing remarks emphasized hope, accountability, and coordinated community support to help high utilizers achieve long-term stability and recovery.	
Agenda Item 5	c. Adjourn *	Randy Shumway Randy Shumway called for a motion to adjourn. Jen Campbell made the motion, and Tyler Clancy seconded the motion. The board passed the motion to adjourn unanimously by voice vote.

* Needs approval
‡ Had corresponding document