



**Utah Homelessness Council**

Via Zoom Link;

<https://utah.gov.zoom.us/j/81047129992>

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Conference Room 211 A

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Audio link:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/933511.m4a>

Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/929177.pdf>

**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee:** Wayne Niederhauser, Whitney Clayton, Gail Miller, Tiffany Price, Bonnier Kier-Herrick, Randy Shumway, Mayor Jenny Wilson, Andrew Johnston dba Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Karen McCandless, Rob Wesemann, Heather Hogue, Stefanie Jones, Katherine Fife dba Mayor Jenny Wilson

**Attending Virtually:** Bonnier Kier-Herrick, Randy Shumway, Mayor Jenny Wilson, Andrew Johnston dba Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Karen McCandless, Rob Wesemann, Heather Hogue, Stefanie Jones, Katherine Fife dba Mayor Jenny Wilson

**Excused/Absent:** Mayor Erin Mendenhall

**Support Staff:** Jennifer Marchant

**OHS Staff:** Tricia Davis, Meredith Vernick, Russell Goodman, Joseph Jensen, Peggy Green, Khylee Brinson, Shaylee Tulane

**Interested Parties and Guests:** Patrick Wigmore, Nora Breslin, Katricia Stewart, Alan Openshaw, Ashanti Movitz, Landon Olsen, Jean Field, Kevin Goldthorpe, Janet Hemming, Moira Rayne, Paige Huff, Jeff White, Peggy Hostetter, Emily Willis, Karece Thompson, Justin Butterworth, Scott N. Howell, Amy J. Hawkins

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Actions
Welcome	a. Chair Whitney Clayton welcomed the Committee and opened up the Meeting	Whitney Clayton Gail Miller
Roll Call	b. Roll call was taken	Jenn Marchant
Minutes to be approved	c. November 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022 - <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/918321.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/918321.pdf</a>	Chair Whitney Clayton called for a motion to approve the 11/7/2022 minutes. Wayne Niederhauser made a motioned. Gail Miller

		seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.
Strategic Plan Update	<p>d. Public Comment</p> <p>The following power point was presented:</p> <p><a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/932899.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/932899.pdf</a></p> <p>Strategic Plan: Utah’s Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments</p> <p>“While the plan identifies the need for more funding across the board—for both services and housing—we feel the plan should specifically state the need to identify and create an ongoing, dedicated funding source for homeless services and affordable housing.”</p> <p><b>Proposed edits: Sustainable funding language added to the plan, further clarification recommended in the implementation plan (when possible)</b></p> <p>Strategic Plan: Utah’s Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments</p> <p>“We support adding a 6th goal supporting a court directed diversion program for not only the mentally ill, but also for all individuals who are suffering from substance abuse disorder.”</p> <p><b>Proposed edits: clarification language added to the plan to clarify our support for this program, without adding another goal. Further elaboration recommended in implementation plan, plan updates could focus on this effort</b></p> <p>Strategic Plan: Utah’s Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments</p>	<p>Patrick Wigmore Nora Breslin Wayne Niederhauser Tricia Davis</p> <p>Tiffanie Price made a motion to put general funding language into the strategic plan. Randy Shumway offered a second motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Randy Shumway offered a motion that a slide be added at the beginning defining a driving principle. Wayne Niederhauser asked for leeway from the group in the development of this guiding principle offline. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Tiffanie Price made a motion to leave it up to administration to add something clarifying regarding general diversion support that takes into account substance abuse and mentally ill. Gail Miller offered a second. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Randy made a motion that Homebase will assist with</p>

The plan is not a unifying document and does not reflect the view of some key stakeholder groups by not focusing on providing housing without addressing the underlying causes of homelessness for those who suffer from substance abuse and who commit crime.

acknowledging the discrete differences among sub segments and acknowledge that a critical component of helping those experiencing homelessness is effectively diagnosing the root challenges and that prioritization and resources are needed to achieve that. And that this be separate from the goals but possibly a driving principle. We acknowledge it, own it and adjust accordingly in implementation. Gail Miller made a second. Motion carried unanimously.

**Goal 1: Increase accessible and affordable permanent housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness across the state**

Goal #1 (bullet 3): Wayne Niederhauser made a motion that this should be considered during implementation document. Gail Miller made a second. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1• “The plan should clearly state the roles of the State, Counties and Cities so every partner and stakeholders working to address the issues of homelessness has a clear understanding of who is responsible for what within the system”
- 2• “Goal of providing non-congregate spaces for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness shouldn't wait until 2025”
- 3• Stronger outreach needed to “civic, church, and community leaders who can join with you in showing support for building affordable housing and winning hearts and minds”

**Goal 2: Increase access to and availability of supportive services and case management for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness**

Goal #2 (bullet 2): Tiffanie Price made a motion that we will address the subpopulations by putting in definitions within the glossary, which includes LGBTQ and other subpopulations. Gail

- 1• “Thank you for including specific information about youth/young adults (transition-age youth).
- 2• “This Plan needs more focus on the LGBTQ population as well as other vulnerable groups.”

- 3• “211 lists available resources but not the scarcity of these resources, we need more real time information available.”
- 4• “This goal presumes that increasing the availability of mental health and substance abuse services will lead people to accept those services. This is not always the case. The plan does not address the problem of how to approach those unwilling or uninterested in receiving treatment.”

**\*online comments were addressed at this time.**

Homebase will take a look at the subpopulations, glossary/definitions and add to it as needed to include the groups which have been discussed, such as those with domestic violence situations. A motion was made to this effect.

**Goal 3: Expand homeless prevention efforts by increasing coordination, resources, and affordable housing opportunities**

- 1•Use technology to better catch those about to fall into homelessness, seniors or other groups could be captured better for those at risk.
- 2• The data gathered during Point-in-Time Count offers only a rough estimate of the number of individuals who are unsheltered. Surveys of people experiencing homelessness are also not sufficiently reliable to identify their true needs.
- 3• Explore programs to reunite homeless to their previous communities.
- 4• Each LLC should be expected to have a minimum number of services and housing available within its boundaries, so as not to force residents to leave for assistance.

**Goal 4: Target housing resources and supportive services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness**

- 1• The State of Utah should mandate the construction of food banks and shelters across the state, it should be considered an essential city/county service, particularly winter shelters.

Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal #2(bullet3): Andrew Johnston made a motion that we will start addressing this by our data collection goals. Heather Hogue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Niederhauser made a motion that Homebase will do an overview of subpopulations/glossary/definitions, to assure it is comprehensive, including domestic violence and other groups as has been discussed. Tiffanie Price seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal #3 (bullet 4): Wayne Niederhauser made a motion that this should be addressed during implementation document. Tiffanie Price made a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal #4 (bullet 3): Tiffanie Price made a motion to add parks and

- 2• Congregate shelters are not always an option for those with trauma issues, for those with past experiences of violence in shelters, or families.
- 3• Parks need to be reclaimed for residents, there should be specific action steps to make this a reality.
- 4• Medical and mental health treatment for the homeless are just as important as shelter and permanent housing. Support services keep those housed on the road to recovery.

**Goal 5: Promote alignment and coordination across multiple systems of care to support people experiencing and at risk of homelessness**

- There need to be more focus and effort of peer sharing capabilities by those currently or formerly homeless.
- Better alignment of McKinney-Vento students experiencing homelessness, particularly those transitioning into early adults.
- “Regarding the initiative to form partnerships with criminal justice, etc., I want to say that I hope that we can set up, train, and staff a new group of first responders who can respond more effectively to the unsheltered homeless population than the police force.”
- “We need to inspect Utah’s approach towards competency evaluations and develop more resources for those who have appropriately been declared mentally incompetent.”

The power point highlighted the public comments that were gathered. A summary of the public comments that were gathered can be found here:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmnl/files/932897.pdf>

public spaces as a consideration in the mitigation funds on the outcomes for the safety of everyone within the geographical boundaries that the funds are for. Gail Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal #5 (bullet 1): Wayne Niederhauser made a motion that we will address peer sharing capabilities in our implementation plan. Gail Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal #5 (bullet 2): Wayne Niederhauser made a motion that we add McKinney Vento to the glossary of terms as a sub population. Tiffany Price seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

**Upcoming Meeting:**

Thursday, February 9, 2023 ~ 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Whitney Clayton made a motion to adjourn. Gail Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

As this was a hybrid webinar, set up with attendees and participants, there was a Question and Answer (Q &A) portion which was made available to all online attendees and Office of Homeless Services (OHS) staff provided responses to the Q&A during the meeting while consulting with our legal counsel for any portion that needed to be made aware to the council:

Topic: Webinar 810 4712 9992			
Question #	Question	Asker	Answer
1	Hey Jenn. I'm in the wrong place.	Heather Hogue	Moved to panelist
2	Will public comment and opportunity be taken here or on the other zoom link? I do have a comment	Karece Thompson	Hi Karece. I am not sure if there will be time for public comment, but we can make sure it is provided to the members of the council if you type it into the Q&A box.
3	The agenda has a spot for public comment. I would like that opportunity please. As an elected official of Clearfield City and a past homeless youth I can keep my comment to under 3 mins.	Karece Thompson	Thank you! I have sent an IM to those in the room as well asking to clarify if there will be time for live public comment or if that agenda item was for reviewing the comment received through the previously defined process. Just want you to know that this has not been dropped and will work to follow up on it.

<p>4</p>	<p>Thank you for that and if not, I'm friendly enough to say make that a bit more clearly on the agenda next time. Just in case I can't publicly comment this is my question:</p> <p>The driving force I'm finding in homelessness outside the norm is effective case management of the individual (because we lack social workers) is there a way we can incentivize counties who have the most homeless population by data to create specific county services to help employ and transitionally house homeless by showing the county is working with DHS with this community? Especially those who have recent work history?</p> <p>The incentives could be discussed since this is just an idea.</p>	<p>Karece Thompson</p>	<p>live answered</p>
	<p>Thank you for that and if not, I'm friendly enough to say make that a bit more clearly on the agenda next time. Just in case I can't publicly comment this is my question:</p> <p>The driving force I'm finding in homelessness outside the norm is effective case management of the individual (because we lack social workers) is there a way we can incentivize counties who have the most homeless population by data to create specific county services to help employ and transitionally house homeless by showing the county is working with DHS with this community? Especially those who have recent work history?</p> <p>The incentives could be discussed since this is just an idea.</p>	<p>Karece Thompson</p>	<p>Karece –</p> <p>I'm responding to you individually in hopes of continuing the important point you are making above.</p> <p>I believe the scarcity of social workers / effective case workers might be one of our biggest obstacles in best helping those experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>One idea, I believe, would be for our system of higher education to innovate a 9-month case management / social worker CERTIFICATION that originates from SLCC and the Utah Technology Colleges.</p>

			<p>The case management certification might be analogous to the LPN certification in nursing.</p> <p>The academic requirements to be certified as an SSW, CSW, LCSW are such that society is destined to always be limited by the number of licensed social workers increasingly needed. And much of what is needed pragmatically right now, doesn't require the years of school and clinical hours that is necessary to be certified as an SSW, CSW, or LCSW.</p> <p>I think one thing we likely ought to be advocating is the development of a 9-month certification (analogous to nursing</p>
4	<p>Thank you for that and if not, I'm friendly enough to say make that a bit more clearly on the agenda next time. Just in case I can't publicly comment this is my question:</p> <p>The driving force I'm finding in homelessness outside the norm is effective case management of the individual (because we lack social workers) is there a way we can incentivize counties who have the most homeless population by data to create specific county services to help employ and transitionally house homeless by showing the county is working with DHS with this community? Especially those who have recent work history?</p> <p>The incentives could be discussed since this is just an idea.</p>	Karece Thompson	<p>LPN program) for case management. In this way, we'll train and certify quickly the high number of frontline case managers that we as a society so desperately need.</p> <p>The benefits of innovating a program of this nature through Utah's colleges would be many:</p> <p>One, we'd get a much-needed influx of effective, trained case managers.</p> <p>Two, higher education is facing an imminent decrease in enrollment, and innovating a program of this</p>



			<p>nature would be one way to accelerate enrollment.</p> <p>Third, we'd be creating more rapidly, meaningful, high-impact jobs for individuals.</p> <p>Enough of my rambling. I just wanted to share with you ONE idea of how to navigate the much-needed augmentation of trained case managers.</p> <p>Just my two cents...</p> <p>Randy Shumway</p>
5	How will you hold the homeless system responsible for court diversion outcomes? Do you have any authority over court processes?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
6	It says my question was answered. Im not sure I heard that answer.	Karece Thompson	I am not sure why it was moved to answered, but I see one of the council members in that comment as typing a response. I will make sure it gets to the council either way. Thanks for being patient with us and sorry for all of the confusion.
7	Thank you my question is being answered.	Karece Thompson	Thank you!
8	Randy- As a member of the Substance Abuse Licensing Board I can not only appreciate your comments will also add the board did try to find a way to remove barriers to entry. This goal needs to be met and I appreciate everything you all are doing. I came here because the work of the council is way too underappreciated	Karece Thompson	live answered

9	Is there a plan to increase available services for those at risk of homelessness that are fleeing domestic violence or trafficking? Domestic violence shelters are woefully, permanently short on bed space. This is despite the fact that entry to those shelters is only permitted to those at high risk of lethal violence	Moira Rayne (she/her)	live answered
10	I find this relevant given that domestic violence is one of the leading causes of female homelessness and is uniquely severe in Utah	Moira Rayne (she/her)	live answered
11	severe*	Moira Rayne (she/her)	live answered
12	Could I get added as a panelist?	Andrew Johnston	Moved to panelist
13	Thank you for taking this into account, this would be very meaningful to my clients	Moira Rayne (she/her)	Thank you for being here and providing your input!