



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025

Time: 3:03 PM -3:51 PM

Location: Virtual

Attendance (66) Ken Gholston, Evan Coyle, Alexi Bostick, Brittany DiPietro, Carol Napierski, Carolyn Brunelle, C Brown, cdillon, Celina Brown, Collette Graham, Cornelius delaney, Dan Gordon, Daniella Gallego, Darwin Rosales, Daryl Krakowiak, David Zapfel, Deanna Atkin, Deborah Goldman, Dinoshka Ortiz, Edwina, Elise Robinson, Erin, Helene McMahan, Jamie Dolan, Janita Everhart, Jennifer Kaminsky, Jesse Truitt, jmartin, John Banas, Joshua Ziccarelli, Josiah Lyon, Kaitlyn Dickey, Karen Rybicki, Katey Soellers, Katrina Cropo, Kelly DeMatteo, Ibloomingle, Lisa Freeman, Luanne Firestone, Mark Kraus, Matthew Roehmholdt, Maya Ilburi-Mather, Michael Devine, Michaela Thorley, Mark Mancuso, Nadia Pizarro, Nicole Juzdowski, Nicole Lalonde, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Pam Quigley, Precious Lugo, Rae Frank, Sanderson, Sara Carlson, Sara Gartland, Sarah Catherine Sargeant, Shannon Boswell, Shannon Stachowski, Stacy ARLain, Kexin Ma

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions

HAWNY BOARD President Ken Gholston starts the meeting and welcomes everyone that has joined.

2. HAWNY BOARD to Present Strategic Plan

President Ken Gholston says that a strategic plan is a road map for an organization.

- A year ago we hired consultants to assist us in building a strategic plan
- Many individuals were able to give their input that is reflected in the plan
- The Board staff and community helped design the plan
- The Strategic Plan was recently passed by the BOD
- The mission of the Organization was rewritten to best reflect the current goals of the organization
- Vision: A community committed to ending homelessness
- 5 Pillars: Excellence, Collaboration, Transparency, integrity, Respect

- We focused on 3 specific goals: being a community resource and advocate, strong and sustainable model, network leader and expert
- Collaboration: Identify and engage with other partners (schools, businesses, hospitals)

3. Review of Federal Funding Freeze

Dan Gordon, HAWNY Homeless System Coordinator discusses the recent federal funding Freeze.

How does federal funding freeze impact our CoC?

January 17, 2025: HUD announced the FY2024 CoC funding allocation, totaling **\$3.6 billion** nationwide. Our CoC was awarded **\$23.7 million** for the 2025-2026 operational year.

January 28: Due to an executive order from the White House, federal funding experienced a freeze, including HUD programs. **eLOCCS**, the platform through which CoC and Section 8 programs access funding, was inaccessible starting early morning.


January 29: A federal judge ordered the Trump administration to halt the funding freeze, allowing us to draw funds again. However, the funds currently accessible are from **FY2023**. Our **FY2024** funding remains at risk.


How you can help:


Currently, we need your support in advocating for the release of **FY2024** funds. On **March 1st**, a crucial **\$7 million** CoC grant serving **382 clients** is scheduled for renewal. Delayed renewal could severely disrupt programs and services. Every month, there will be new projects renewing and more and more clients will be impacted.

This money was lawfully allocated and is meant to support nearly 7,000 programs across the country—including over 30 agencies right here in Western New York that provide life-saving housing and services.

 If this funding is pulled or delayed any longer, the impact will be catastrophic:

 Over 2,000 individuals and families in WNY could lose their housing, forcing them back into homelessness.

 Agencies that rely on this funding to operate will shut down, leaving thousands without access to shelter, case management, and critical resources.

 100+ social workers and frontline staff who dedicate their lives to serving the most vulnerable will lose their jobs.

- Landlords who depend on HUD rental assistance will suddenly stop receiving payments, causing financial instability and even more evictions.
- The local economy will suffer as small businesses and service providers lose the income they rely on from these programs.

Additionally, federal employees are facing potential layoffs, which could lead to further delays in issuing timely contracts.

This fight is going to continue. **March 14th** is another critical date, as the federal budget decision will significantly impact our funding. Between now and then, we urge you to continue following our email instructions and consistently communicate the importance of this funding to our congressional representatives.

Besides funding, there are other changes coming:

HUD Secretary Scott Turner has announced his intent to **revoke the Equal Access Rule**, which ensures equal access to HUD-funded programs based on gender identity. While this rule change will take time, **it is currently not being enforced**.

Though **no official directive has been issued**, we anticipate **changes in data collection requirements, particularly regarding gender identity**.

Every year, **HAWNY submits system performance data on behalf of the community**. This year, the **submission deadline has been postponed** without explanation. We expect that **future system and program performance expectations may change**.

Congressional district:

<https://data.gis.ny.gov/datasets/sharegisny::nys-congressional-districts/explore?location=42.571998%2C-75.823518%2C7.32>

<https://langworthy.house.gov/contact/offices>

<https://tenney.house.gov/contact/offices>

National Alliance act now advocacy link

<https://endhomelessness.org/actions/act-now-hud-still-hasnt-released-homelessness-funding/?contactdata=WjpwZ8hj+LibsbLFg2X9yhH5Avmd1Bjmt%2fyEj+BLhvAv0Mlf>

[hY6YMOcZBhO6iitedanz8A+KaA8gV+D37ipusggiwZWv3BMcDrAB%2ft%2f3uHaHBAfwX8DW5INV7GXeQVoOHJM0QGI7T78+iVodPUrDObv%2fRkcgOgpL3CdrXumYtdnxc m8FV0lwupztz4p0k4DZXviu0OdB3sTrx4fDKky6scRRt%2f8ydOwRYBn63musTXfJEP2lB8qMjusip0Wg07ESnB1pSb22NuUeUh6zVeStg%3d%3d&emci=d111a415-20ee-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=500dbaca-2eee-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=4808723](https://www.wnyhomeless.org/hY6YMOcZBhO6iitedanz8A+KaA8gV+D37ipusggiwZWv3BMcDrAB%2ft%2f3uHaHBAfwX8DW5INV7GXeQVoOHJM0QGI7T78+iVodPUrDObv%2fRkcgOgpL3CdrXumYtdnxc m8FV0lwupztz4p0k4DZXviu0OdB3sTrx4fDKky6scRRt%2f8ydOwRYBn63musTXfJEP2lB8qMjusip0Wg07ESnB1pSb22NuUeUh6zVeStg%3d%3d&emci=d111a415-20ee-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=500dbaca-2eee-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=4808723)

4.) **Hawny New Website Launched!**

Nate Pyzikiewicz (HAWNY HMIS Director) introduces our brand new website.
wnyhomeless.org

- Nate shows participants how to access different tabs and menus in the website.
- He reviews the Coordinated Entry page, HMIS page and others.
- Nate also reviews our knowledge base where we keep important documents.
- You can sign up to be on our mailing list on the home page

5. **Community Announcements**

Code Blue: All Hands on deck for anyone that is looking to donate/volunteer time and staff. We are looking for people to help with house search, VI, etc

Nadia Pizarro: We are also looking for information regarding apts, employment etc

Code Blue Contact: Nadia Pizarro 716-431-4233 4nadiapizarro@gmail.com

Veterans One Stop: Alexis Bostick Veteran One stop is able to assist with a variety of needs for local veterans.

In addition, **Women Warriors** is an event designed to recognize women veterans. It is on March 8th, from 10am-1pm at the Veteran One Stop Center (Flyer below)

Stacy Arlain: Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for September 12th, 2025

6. **Adjournment**

Homeless Alliance Board President Ken Gholston concludes the meeting

VETERAN'S ONE-STOP CENTER
PRESENTS



Women Warriors

HONORING WOMEN VETERANS

2025

SATURDAY MARCH 8TH

100 Gelston Street Buffalo, NY 14213
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Lunch / Prizes / Resources / Workshops / Massages

Register: www.vocwny.org