



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

Time: 3:05 PM -4:00 PM

Location: In person

Attendance was not collected for this event

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions

Homeless Alliance System Coordinator Evan Coyle welcomes attendees and introduces the Buffalo Workforce Speakers.

2.) Presentation on the Brand New Buffalo Workforce Downtown Career Center

Executive Director Dr Jacqualie Hall hosts a presentation about workforce Buffalo.

The downtown center is located on 77 Broadway in Buffalo. The state of the art facility will offer modern career services, job training, and upskilling resources to residents in Buffalo and Erie County.

Here are some of the goals of the career center:

- Promote the economic vitality of the region
- Vision provide quality training programs to support workforce
- We address the needs of job seekers
- Business service team

- Strengthen work development system in the county
- reduce commute fatigue, resources all housed in one place
- provide resume writing, and other training for ex: how to leave a job

The workforce team partners with some local employers to assist employees in work development.

Individuals can apply online for support at the workforce center. They are also able to come in person to apply.

Here is the website: <https://www.workforcebuffalo.org/>

3.) HMIS Director Nate P and CoC director Ashley Matrassi discuss System Performance measures

What are SPM'S?

- System performance measures, the collective data from community.
- It helps to demonstrate how well we are working together in the homelessness system

What are the measures?

- Length of time
- Recidivism
- client counts
- income
- First time homelessness
- Destinations
- Data Quality

The point totals from these measures make up our system performance (NOFO)

They help us identify what we need to improve for the benefit of the community and for our ability to demonstrate the work we are doing to HUD.

Why is this important ?

- We do not want to lose funding as a community

“Data = Dollars”

The better our data quality the more we are able to market our community and the work we are doing.

We compete against other COC's in the area

-This year we were awarded 6 new projects

-This is because of all of the work we are doing in the community

As a community we are always tracking where we may gain or lose points on the NOFO application

We (Homeless Alliance) want to continue to work closely with agencies so that we can continue to improve and get as many points as possible

We need to come together to continue and elevate our performance

-For reference: All of these measures are on our quarterly Data Points for reference

Longer view:

We have seen the length of time clients are in ES increase.

This reflects a lack of affordable housing for clients to move on to

Outreach and case management are so critical for linking our clients to resources and providing needed support and services.

Point in Time Count:

Snapshot in time of people experiencing homelessness on a given night (in January)

Each community is responsible for conducting a PIT COUNT (Required by HUD)

We are on a downward trend. We are seeing less people overall (unsheltered population)

Chronic Homelessness Is going down

4.) Homeless Alliance Executive Director Kexin Ma discusses Federal Funding Advocacy

The President released a “skinny budget” regarding Homelessness funding

The Budget would make a significant cut to Homeless Programs including rental assistance

Notably: The Bill would merge HOPWA and CoC programming into ESG funding

-This would essentially eliminate PSH housing, which would be catastrophic for our community. Given the success of PSH programming and the number of individuals already enrolled in PSH Programming

-The Budget would prioritize short term assistance such as Rapid Rehousing

This is just the beginning. There will be negotiating and bargaining between the house and senate before a final Bill is passed

What we can do is educate our local representatives in hopes that they will advocate to maintain current funding and programs. This includes our senators (Gillibrand and Schumer) and local representatives for ex: Langworthy

The National Alliance is suggesting a budget line of 4.9 Billion dollars to increase current funding

This proposal would help maintain current programming and increase pay for front line staff

It would also account for estimated Fair Market Rent Increases

We will be helping you in the coming months with who to contact, and what specifically we need to fight for

It is Important to think about how many people are in our PSH programs and the overall number of people that would be homeless.

Where would they go?

5. Community Announcements

Jennifer Arroyo There is a Free Food giveaway every month at Salvation Army

This upcoming month it is: June 3rd 130-23

Dan Stegeman- "Surge" event this summer VA

This summer. Similar to a Plt Count but with a little more nuance

Marthe Limage- Heart Love and Soul in Niagara County

Hiring Case Managers, Please apply online

Competitive pay and benefits

Nadia Plizzaro- Cold Blue: we are at temporary location and can only serve 60 people

We are looking for a sight that can hold up to 200 people

w/ Kitchen bathroom Shower

Marek Parker- June is Pride Month!

6. Adjournment