



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

Time: 3:02 PM - 3:42 PM

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Attendance (84): Jill Ector, Nick Arlain, John Banas, Kelly DeMatteo, Jessica McKissack, Sasha Rodgers, Maddie Fooks, Haley Diagostino, Joyelle Tedeschi, Shannon Stachowski, Luna Vasquez, Mark Mancuso, Tabernacle of Praise Buffalo, Cassie Graff, Melissa Figini, Tina Lamont, Deborah Goldman, Melanie Yohe, D Gibson, Angelina L., Angel Torres, Yulissa Pena, Kaitlin Price, Treya Gough, Reno Tabone-DePaul, Annette Lock, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Ashley Olsen, Ryan Undercoffer, Caleek Roman, Katey Soellers, Ashley Matrassi, Clare Corbett, Stephanie Saunders, Jayades97, Michael Devine, Nicole LaLonde, Kristin Tanner, Katie O'Connor, Vero Glover, Arianna Halter, Kaitlyn Dickey, Jamie Dolan, Kristin Rivera, Thanh N, Matt Urban Center, Daniella Gallego, Matthew Schaefer, Stephanie Vroman-Goodrich, Celina Bryan, Cadence Aguilar, Stacy Arlain, Angela, Sara Gartland, Erin Hooks, Holly Rutkowski, Kyla Dyer, H49187, 17168861351, 29b759, 15858158501, R Piazza, Mia Clark, Amin Shah, Larissa Bachman, Elise Robinson, Jean Bennett, Jennifer Beltre, Edwina Davis, Helene McMahan, Reda Buchanan, Joseph Heary, Kristen Lazarony, Caleek Roman

1. Welcome and Introduction

Homeless Alliance Executive Director Kexin Ma welcomes participants to the meeting. Announced that Joy Tedeschi is the new board Chair.

2. Membership Structure and HAWNY Meeting Changes

	Partner Membership (<i>Paid</i>)	Free Membership (<i>Individual</i>)
Who it's for	Organizations that receive HUD CoC funding (automatically enrolled), and other organizations that choose to pay the membership fee	Trained individuals unaffiliated with CoC-funded orgs
Voting	1 vote per organization	1 vote per individual per organization(non-transferable)
Training required	CoC refresher trainings (included);	CoC 101, Homelessness 101, CE 101 (waiver available for prior completion).
Attendance	At least 3 of 4 meetings annually	At least 3 of 4 meetings annually
Other benefits	Gap reports, grant alerts, NOFO support, 1:1 TA, conference discounts, advanced trainings	Basic training and participation rights

Cost	\$175–\$325 based on org size	Free
<p>Everyone is welcome to attend HAWNY meetings and participate in committees.</p> <p>Membership is only required to vote.</p>		

- Change membership meeting from Monthly to bi-monthly then to quarterly. So the next meeting will be April, then July then Oct.

- Free membership cannot be duplicated with paid membership. It is meant for individuals that are not associated with an organization, such as people with lived experience.
- CoC funded organizations do not need to pay additional membership fee because it is included in the successful application fee (slight increased from 0.5% to 0.55%)

3. CoC Structure - Committees and Group Meetings

The Homeless Alliance team reviewed current active committees and regular meetings that CoC members can get involved with.

CoC members encouraged to review Committee/Work Group Restructure Information Sheet on the Homeless Alliance website and reach out to Evan (coyle@wnyhomeless.org) if they are interested in joining a committee.

4. Federal Budget Update

Kexin Ma - Homeless Alliance of WNY

- Congress created some protection for CoC funding in the Appropriation bill.
- Required HUD to autorenew FY25 contract
- Have to at least protect 60% of the funding allocation to each region.
- No FY25 contract sign yet, which causes delay in referrals.
- We will continue to watch the situation and thank you for advocating and continuing voicing our concerns.

5. Point-in-Time Count Update

Haley Diagostino and Nathan Pyzikiewicz - Homeless Alliance of WNY

- 150 volunteers on 60 routes across all five counties of our CoC
- Nate shared the current preliminary sheltered and unsheltered counts from this year and reminded

participants that the 2026 PIT report will be finalized in April and released in May.

- Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count!

6. System Performance Update

Nathan Pyzikiewicz - Homeless Alliance of WNY

- Reviewed what the System Performance Measures are and gave some preliminary results including increased LoT in shelters, increase in “new” clients, and an increase in successful exits. Reminded SPM's are due the following week.

7. Community Announcements

Nicole LaLonde - Homeless Alliance of WNY

- The Homeless Alliance of WNY will be hosting our first Meat Raffle Fundraiser on Friday, May 15th, 2026 at Knights Events Center (2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga)
- Doors open at 6pm, first spin at 7pm
- Tickets are \$15 pre sale, \$20 at the door, or \$100 for a table of 8
- Tickets are on sale now: [Meat Raffle Benefiting the Homeless Alliance of WNY](#)
- Tickets include beer, wine, and pop. No outside alcohol. Snacks are welcome!

Pinnacle Community Services

- “In Her Shoes” simulation workshop 3/20 at Little Portion Friary

8. Adjournment