



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

Time: 3:03 PM -4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Attendance (74) Evan Coyle, Dan Gordon, Daniella Gallego, Katey Soellers, Michael Devine, Nicole Lalonde, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Sara Carlson, Kexin Ma, Anette Lock, Amin Shah, Angel Torres, Angela Angora, Arianna Halter, Ashley Matrassi, Ashley Olsen, Bonnie Bortz, Bridget Janese, Cadence Aguilar, Caitlin Bauer, Cassie Graff, Celina Bryan, Chris, Christa Glennie, Christina Banks, Christine Slocum, Dan Gordon, Daniel Stegman, Daniella Gallego, Donnell G, Drew Friedfertig, Emily Reese, Gigi Grizanti, Haley Diagostino, Holly Rutkowski, Jerri Arroyo, Jill Bianchi, John Banas, John McMahon, Joyelle Tedeschi, Julia Dietz, Kaitlin Price, Kaitlyn Dickey, Kristin Rivera, Kristin Tanner, Kyla Dyer, Lisa Bloomingdale, Lisa Kolek, Luanne Firestone, Maddie Fooks, Matthew Schaefer, Meg Honan, Melissa Figini, Michael Devine, Miranda Rixinger, Nick Arlain, Nicole LaLonde, Pam Quigley, P Nowakowski, Rae Frank, Robert Williams, Robyn Krueger, Samuel Reese, Sara Cartland, Sarah Catherine Sargeant, Shannon Boswell, Shannon Stachowski, Tabernacle of Praise Buffalo, Tatianna Royster, Thanh Nyugen, Treya Gough, Will Marcy, Yulissa Pena,

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction

Homeless Alliance Executive Director Kexin Ma welcomes attendees to the meeting.

Kexin Ma opened the floor for Homeless Alliance Board Member Introductions that included Robyn Krueger, Joyelle Tedeschi, Bridget Janese, Christa Glennie, Chris Syracuse, John McMahon, Luanne Firestone

2. System Performance Report

Homeless Alliance HMIS Director Nate Pyzikiewicz presents System Performance Data.

The SPM's is a one year HUD Report that HAWNY puts together that essentially measures how the whole system works together. The information is used by HUD to determine funding during the NOFO.

The presentation discussed the Overall numbers, First Time Homelessness, Reasons for Homelessness, Length of Time in Shelters, and Exits to Positive/Permanent Housing.

One of the main trends we saw this year is a reduction in unsheltered homelessness and an increase in sheltered homelessness. We also saw an uptick in "New" clients.

Click on the slides labeled "System Performance Measure" Review for a detailed breakdown of the data

3. Unsheltered System Mapping Initiative

Homeless Alliance CoC Director Ashley Matrassi and CoC Supervisor Daniella Gallego present the new System Mapping Initiative.

Over the past two months, the Homeless Alliance of WNY has partnered with the Buffalo Police Department to system-map encampments and frequently identified outdoor/places not meant for human habitation, sleeping locations.

This effort grew from what many of us are already seeing:

- More individuals sleeping outdoors
- Increased reliance on Code Blue during extreme weather
- 311 calls and police observations highlighting frequent locations
- The shared desire to respond more intentionally

Today is about alignment.

We want to ensure outreach, housing, and law enforcement partners are working from the same information; in a way that supports safety, dignity, and housing.

Click on the slides labeled "Coordinated Outreach System Mapping Initiative" to Learn more

4. Committee Reports:

Erie County By-Name Meeting: Dan Gordon (Homeless Alliance): This meeting was created to provide a space to discuss referrals, client related questions, and any other housing related questions or concerns. We also aim to discuss housing alternatives for clients that may not receive a housing referral or need a higher level of care. The main goal is to improve efficiency especially at a time when CoC funding is only able to house 20% of the clients we come into contact with in the homeless

system. The meeting takes place at Gerard Place from 9-11am on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

GOW Area: Rae Frank (ILGR): Oak Orchard Health opened 2 warming centers (Wyoming and Batavia). This is a huge accomplishment for areas that previously did not offer any such open community area.

The YWCA has served over 30 clients

Aging Panel: Haley Diagostino: The Homeless Alliance hosted an Aging Panel last month at Gerard Place. The event was well attended. Over 40 service providers, local organizations, and community members came out to the event. Did you know: People aged 50+ are the fastest growing population experiencing homelessness in our community and across the country.

Interested in helping guide local efforts to address and prevent homelessness among older adults?
Join our Older Adult Taskforce [here](#)

5. NYSHADE Participation

NYSHADE is an initiative by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to understand the nature and scope of homelessness across the State of New York. The Data Warehouse has been created by OTDA and will be maintained and operated by OTDA.

Review the slides labeled “NYSHADE Overview” for more in depth information

6. Trainings Available to Paid Members



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

We are excited to offer up to **\$200 in training reimbursement per paid member organization** through the National Alliance to End Homelessness online trainings.

- Choose any training that best fits your needs
- Complete the course at your convenience
- Submit proof of completion and payment to receive reimbursement

Please submit them to Daniella Gallego (Gallego@wnyhomeless.org)

- All request has to be submitted before **July 3, 2026**

Online Training Link:

<https://learning.endhomelessness.org/store>

Click [here](#) for the online training link

5. Community Announcements

**Homeless Alliance of WNY Meat Raffle on May 15th
@ Knights Event Center in Cheektowaga
[Buy Tickets here](#)**

6. Adjournment

Homeless Alliance Executive Director Kexin Ma thanks attendees for joining the meeting