
11/21/2025 CoC Minutes

Date: November 21, 2025 **Time:** 8:31 AM **Location:** Zoom

Attendance

- **Board Members Present:** Wanda Koffler (Chair), Anna Edwards (Coordinator), Shari West (Secretary), Karla McClaren, Tracy Obert, Micki Jaramillo, Kayla Broughton (new member), Paul Wright (joined later)
- **Ex-Officio/Guests:** Dawn Dillinger
- **Absent:** Bobby, Julie

Quorum: Achieved (minimum 5 members present)

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 8:31 AM by Chair Wanda Koffler.
- Roll call conducted; quorum confirmed.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Correction noted: minutes dated 11/17/2025 (not 10/17).
- Motion to approve by Micki Jaramillo; seconded by Tracy Obert.
- Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Board Member Introduction

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- **Kayla Broughton** introduced herself as Transitional Living Coordinator at Yes House, serving Campbell, Weston, and Crook counties.
 - Round-robin introductions completed by all members.

4. Discussion: Joint Appropriations Committee Preparation

Overview (led by Karla McClaren):

- Annual presentation to the Joint Appropriations Committee requires framing key challenges and asks from the CoC.
- Board brainstormed priority issues and messaging.

Key Points Raised:

- **State ESG funding impact:** Importance of continued state funding; request for statistics on outcomes.
- **Loss of Permanent Supportive Housing:** Transition pressures due to NOFO changes; risk of losing 70% of federal funds.
- **Mental health service gaps:** Wyoming described as a “mental health desert”; lack of providers and infrastructure.
- **Risk of criminalization:** Without adequate treatment, individuals may cycle into jails; cost estimated at \$122/day (\$44,000/year per person, 2017 data).
- **Cost comparisons:** Hospitalization ~ \$335/day vs. step-down detox ~ \$100/day; need to emphasize cost savings.
- **Staffing shortages:** Difficulty retaining mental health professionals; graduates often leave the state for higher pay.

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- **Taxation concerns:** Property tax reductions already straining local budgets; potential future burden on taxpayers if federal funding declines.
 - **Title 25 involuntary commitment process:** Counties reluctant to pay initial 72-hour costs; unresolved litigation issues.
 - **Utah model concerns:** Reference to Utah’s involuntary treatment “camp” resembling prison; questions about feasibility and ethics.

Consensus Summary (Anna Edwards):

- Loss of federal PSH funding will strain local/state systems (jails, ERs, hospitals).
- Criminalization and untreated mental health/substance abuse will increase costs.
- Continued **state ESG investment** is critical to stabilize programs and prevent ripple effects.
- Messaging to legislators should emphasize **financial impact on taxpayers** and **workforce shortages**.

5. Next Steps

- Karla McClaren to consolidate board input into questions/statements for Joint Appropriations Committee.
- Anna Edwards to provide supporting data on costs and system impacts.
- Follow-up discussion scheduled for next meeting with Caitlin to explain system performance metrics.

6. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned following discussion.

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- Next meeting date to be confirmed.

Action Items

- **Karla McClaren:** Draft committee talking points incorporating board feedback.
- **Anna Edwards:** Gather cost data (hospitalization, jail, detox) and system performance metrics.
- **Board Members:** Review draft and provide additional input before committee presentation.