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Delaware Interagency Collaborative to End Homelessness

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

9:30am – 12:00pm

DSP Troop 2, 100 Corporal Stephen J. Ballard Way, Newark, DE 19702

Recording: <https://youtu.be/VkZG3n7-5nU>

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **I. Call to Order**

Director Matthew Heckles called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

### **II. Welcome and Roll Call**

#### **Members Present (in person):**

DSHA Director Matthew Heckles, Chair  
Rachel Stucker, Housing Alliance Delaware  
Susan Kent, Chair of the COC  
Ruth Uhey (proxy for DOE Secretary)  
Brandy Nauman (proxy for SC Administrator)  
Steve Yeatman, Secretary, DSCYF  
Terra Taylor, Commissioner, DOC  
Carrie Casey (proxy for NCC Administrator)  
LaKresha Moultrie, Secretary, DOL  
Javier Horstmann (proxy for Mayor of Wilmington)  
Rep. Kendra Johnson, Chair of House Housing Comm.  
Robin Christianson, Mayor of Dover  
Kevin Sipple, Kent County Administrator

#### **Staff Attendance (in person)**

Emily Cunningham, DSHA  
Vanessa Cullen, DSHA  
Alexander Modeas, DSHA  
Michelle Statham, DSHA  
Stephanie Griffin, DSHA  
Ashley Dawson, DSHA  
Melissa Ziegler, DSHA  
Alice Davis, DSHA  
Emily Fenimore, DSHA intern  
Shannon Yarnall, DSHA intern  
Ja'Nyah Carlisle-Mayo, DSHA intern

#### **Other attendees (in person):**

Karen Eller, public  
Mimi Rayl, UD  
Jessica Cline, DOC  
Alicia Collins, YMCA DE  
Sonya Starr, HAD  
Carla Rodriguez, DOC intern  
Amelia Ramsaran, HAD

#### **Virtual attendees:**

Alexa Scoglietti (for DHSS Secretary)  
Aundrea Almond, Governor's office  
Amber  
Erin Gallaher  
Shenet Gatling  
Kim Eppenhimer  
Nikki Gonzalez  
Amanda Levering  
Nina Pierce  
Kim Brockenbrough  
Lisa Rice  
Kevin Potts  
Porsha Harvey

#### **DSHA staff (virtual):**

Caitlin Del Collo  
Michelle Wesley-Ford  
Justina Brinkley  
Deb Whidden  
Esther Dawley, DSHA intern

### **III. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2025 meeting 9:47 am**

Mayor Christianson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Susan Kent and approved unanimously.

### **IV. Presentation of Survey Results (and discussion) 9:50 am – 11:25 am**

Director Heckles reaffirmed that the purpose of the survey is to understand how we are all investing in the homelessness system. Constitution is mostly entities that have a funding role either at state, local or federal level. Thank you to those who responded to the survey.

Alex Modeas presented the definitions and findings of the survey. Normed on using the HUD definitions of homelessness, which are included in the survey findings. The three populations were defined as literally homeless, at-risk for homelessness, and fleeing domestic violence/assault.

There was a discussion about definitions and resources available, as well as what issues/circumstances play a role in becoming homeless that we might address? Director Heckles suggested we need to talk about prevention and permanent supportive housing, but can we agree to focus on those who are literally homeless and currently in shelter immediately?

There was a discussion about the need for continuing care, safe and affordable housing, consistent employment, and mental and substance abuse assistance. There needs to be work done on prevention as well.

Alex continued with the survey results at 10:21 am, and we learned which agencies serve which populations with direct funding and resources. All acknowledged the survey needs to be refined to capture more detailed information.

All Collaborative members were asked to resubmit surveys with responses only for program/services that serve clients who are living on the streets, in shelter, in vehicles or in hotels/motels.

How can we help break the intergenerational cycles?

The problem is those who are unhoused; other issues play a role in making someone/keeping someone homeless, but we need to focus on the literally homeless. We know that the HOPE Center model works. Not all our systems/shelters have adopted that model. Carrie Casey explained the process and how important partnerships are, but how they are funding and time limited.

Discussion about why/who institutes the amount of shelter stay (being time limited) and how to understand and streamline funding. Law(s) may need to be changed.

[Title31.pdf](#)

[Delaware Regulations - Administrative Code](#)

Discussion about one-stop shops, but we do have state service centers statewide that could be utilized?

Are there current groups/committees we could talk with regarding youth, youth aging out of foster care/independent living, emergency shelters. Individual components we happen to be working on in our own agencies can be brought to this group.

DSHA will prepare a survey for all shelters to examine current barriers to shelter access.

Director Heckles asked Javier Horstmann about the Mayor's taskforce doing similar work; they are partway through the 180-day process. Information about that taskforce is here: [Executive Order 2025-1](#)

For the next meeting:

- redefine scope and send more information out to get better data sources on funding
- add for collection: housing navigators, street outreach, supportive services, whole continuum
- shelter and emergency housing systems as well as diversion/exiting the system, including funding/financial assistance
- presentation of providers in the state (where shelters are, who they serve, what types of funding they receive)
- what other states doing that we can use as best practices?
- CoC Blueprint

Mimi Rayl from UD announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on homelessness to be held on August 14. She invited people to join the mailing list and attend.

## **V. Public Comment**

Mimi Rayl, UD

## **VI. Adjournment**

Director Heckles adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am and said we will follow up quickly on a meeting date to be prior to the UD conference.

Written public comments can be sent to [collaborative@delaware.gov](mailto:collaborative@delaware.gov) and comments received within 48 hours of the meeting will be appended to the meeting minutes.