



Homeless Services Adhoc Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 3:30 PM
City Hall • Mayor's Conference Room
1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201
City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov

The Honorable Will Brennan, District III, Chair
The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, District I • The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. September 18, 2025 Homeless Services Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Discussion

2. Homeless Services FY25-26 Outcomes — Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Director of Homeless Services
3. Homelessness Response System Assessment Draft Report — Ms. Trisha Marsik, MSW, Principal Co-Project Director / Health Management Associates, Inc.

Executive Session

4. Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Homeless Services*

Adjournment



Meeting Date: September 8, 2026

Department: City Clerk's Office

From: Erika Hammond, City Clerk

September 18, 2025 Homeless Services Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes

Background Summary:

Attachments:

1. September 18, 2025 Homeless Ad Hoc Minutes



HOMELESS SERVICES ADHOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Homeless Services Adhoc Committee conducted a meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Will Brennan, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and the following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Will Brennan	Chair	Present	
Aditi Bussells	Member	Late	1:18 p.m.
Tyler D. Bailey	Member	Present	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 8, 2025 Homeless Services Adhoc Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Brennan, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the April 8, 2025 Homeless Services Adhoc Committee Meeting Minutes. Dr. Bussells was not present for the vote.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Update on Homeless Services Blueprint - Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Director of Homeless Services – *Received as information.*

Councilor Brennan summarized the previous meeting's review of the Point-in-Time Count, conducted in partnership with the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH). The count identified 1,423 individuals experiencing homelessness across the Midlands.

Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Director of Homeless Services introduced her team and provided an overview of the City's homelessness response. Before 2011, services lacked coordination, but since then, unsheltered populations have grown. In 2022, the City launched Rapid Shelter Columbia, a 50-pallet community offering intensive case management and long-term housing support for chronically unsheltered individuals. In 2025, 100 participants have been housed with ongoing support. She also highlighted the Adopt a Pallet Program, which funds essential client needs such as IDs and utility assistance.



HOMELESS SERVICES ADHOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

There was discussion about the effectiveness of the pallet community model and the City Council's key role in 2022 in supporting and advancing this approach to homelessness.

Ms. Aren Pace, LMSW, Opioid-Response Community Liaison / Homeless Services highlighted the impact of Rapid Shelter Columbia, noting that private, lockable spaces provide residents dignity and stability. She shared data showing that most residents are over 45 and experience significant health challenges, including mental illness, substance use disorders, and chronic conditions. She reported the 2025 PIT Count results showing 837 individuals experiencing homelessness in Richland County. She also introduced the next initiative, a Recovery Community Center at Hope Plaza funded by the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund, which will offer a safe environment and connect unsheltered individuals with recovery-focused services to support long-term wellness and independence. The department is looking to start the pilot program on October 13, 2025.

There was discussion about the 45-and-older population; social support; objectives of community center services; client willingness to receive assistance; community group outreach; contributions from major health care providers; the need for medical triage; ongoing conversations with Richland County; key connectivity points; tracking outreach interactions; coordination with bond court; hours of operation for the community center; and the consultant procurement process.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

3. Citizens for Accountability on Homelessness - Mr. Andy Burns – *Received as information*

Mr. Andy Burns, Citizens for Accountability on Homelessness explained that this neighborhood group formed earlier this year after recognizing the need to move beyond informal discussions and take action to support both the homeless population and the surrounding community. Collectively they've identified five key action items focused on long-term relocation of homeless services from the Elmwood corridor; reducing system-driven loitering caused by scattered feeding sites; supporting law enforcement in enforcing boundaries; increasing regional collaboration with Richland County and neighboring counties; and pursuing architectural and environmental changes in partnership with SCDOT. He emphasized the group's commitment to assisting the City, law enforcement, and service providers by advocating publicly for coordinated solutions and healthier operating practices.



HOMELESS SERVICES ADHOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:28 p.m. for the discussion of Item 4.

4. Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Homeless Services*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk



Meeting Date: September 8, 2026

Department: City Clerk's Office

From:

Homeless Services FY25-26 Outcomes — Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Director of Homeless Services

Background Summary:

Attachments:

None



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Homelessness Response System Assessment Draft Report — Ms. Trisha Marsik, MSW, Principal Co-Project Director / Health Management Associates, Inc.

Background Summary:

Attachments:

None