



General Membership Meeting Minutes February 2026

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, who welcomed members and guests and opened the meeting with approval of the previous meeting minutes. The Secretary provided a summary of the January minutes, including adoption of the revised governance charter, election of 2026 officers, confirmation of committee chairs, funding updates, and the Point-in-Time Count. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the previous minutes.

Members and guests then introduced themselves, their organizations, and their roles in addressing homelessness in the community. Attendees represented a wide range of sectors, including mental health, reentry, street outreach, law enforcement, housing, peer support, health care, faith communities, local government, and volunteer services. Several new attendees expressed interest in sober living, street medicine, independent living support, and community-based outreach.

Bethany Trapp provided an update on the 2026 Point-in-Time Count, reporting that the count had concluded successfully with all sites covered and strong volunteer participation. Preliminary data has been submitted to the lead applicant, United Way, and will be entered into the HUD system once the reporting portal opens. Final numbers will be released after HUD review and approval. An additional update was provided on the Housing Inventory Count, which is nearing completion. Shelter leadership also shared that bed capacity has been adjusted to better respond to increased family homelessness, with current capacity including beds for single women, family rooms, and single men.

An important update was provided regarding coordinated entry and federal technical assistance. CSRA EOA has received a small grant allowing the Marion Barnes Assessment & Referral Center to continue coordinated entry operations through December 31, 2026. Leadership emphasized that affordable housing remains one of the community's greatest barriers, especially for individuals and families with little or no income. Members were advised that future progress will require creative housing strategies, increased collaboration, and stronger community partnerships. HUD technical assistance representatives are scheduled to be on site April 13–17, 2026, to support coordinated entry, housing planning, and Continuum of Care system improvement.

Discussion also focused on rebuilding the community's competitiveness for HUD funding. Leadership acknowledged that Augusta's Continuum of Care must strengthen data quality, complete required submissions on time, and improve system coordination in order to regain competitiveness for future funding opportunities. United Way, now serving as HMIS administrator, expects to post positions soon to support HMIS operations and planning efforts related to Continuum of Care development.



Members were informed that membership agreement renewals will be distributed electronically. Leadership encouraged all current members to complete the online form and share it with others in their organizations who would like to formally participate. This process is intended to strengthen membership tracking, broaden representation, and demonstrate the diversity of community participation.

Committee reports were then presented. The Supportive Services Committee shared its focus on non-housing resources that support housing stability and self-sufficiency, including employment, behavioral health, benefits access, transportation, childcare, legal assistance, and financial literacy. The committee will work to identify gaps in services and improve cross-agency coordination. The Governance Committee, chaired by the Compliance Officer, reported that it will oversee charter review, ethics, conflicts of interest, membership accountability, project monitoring, and system transparency. The Street Outreach Committee announced that outreach efforts will continue twice monthly, with the next dates scheduled for March 11 and March 25. The committee emphasized the importance of relationship-based outreach and connecting people to services before law enforcement involvement becomes necessary. The Community Engagement Committee reported that its purpose is to increase public awareness, strengthen outreach, and encourage greater community involvement in the work of the Task Force. An additional update was provided on the ad hoc charter and SOP committee, which has completed the Memorandum of Understanding with the collaborative applicant and is finalizing standard operating procedures.

Under new business, leadership discussed ongoing efforts related to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), including conversations with partners about maintaining and expanding this critical housing resource for individuals with disabilities and extremely low income. It was noted that the Task Force does not currently have a designated grant writer, as funding is administered through the collaborative applicant, though several partner agencies have grant-writing experience.

During community discussion, a member raised questions about unused property near Med Park and whether it could serve as a space for individuals experiencing homelessness. Leadership shared that no plans currently exist for that use. Additional discussion focused on opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to contribute through volunteer or community cleanup efforts, as well as the need to better publicize ongoing disaster recovery support still entering the area after Hurricane Helene.

With no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. Members were encouraged to continue building partnerships and remain engaged in committee work. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**.