HOMELESS TASK FORCE
AUGUSTA

General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Luke Niday, who welcomed members and guests and reiterated the mission of the Homeless Task Force to collaboratively address homelessness in Augusta-Richmond County.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Members reviewed the February meeting minutes. A correction was noted regarding HUD Technical Assistance dates, updated to April 20–24, 2026. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with introductions from community partners. Sydney Howard introduced herself as the new Associate Executive Director for Georgia Rehabilitation Institute and discussed accessible housing opportunities and collaboration. Patton House representatives shared plans for transitional housing supporting veterans in recovery.

Task Force Engagement and Communication

Members discussed increasing participation, improving community awareness, and sharing success stories. The group emphasized transparency and communicating the impact of collaborative efforts.

Governance Committee Update

The Governance Committee is seeking additional members. Responsibilities include maintaining compliance, transparency, accountability, and supporting effective Task Force operations.

CoC Funding and HUD NOFO Update

Members reviewed upcoming Continuum of Care funding changes. The competitive portion of funding has increased, making project priorities and strong applications more important. HUD

priorities include transitional housing, recovery services, mental health services, workforce development, and HMIS participation.

HMIS Update

The Task Force discussed expanding HMIS participation. Nine organizations are fully trained, with additional agencies in progress. HMIS improves data collection, referrals, coordination, and funding competitiveness.

Housing and Homeless Prevention Discussion

Members discussed the shortage of affordable housing, hotel placements, food insecurity, transportation barriers, and the need for stronger prevention and rapid rehousing coordination.

Veteran Housing and Community Partnerships

Patton House discussed developing transitional housing for veterans, including recovery support, VA coordination, and independent living transitions.

Announcements and Closing

Members shared grant opportunities, legal services, mental health resources, youth events, veteran assistance needs, and remembered a recently deceased community member. The next meeting was announced for July at 4:30 PM.

Action Items

- Recruit Governance Committee members
- Increase public communication of Task Force outcomes
- Expand HMIS participation and complete training
- Encourage agencies to apply for CoC funding
- Improve coordinated referrals among partners