

Bureau of Housing and Support Services (BHSS) Regional Provider Meetings

October 21, 2025
Doubletree Rochester

List of Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Dennis Culhane, PhD

Dennis P. Culhane is the Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice. His primary area of research is homelessness and assisted housing policy.

Session 1A: Safe Options and Person-Centered Approaches for Engaging the Unhoused

Beth Clark, Residential Service Director, Helio Health

Julie Duncan, Director, Bureau of Housing Development and Support, NYS Office of Mental Health

Karena L. Gordon-Smith, CRPA, Peer Support Specialist, Liberty Resources

Rebecca Miglioratti, Community Homeless Coordinator, Monroe County Department of Social Services

Lisa Nichols, Safe Options Support Team Leader, Liberty Resources

Session 1B: Site Selection Considerations

Tarik Abdelazim, Vice President of Technical Assistance, Center for Community Progress

Major Annette Lock, Salvation Army Buffalo Area Services

Joseph P. McGrath, Deputy Director, Seneca County Planning and Community Development and CEO/President, Finger Lakes Regional Land Bank Cooperation

Lenny Skrill, Assistant Commissioner, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

Session 2A: Innovative Solutions for Medical and Social Care Needs

Megan DeMeo, Deputy Director of Program Operations, Bethesda House

Amanda Hughes, RN – Medical Care Program, Bethesda House

Amit Jagdeo, Clinical Supervisor, Bethesda House

Session 2B: Sustaining Success: Tenant Engagement and Staff Retention

Susan Bernhart, Grants and Housing Administrative Specialist, Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach

Sharon Castronovo, Director of Finance and Administration, Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach

DeShawn McLamore, Director of Permanent Supportive Housing, Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach