

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**February 28, 2024**

**Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2634 527 3179)**

**Present (teleconference)**

Linda Boswell  
Rachel Castillo  
Chad Cheshire  
Tammie Collins  
Jimiyu Evans  
Andrea Giese-Sweat  
Philip Gilman (in person)  
Alison Goldey  
Diane Rogers  
Maxwell Ruppensburg  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

Kristy Carter  
Matthew Elder  
Wayne Mack  
Eric McGhee  
Michelle Stanley  
Brendon Tate

**Collaborative Applicant Staff  
(teleconference)**

Tiffany Bowers-Weller  
Aashish Gautam  
Josh Gray (in person)  
Jimmy Harris  
Rick Heermans (in person)  
LaDrina Jones  
Lakeisha Jones (in person)  
Amanda McKearn  
Tina Moore (in person)  
Alison Morgan (in person)  
Trenise Ponder  
John Stovall  
Cordaryl Turner (in person)  
Daphne Walker

**Guests (teleconference)**

Erin Langley & Rose Simpson-Carrollton Housing Authority  
Allison Bender & Brenda Bradley-Brookdale Resource Center  
Jenny Wood & Michelle Mondesir-FaithBridge Foster Care  
Chrystal Coker & Michael Fisher-Ninth District Opportunity  
Reid Denson & Susan Gallagher-New Horizons BH  
Marquita Martin & Alexis Tuggle-Peace Place  
Toni-Lee McDonald & D'aja Grandberry-PCCI  
Johnnie Watkins-Hearts to Nourish Hope  
David Augustine-Changing Homelessness  
Myah Johnson-Myah's Resource Center  
Jennifer Green-Halcyon Home for Battered Women  
Taujuana Chiyota-Douglas County CSB  
Wanzina Jackson-Macon-Bibb County  
Nadine Samuels-Open Doors Atlanta  
Leslie Hartman-Safe Harbor  
Ailene Gordon-CaringWorks  
Kathy Parsons-Impact International  
Terry Bennett-Bridge of Tiftarea  
Reid Fincher-Dalton-Whitfield CDC  
Sarah Pedarre-Forsythe Connection  
Melissa Tyson-Quest Communities  
La'Quitta Griswold-Oconee Center  
Natalie Williams-CJCC  
John Williams-Hand in Hand of Glynn  
Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA  
Ann Mills-My Overcomers House  
Janeane Schmidt-Salvation Army  
Jeremy Bulloch-Union Mission  
Stephanie Curry-River Edge  
Kimberly Bowen-Gateway BHS  
Sandy Jackson-Exousia House  
John Morris-Advantage BHS  
Benita Barber-Aspire BHDD  
Charmaine Thomas-Amity House  
Amberly Smith-Advantage BHS  
Teresa Smith-SHARE House

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the "Board") meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chad Cheshire at 1:16 p.m.

Chairperson Cheshire welcomed board members, thanked everyone for participating in this meeting, and conducted a roll call of the board members in attendance.

Natalie Williams stated that she was a colleague of Kristy Carter's at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and she had been asked by Ms. Carter to serve as her proxy for the meeting. Chairperson Cheshire asked Josh Gray if this was allowable, and Mr. Gray replied that proxies are required to be another member of the Board so it would not be allowed. Mr. Gray noted that staff learned of Ms. Carter's anticipated absence right before the meeting and didn't have time to try to arrange a proxy with another Board member.

**Note:** Due to technical difficulties, the WebEx session terminated early unexpectedly, and all attendees were advised to rejoin the meeting. A second roll call of Board Members was held after this occurred and all Board members were still present. Rachel Castillo joined the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and missed both roll calls and all votes.

Chairperson Cheshire called for approval of the minutes of November 15, 2023 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2023 was made by Andrea Geise-Sweat and seconded by Diane Rogers. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire then invited guests to participate in the public comment period and members to introduce themselves. The guests introduced themselves either verbally as they joined the conference call or through the Chat feature online. There were no additional comments from the public.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to provide a report on Board Member Appointments and Staff Updates. Mr. Gray reported that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has reappointed Kristy Carter, Victim Assistance Division Director, to serve as CJCC's representative on the BoS CoC Board of Directors. The appointment has been reviewed and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee.

Mr. Gray announced that DCA staff are awaiting documentation to confirm a few other appointments. As soon as they are received, they will be sent to the Membership and Rules Committee for review and approval. Mr. Gray noted that until appointments/reappointments are approved, current Board members continue to fill the seats in accordance with the Governance Charter.

Mr. Gray then provided a staff update. He announced that Alison Morgan joined the staff as the new CoC Program Team Lead on January 2, 2024. Mr. Gray also announced that Trenise Ponder joined the staff as an additional Coordinated Entry System Coordinator who will be based in Albany and cover the Southwest Georgia.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray who asked for approval of the 2024 ESG Priority Recommendations for the Balance of State CoC (Tab B). In response to the annual request of the Balance of State (BoS) CoC to rank, in order of priority, the listed activities eligible under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program administered by the State, BoS CoC staff solicited BoS CoC membership input and then reviewed input and recommendations with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee. A total of 72 responses were received from CoC membership. Mr. Gray reviewed the proposed priority ranking as approved by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee on February 19, 2024, that would be used by DCA for the evaluation of project applications that have been submitted under the State's Emergency Solutions Grants Program competition for 2024-25. Mr. Gray noted that the one major

difference between the recommendations and what the members suggested related to street outreach. CoC Membership rated street outreach as the 6<sup>th</sup> priority out of 8, but the Standards, Ratings, and Project Selection Committee recommendation before the Board ranks it as the 4<sup>th</sup> highest priority. The rationale behind this is the need to provide outreach to homeless individuals not being reached by the current system. In addition, the percentage of street outreach coverage is a part of scoring in the CoC competition each year, and Street Outreach is also a part of System Performance Measures. Mr. Gray noted that this resulted in shifting Hotel Motel Vouchers and Case Management down one spot in the priority ranking.

Jimiyu Evans asked if there were any highlights that would support any of the other rankings. Mr. Gray responded that there were none and stated that the state currently provides 40% of federal ESG funding to support Emergency Shelter, 43% for Rapid Re-housing, 9% for Homeless Prevention, and 8% for Street Outreach. Mr. Gray also noted that of the \$5.8 million awarded last year, \$5.4 million represented federal funding, and \$400,000 in state funds.

A motion to approve the Balance of State CoC Priorities for the State's 2024-25 ESG competition was made by Jimiyu Evans and seconded by Charlotte Woody. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to review the Youth Action Board Governance Update (Tab C). Referencing materials sent to the Board, Mr. Gray reviewed the Youth Action Board (YAB) Governance Updates. The YAB Governance document outlines the vision, purpose, membership, leadership, meetings voting, member compensation, and structure within the Balance of State CoC. The YAB serves as a formal committee under the Board, and YAB Governance was originally adopted in 2021. Collaborative Applicant (DCA) staff, also referred to as CoC staff within materials, will provide administrative support to the YAB. Referencing the document, *Youth Action Board Governance*, Mr. Gray discussed proposed changes including:

- Edits to the compensation policy where YAB members would receive \$20 per hour for YAB activities, based on time/hours worked;
- The CoC will cover reasonable travel costs associated with in-person meetings, training, or focus groups;
- Clarification that compensation of an extra \$20 for the facilitation of meetings is specifically for YAB meetings; and
- Updated staff contact to Charles Wheeler

Mr. Gray noted that staff met with the Membership and Rules Committee to review the changes. Mr. Gray requested that the Board approve the updates to the Youth Action Board Governance as recommended.

A motion to approve the Youth Action Board Governance as updated was made by Diane Rogers and seconded by Alison Goldey. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Alison Morgan to present the Youth Action Board Member Appointments (Tab D). As directed in the Youth Action Board Governance document, the Youth Action Board will consist of 3-12 members, aged 18 through 24 years old 2/3rds of whom must either be currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness or housing instability. Members will represent a diversity of Georgia's population and be from varied geographic, experience, and identity backgrounds. New or renewing membership requests are approved by the BoS CoC Board.

Ms. Morgan reviewed the four new YAB candidates who represent three counties (Gordon, Floyd, and Dougherty) and two regions (region 1 and region 4). These YAB candidates were referred by and are receiving support from two of our Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) providers, Advocates for Bartow's Children and Open Arms. Recruitment efforts for the YAB have mainly focused on referrals from providers, but staff have also reached out to technical colleges and other youth serving community providers.

Ms. Morgan discusses the new YAB onboarding and training process conducted by Charles Wheeler, CoC Program Coordinator, who is taking the lead on vetting potential members and managing expectations regarding compensation and the scope of the YAB role. Mr. Wheeler is providing training around the BoS Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest and Recusal policies, and he is providing CoC 101 and YHDP education. Ms. Morgan noted that YAB members are also being connected to online self-training through True Colors United which covers such topics as YAB basics, advocacy, and communication.

Ms. Morgan noted that the goal is to set up YAB members for success and provide the support they need to be a positive, productive force as we pursue the goal of ending youth homelessness. Ms. Morgan requested that the Board approve the Youth Action Board Member Appointments slate of nominees.

A motion to approve the Youth Action Board Member Appointments slate of nominees as recommended was made by Tammie Collins and seconded by Philip Gilman. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Tina Moore who asked for approval of the 2024-2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule for the Balance of State CoC Board (Tab E). Ms. Moore noted that these dates are very similar to those of 2023 and meetings are typically held the third Wednesdays of the month except in November. Ms. Moore noted that there would likely be several specially called meetings related to the annual CoC Competition. The following dates were proposed for the standing meetings:

- May 22, 2024
- August 28, 2024
- November 13, 2024
- February 26, 2025

A motion to approve the proposed dates for the next four standing Board meetings was made by Maxwell Ruppensburg and seconded by Tammie Collins. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Tina Moore to review the 2023 Balance of State CoC Competition Awards (Tab F). Ms. Moore provided a brief report on the results of the 2023 CoC Annual Competition. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding awards for the 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. Included in HUD's funding announcement are Renewal, New, DV Bonus, Permanent Housing Bonus, and CoC Planning projects. The Balance of State CoC received a total award amount of \$24.1 million, and \$58.2 million was awarded to Georgia projects as a whole. In the Tier 1 and Tier 2 awards for the 2023 CoC competition, over \$22.7 million was awarded to 59 Renewal projects under the Balance of State CoC, with another \$1.3 million awarded to the planning grant. A summary of renewal awards which included 41 renewal permanent supportive housing projects, 14 renewal rapid re-housing projects, 2 renewal HMIS projects, 2 renewal coordinated entry projects, and 1

planning grant project was awarded. Ms. Moore noted that the planning grant is funded outside of the amount designated for project applications. Ms. Moore reported that two currently funded projects have not been renewed in this award, and none of the four new projects have been awarded. Ms. Moore noted that as a whole, projects were awarded \$2.7 million more over the previous year, and Georgia as a whole received about \$8.3 million more than last year.

There was some discussion about the two agencies that were not renewed (City of Hinesville and Tifton Judicial Circuit Shelter), the low number of households served by those programs, the availability of funding under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program competition to fill the gap in services, and the possibility of technical assistance to providers.

Ms. Moore then provided a brief update on the 2024 Balance of State CoC Competition. HUD has opened the FY 2024 CoC Registration process, which is due March 7, 2024. Ms. Moore noted that the exact date when the 2024 competition will open is unknown, but in previous years, HUD goals have been to open it in May or June (opening on August 1<sup>st</sup> last year). Ms. Moore noted that it is anticipated that two (2) special meetings of the Board will need to be called once HUD releases the CoC Application guidelines for 2024 (Notice of Funding Opportunity/NOFO). The first meeting will be necessary to establish recommendations for the BoS CoC competition policy, process, and review criteria for Board approval, and the second meeting will be to review the results and priority ranking recommendations to the Board for approval.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to provide Balance of State CoC updates. Mr. Gray reported on the following:

- The DCA Housing Symposium was held in Atlanta in early February and was a big success with good attendance and a lot of interaction with members taking place. This event will be held in Savannah in 2025.
- The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count was conducted on January 22, 2024, with surveys submitted over the following week. Follow-up is underway to collect the missing surveys for the Sheltered Count. A total of 41 counties with 560 volunteers participated in the unsheltered count. Data cleanup is taking place for both components and a dashboard of count results will be issued at the appropriate time.
- A membership vote to approve the revised Governance Charter as required every 5 years was finalized on November 17, 2023, when a quorum voting to approve it was reached.
- Quarterly Membership meetings will begin in 2024 instead of the usual 1-2 per year as in the past. They are scheduled at 10:00 A.M. on March 18, June 17, September 16, and December 16 with further details on each to be announced at a later time.
- The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) was submitted to HUD back in January by the deadline. The LSA looks at the BoS CoC as a system and uses individual household level data from HMIS to assess the CoC's performance. Mr. Gray noted that a report on the findings will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.
- The System Performance Measures (SPM) report is due to be submitted to HUD by the deadline of March 13<sup>th</sup>. The SPM report is similar to the LSA except that the SPM report measures CoC performance on a project level rather than individual household level. HUD uses SPM data as a competitive element in the competition and to gauge the state of the homeless response system nationally. Mr. Gray again noted that a report on these findings will be given to the Board at a subsequent meeting and thanked the HMIS lead team for their help in getting this report completed.

Chairperson Cheshire asked if there was any old business. No old business was presented to the Board for consideration.

Chairperson Cheshire then asked for new business. No new business was presented to the Board for consideration.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on May 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Cheshire', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Chairperson

Title