

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

Atlanta, Georgia

May 24, 2023

Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2634 076 3081)

Present (teleconference unless noted)

Linda Boswell
 Kristy Carter
 Rachel Castillo
 Tammie Collins
 Chad Cheshire (in person)
 Matthew Elder
 Jimiyu Evans
 Andrea Giese-Sweat (in person)
 Philip Gilman (in person)
 Alison Goldey
 Sondra Hampton
 Eric McGhee
 Wayne Mack
 Maxwell Ruppensburg (in person)
 Michelle Stanley
 Brendon Tate
 Charlotte Woody

Absent

Diane Rogers

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference unless noted)

Amanda Brand
 Isaac Davis
 Aashish Gautam
 Josh Gray (in person)
 Rick Heermans (in person)
 Tina Moore (in person)
 Keveja Thomas
 Cordaryl Turner (in person)
 Daphne Walker

Guests (teleconference)

Jennifer Yearwood-Open Door (in person)
 Stephanie Curry-River Edge
 Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA
 Sharon Edwards-Community Outreach Training Center
 Sarah Mathis & Joanna Jones-Union Mission
 Chrystal Coker, Michael Fisher, Teresa Stephens, &
 Brenda Dalin-Ninth District Opportunity
 Doug Belisle-Good Neighbor Shelter
 Shauntay Harris-City of Hinesville
 Jim Lindenmayer-Cherokee County American Legion
 Kimberly Bowen-Gateway BHS
 Carolyn Booth-Salvation Army
 Kelsey Taylor-F.A.I.T.H., Inc.
 Suzanne Dow-GA Mountain Women’s Center
 Leslie Clark-Avita Partners
 Jerome Greathouse-Dept. of Community Health
 Ebony Harris-Youth Empowerment Success Svcs for Youth

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the “Board”) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chad Cheshire at 1:02 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.

Chairperson Cheshire called for approval of the minutes of March 1, 2023 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023, was made by Maxwell Ruppensburg and seconded by Rachel Castillo. 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, Introduction, and Staff Updates. Mr. Gray introduced the following newly appointed and reappointed Board Members to the Balance of State Continuum of Care Board of Directors, whose appointments were reviewed and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee:

- Clayton County reappointed Linda Boswell, HUD Program Manager, to serve as Clayton County's representative.
- Gwinnett County appointed Matthew Elder, Housing and Community Development Division Director, to serve as Gwinnett County's representative, replacing Shannon Candler.
- The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) appointed Philip Gilman, Deputy Commissioner of Housing Assistance and Development, to serve as one of DCA's representatives, replacing Tonya Curry.
- The Department of Community Affairs appointed Andrea Giese-Sweat, Outreach/Coordinated Entry Specialist of the Atlanta VA Healthcare System, replacing Joan Oxley.

Mr. Gray reported on the following outgoing Board Members:

- Shannon Candler, Gwinnett County Representative (served over 8 years);
- Tonya Curry, DCA Representative (served almost 4 years); and
- Joan Oxley, Carl Vinson Medical Center (served almost 3 years).

Noting the years of service for outgoing Representatives Shannon Candler, Tonya Curry, and Joan Oxley, Mr. Gray reported that they have been invaluable Board Members in their support of the work of the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC).

Mr. Gray then provided a staff update. He announced that Philip Gilman is the new Deputy Commissioner for Housing Assistance and Development at DCA. As previously noted, Mr. Gilman is serving in the role previously held by My. Curry. He announced that Keveja Thomas joined the staff as a Youth Homelessness Specialist on March 16th. He also announced that Continuum of Care Coordinator Diana Pitcher has resigned from DCA, and her last day was May 19th. Mr. Gray recognized Ms. Pitcher for her service and excellent coordination of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) process, including preparing the application and spearheading the development of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP).

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to review the "Record E-mail Vote" discussion item on the agenda. A rule in the Governance Charter allows for the Chair to call for a vote from Board members via e-mail for business matters that the Chair determines require immediate action between regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Governance Charter states that an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board members via e-mail shall be the act of the Board, and a record of any motions, votes, and actions taken via e-mail will be entered into the record at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Mr. Gray reported that he was officially recording the result of the e-mail vote requested on April 26, 2023, where the Board approved the slate of nominees to serve on the Balance of State CoC Youth Action Board (YAB). Votes were received from Linda Boswell, Rachel Castillo, Tammie Collins, Jimiyu Evans, Alison Goldey, Sondra Hampton, Eric McGhee, Diane Rogers, Maxwell Ruppensburg, Michelle Stanley, and Charlotte Woody. Chairperson Cheshire's vote was not needed to break a tie. Mr. Gray also announced

that following the vote, the YAB selected Ebony Morlte as Chair and Immanuel Laidlaw as Vice Chair of the body.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray who asked for approval of the 2023 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. Mr. Gray reviewed the proposed priority ranking as approved by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee on May 5, 2023, that would be used by DCA for the evaluation of project applications that have been submitted under the State's Emergency Solutions Grants Program 2023-24 competition. 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 6th priority out of 8, but the Standards, Ratings, and Project Selection Committee recommendation before the Board ranks it as the 4th 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.

A motion to approve the Balance of State CoC Priorities for the State's 2023-24 ESG competition was made by Maxwell Ruppensburg and seconded by Philip Gilman. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Tina Moore for the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Written Standards Review (Tab C). Ms. Moore briefly reviewed requirements around Written Standards noting that each CoC is required by regulation to establish and follow written standards for recipients and sub-recipients that provide assistance with CoC Program funds. These standards were established to ensure that persons experiencing homelessness who enter projects throughout the CoC jurisdiction will be given similar information and support to access and maintain permanent housing. All projects that receive State of Georgia ESG and Georgia BoS CoC funding are required to abide by these written standards where applicable. The Balance of State CoC Written Standards are required to be updated annually, and if changes are substantial, they have to come before the Board for vote. On Friday, May 5, 2023, the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee reviewed the proposed updates of the written standards and addendum in detail. The Committee approved the changes as updates and determined there were no substantial changes. Ms. Moore noted that no action is required. Approved updates to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards include: the addition of language related to NOFO guidance and possible waivers under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) where HUD guidance would take precedence over the written standards for the duration of the applicable waiver or guidance (page 2); update to the Language Access Plan section (page 5); updates to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Requirements section (page 6, and related updates to the definition of the Category 4 definition in Appendix I on page 23); reference updates throughout the document for DedicatedPLUS; addition of a link to a chronic homelessness documentation checklist (page 18 and pages 36-37); and other updated links (pages 3, 6, and 18).

Chairperson Cheshire called on Tina Moore to report on the Code of Conduct and the Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policies Review (Tab D). Ms. Moore noted that the Code of Conduct Policy and the Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy must be updated no less than every two years and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee in order to be compliant. Ms. Moore briefly discussed the Code of

Conduct Policy and Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy and minimal updates made to each policy, noting that on May 15, 2023, the Membership and Rules Committee approved both policies as updated.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to review the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Update. Mr. Gray discussed the \$11,699,223 awarded to the Georgia BoS CoC last October and the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) that was originally due to HUD on April 24th, six months after the date of the award announcement, however, HUD granted the CoC an extension. The CCP was submitted to HUD on May 12th. The CCP is required to address stable housing, education and employment, the establishment of permanent connections, and the social and emotional well-being of young people aged 18-24 that will be assisted under the grant. The CCP has six components including a mission/vision for dealing with youth homelessness, governance under the program, a statement of the current need that exists, a list of partners and stakeholders involved in the initiative, the ultimate program goals, and the objectives, action steps, and a project list proposed for funding. Following submission HUD must review and approve the plan before the program can be implemented and applications for assistance considered. Because of the lack of youth beds throughout the BoS CoC, the CCP prioritized 75% of the funding for housing services with the remaining 25% for supportive services.

Mr. Gray reviewed key guiding principles of the YHDP which includes young people with lived experience playing a major role in the program design, development, and implementation. The BoS Youth Action Board (YAB) was created to participate in the process with the other stakeholders as the plan is developed and implemented. There currently are five members, although up to twelve could eventually serve on it. The youth that are participating are also compensated for their time

Mr. Gray reviewed the following timeline for the application process:

- May 5 – The local application process was opened with all applications due by May 30
- May 12– The CCP was submitted to HUD
- July 1 – All project funding applications due to HUD
- September 30-Deadline to have all funded projects under contract

Mr. Gray noted that that several older adult volunteers will also be reading and scoring the applications, and YAB members will be interviewing applicants as well before any final decisions are made. A specially called virtual meeting of the Balance of State CoC Board is being planned for June 14, 2023, for Board Members to vote on the recommendations for funding as approved by the YAB. HUD requires the approval of both the YAB and the CoC Board in order to fund any applications. There was discussion about the level of agency interest in applying for YHDP local funding. Mr. Gray noted that 20 statements of interest were received and 30-40 participated in the webinars, but staff is unsure of the number of applications that will be submitted. There was discussion on the use of coordinated entry in a way to ensure equitable access and work to identify ways to ensure access.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to review the 2023 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count Update. Mr. Gray noted that the results are preliminary and will not be final until HUD's review is complete. Mr. Gray reported that for the night of the 2023 Sheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, emergency shelter and transitional housing providers reported 2,469 people staying in their programs, which is an increase of 532 people from the previous count where 1,937 were reported. Mr. Gray reviewed potential reasons for the increase that included post pandemic shelter operations being at fully capacity, lack of affordable housing, and the expiration of federal CARES Act resources. There was a question as to how much of the increase is related to higher need. Mr. Gray said there really is no way of knowing this, but he added that there were 329 more beds available for this count than the last sheltered

count. Mr. Gray also noted DCA has experienced an increase in the volume of calls and e-mails from families and individuals seeking assistance throughout the state. Mr. Gray also noted that the PIT Count is only one way that HUD evaluates needs in this area to determine funding requests needed from Congress. Data from the Longitudinal Systems Analysis and System Performance Measures that each continuum submits to HUD annually also figure into the equation.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Tina Moore to review the 2022 Balance of State CoC Competition Awards. Ms. Moore provided a brief report on the results of the 2022 CoC Annual Competition. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding awards for the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. Included in the 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 \$21.4 million, and \$49.8 million was awarded to Georgia projects as a whole. In the Tier 1 and Tier 2 awards for the 2022 CoC competition, \$21.2 million was awarded to 61 Renewal projects under the Balance of State CoC, with another \$184,370 awarded to a new project. Under the Balance of State all Balance of State CoC renewal project applications in Tier 1 and Tier 2 received an award. A summary of renewal awards which included 41 renewal permanent supportive housing projects, 16 renewal rapid re-housing projects, 2 renewal HMIS projects, and 2 renewal coordinated entry projects. In addition, one new rapid re-housing project for victims of domestic violence was funded along with a Planning Grant totaling \$758,386. As a whole, projects were awarded \$80,637 more over the previous year.

Ms. Moore then provided a brief update on the 2023 Balance of State CoC Competition. HUD has indicated that they are hoping to open the 2023 competition in May or June. Ms. Moore noted that it is anticipated that two (2) special meetings of this Committee (and the Board) will need to be called once HUD releases the CoC Application guidelines for 2023 (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 review the 2022 Balance of State CoC Special Competition Awards. Mr. Gray reported that HUD announced final funding awards for the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Special Competition to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness on April 17th. Mr. Gray discussed the funding awards for 4 new projects under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside under the Balance of State CoC, and the allocation of 120 Housing Stability Vouchers. Mr. Gray noted that projects in the Balance of State CoC received a total award amount of \$4,868,915 and the Balance of State CoC is the only CoC in Georgia that received an award. New projects receiving an award include the four projects in the Rural Homelessness Set Aside project ranking, but unfortunately one of the Rural projects did not receive an award under either notice. New projects that received a 3-year award include the following:

- Safe Harbor Children's Center - Rural Coordinated Entry project that will serve Wayne, Long, Appling, and Jeff Davis counties - \$725,700
- Advocates for Bartow's Children - Standalone Supportive Services project that will serve Gordon County - \$488,580
- Union Mission - Permanent Supportive Housing project that will serve Bulloch County - \$1,571,285
- Albany Area CSB - Permanent Supportive Housing project that will serve Calhoun, Decatur, Early, Miller, and Seminole counties - \$2,083,350

Mr. Gray also discussed HUD’s allocation of 120 housing stability vouchers to BoS Housing Authorities. Housing vouchers were offered to the Housing Authority of the City of Albany (5), Housing Authority of the City of Newnan (5), and the State Housing Authority (110). There was a question about why the BoS CoC did not receive an award under the Unsheltered Set Aside, and Mr. Gray noted that the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside had scoring criteria that was favorable to smaller geographies. HUD used a different scoring philosophy for Unsheltered that involved prioritizing communities and then funding 100% of applications from those communities until program funds ran out. In Rural, each separate applicant was ranked and scored on their merit. There was some discussion on the expected timeframe for these projects starting, HUD’s effort to process grant agreements for projects funded in the 2021 competition, and the start of HUD’s technical assistance process for this year’s recipients.

Chairperson Cheshire called on Josh Gray to provide BoS CoC updates, and Mr. Gray provided a brief report on the following:

- Mr. Gray reported that DCA is currently working to fill several of positions under the BoS CoC Team at DCA. Two new Coordinated Entry (CE) positions have been created to better support the CE process through the Balance of State area, and staff is working to fill the vacant CoC Program Coordinator position.
- Mr. Gray reported that the 2024 Balance of State PIT Count would require a full sheltered and unsheltered count in January. Mr. Gray provided a status update on preliminary work and noted that staff would soon be working to create a subcommittee to hopefully encourage more statewide support across counties, and he noted that an app will again be used for the surveys.

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 2:01 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on August 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chad Cheshire

Signature

Chairperson

Title