

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Atlanta, Georgia  
November 15, 2023**

**Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2633 044 7956)**

**Present (teleconference)**

Linda Boswell  
Kristy Carter  
Rachel Castillo  
Tammie Collins  
Matthew Elder  
Jimiyu Evans  
Andrea Giese-Sweat  
Alison Goldey  
Eric McGhee  
Maxwell Ruppensburg  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

Chad Cheshire  
Philip Gilman  
Sondra Hampton  
Wayne Mack  
Diane Rogers  
Michelle Stanley  
Brendon Tate

**Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)**

Isaac Davis  
Aashish Gautam  
Josh Gray (in person)  
Jimmy Harris  
Rick Heermans  
Laura Holland  
Lakeisha Jones (in person)  
Amanda McKearn  
Tina Moore (in person)  
John Stovall  
Cordaryl Turner (in person)  
Charles Wheeler

**Guests (teleconference)**

Carolyn Booth - Salvation Army  
Darshay Ford - Salvation Army  
Cassandra Jackson - Exousia House of Georgia  
Jenny Wood - FaithBridge Foster Care  
John Solberg - FaithBridge Foster Care  
Chrystal Coker - Ninth District Opportunity  
Teresa Stephens - Ninth District Opportunity  
Sharon Scott - CSRA EOA  
Taujuana Chiyota - Douglas County CSB  
Ebony Morlté - BoS Youth Action Board/Hope Thru Soap  
Megan VandeBogert - Hope Thru Soap  
Reed Fincher-Dalton - Whitfield CDC  
Katha Blackwell - Partnership Against Domestic Violence  
Nadeen Samuels - Open Doors Atlanta  
Toni-Lee McDonald - Project Community Connections  
Sarah Ediss - Gateway BHS  
Kimberly Bowen - Gateway BHS  
Dee Phillips - Bridge Health  
Ebony Harris - Youth Empowerment Success Services  
Falecia Stewart - MUST Ministries  
Lori McDaniel - Dalton Public Schools  
Chaunta Floyd - Get to Work Foundation  
Jim Lindenmayer - Cherokee American Legion

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the “Board”) meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Maxwell Ruppensburg at 1:06 p.m.

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

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg called for approval of the minutes of September 12, 2023 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023 was made by Matthew Elder and seconded by Jimiyu Evans. The Vice Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg 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.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg called on Josh Gray to provide a Staff Update. Mr Gray introduced Lakeisha Jones, the new Director of the Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing. Ms. Jones thanked everyone and said she was happy to be with DCA and looking forward to working with everyone.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg called on Josh Gray to review the 2024 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count Update. Mr. Gray said that DCA staff is in full preparation mode for the 2024 Homeless Count and reported that there will be a full count of both sheltered and unsheltered populations on January 22, 2024. Mr. Gray noted that the street count on that date will be followed by a seven-day service-based count, and DCA is working with Simtech Solutions to identify strategic areas to be added for the count and will need more street outreach coordinators. Mr. Gray also noted that anyone wishing to serve in this capacity should please contact him. Data collection will focus on quality over quantity, with an emphasis on full county coverage, and staff are in the process of reviewing new data elements of the count that were just released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A question was asked about the Counting Us app that was used for the surveys in previous counts and whether it would be used this upcoming year, and Mr. Gray replied that it would.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg called on Tina Moore to review 2024 Board Appointments/ Reappointments. Ms. Moore reported there are five (5) Board appointments with a term expiring on January 21, 2024. Ms. Moore reviewed the appointments that are impacted and noted that Collaborative Applicant staff will work with DCA's Commissioner and management to reach out to appointing entities to request reappointments/new appointments from the leadership of the agency appointments and the State Housing Trust Fund Commission. Absent reappointment or a new appointment, Board Members shall continue to serve indefinitely following the end of their term. The five (5) Board Members with a term due to expire are:

- Department of Community Affairs appointment – Sondra Hampton
- State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless appointment – Alison Goldey
- State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless appointment – Vacant
- Department of Education appointment – Eric McGhee
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council appointment – Kristy Carter

Ms. Moore also noted that there was another seat for which staff need to work to secure an appointment. The Department of Labor (DOL) has had a seat as they have been “the State agency responsible for working with public and private partners in building a workforce system that contributes to Georgia's economic prosperity” as outlined in the Governance Charter. However, in the last session of the General Assembly, this function was moved from the DOL to the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). DCA

staff will soon reach out to the DOL for an introduction or directly request a replacement appointment from the TCSG, and the term for this seat would run from January 21, 2023 through January 21, 2026.

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

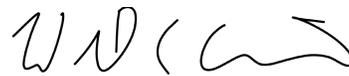
- The CoC Board recently approved updates to its Governance Charter as required by HUD every 5 years and these need to be approved by the full CoC Membership. Staff are continuing to reach out to CoC members that have not yet voted in order to achieve majority approval.
- A full CoC membership meeting will be held in early December at a date to be determined. In 2024, the plan is to hold CoC membership meetings quarterly.
- The 2024 DCA Housing Symposium is scheduled to be held in Atlanta February 7-9. More details will be announced as they are finalized. The 2023 symposium in Savannah was the first one held in person in several years and was a big success. He encouraged everyone to attend if possible.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg said that he attended the 2023 Symposium in Savannah, and he encouraged everyone to attend if possible.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg asked if there was any old business. Vice Chairman Ruppensburg referenced the presentation at the last Board meeting regarding the Georgia Health Information Exchange, and he noted that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is continuing to work with them to connect the two systems to better serve everyone throughout the state with more information forthcoming.

Vice Chairperson Ruppensburg then asked for new business. Vice Chairman Ruppensburg said that the Georgia Supportive Housing Conference will be held Monday, November 20 at the State Bar of Georgia offices on Marietta Street in Atlanta and encouraged everyone to attend this as they are able. This conference will be in person as well as virtual. He also reported that the Housing First Partners Conference will be coming to Atlanta in 2024 with details to be announced.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on February 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.



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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Title