

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

Atlanta, Georgia

August 26, 2020

Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; ID# is 132 471 9489)

Present (teleconference)

Linda Boswell
Shannon Candler
Kristy Carter
Rachel Castillo
Chad Cheshire
Tonya Curry
Matthew Elder
John Ellis
Bert Flewellen
Monica Johnson
Bill McGahan
Eric McGhee
Joan Oxley
Daniel Rosebud
Charlotte Woody

Absent

David E. Blackwell
Sondra Hampton
Wayne Mack
Diane Rogers

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)

Rick Heermans
Rebecca Hickom
Ambra Houser
Chandra McGhee
Tina Moore
Cynthia Patterson
Rhonda Taylor
Kate Tettamant
Mike Thomas
Dave Whisnant
April Woods

Guests (teleconference)

John Moeller & Virginia Spencer-Inspiritus
Katha Blackwell & Whitney McGinnis-PADV
Briana Mitchell & Rocky Harrison-90Works
Chrystal Coker & Teresa Stephens-NDO
Vanna Walker & Tigist Abdullah-PCCI
Sharon Scott- CSRA EOA
John W. Phillips-VETLANTA
Ashley Hannah-Meeting Place II
Danielle Sutton-Gateway BHS
Lakeisha Jones-Salvation Army Norcross
Phillip Boyd-Salvation Army Macon
Randy Weldon-SW GA Community Action Council
Matthew Yarborough-Unison BHS
Rhonda Hall-Advocates for Children
Suzanne Dow-GA Mountain Women's Center
Antoinette Thornton-Benchmark Human Services
Jim Lindenmayer-Cherokee County Homeless Veterans
Teresa Smith-Share House
Terry Edwards-New Horizons CSB
Christy Day-The Bridge of Tiftarea
Karimah Dillard
Jessica Mitcham-Good Neighbor Shelter

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the "Board") meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tonya Curry at 1:05 p.m. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, the meeting was virtual and participation by all was either online or by teleconference.

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

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of May 20, 2020 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2020 was made by John Ellis and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry 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.

Chairperson Curry called on Cynthia Patterson for the New Board Member Introduction. Ms. Patterson introduced Joan Oxley to the Board, whose appointment was reviewed and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee on July 14, 2020. Ms. Oxley is the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) representative for Veteran Housing and Homelessness, as recommended by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Oxley works at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin and will take the seat previously occupied by Nicole Sanders.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to provide the COVID-19 and CARES Act Update. Mr. Thomas provided an update on DCA and Balance of State CoC Collaborative Applicant efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Thomas discussed participation in the Governor's Task Force on Homelessness, participation in committees around the coordination of State agencies and the statewide coordination of Georgia's Continuum and ESG jurisdictions, and staff efforts around resource identification.

Mr. Thomas then provided a report on the status of CARES Act funding, which was allocated to DCA's Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and Housing Opportunity for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) programs. Mr. Thomas reviewed the State's CARES Act funding allocations received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the ESG and HOPWA programs. Mr. Thomas discussed program waivers issued by the HUD to allow for these funds to be made available to providers quickly and discussed DCA HOPWA and ESG CARES Act funding awards in detail. Chairperson Curry thanked the staff for their hard work in moving to get these funds available as quickly as possible to assist those in need. There was discussion on the amount of funds available, staff ramp up for the short term to administer the additional funds, the need for future ESG funding rounds, and the opportunity for existing subrecipients to request additional funds if the need exists.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to review the 2021 Balance of State Homeless Count (Tab B). Referring to the document, *2021 Point in Time Homeless Count Methodology (August 17, 2020)*, Mr. Thomas discussed the purpose of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count, and review of the predictive model provided by Simtech Solutions, use of the Counting Us app survey tool for the unsheltered count, and extensive count coverage in targeted counties. Mr. Thomas also discussed the street and service based method for the unsheltered count, provider surveys for the sheltered count, the process for deduplication of data, the predictive model, and data processing and submission. Mr. Thomas then reviewed the contingency plan, where in the event that HUD provides guidance that affects this methodology, the methodology will be updated to align with the new guidance. On Monday, August 17, 2020, staff met with the Standards, Rating, & Project Selection Committee to review staff recommendations on the 2021 Homeless Count Methodology and Process, and the proposed recommendations were approved for consideration by the Board. Mr. Thomas requested the Board's

approval of the 2021 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count Methodology. There was discussion around the possible impact of the pandemic on shelter utilization and the predictive model, status of the final 2019 homeless count data pending HUD approval, and counting those who are precariously housed but do not meet the HUD definition of homeless.

A motion to approve the 2021 Balance of State CoC Point-in-Time Methodology and Process, as recommended by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee was made by Bill McGahan and seconded by Rachel Castillo. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review the Governance Charter Update (Tab C). Referring to the document, *Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Charter (August 26th as updated)*, Ms. Moore discussed proposed updates to the Governance Charter in detail. These updates were approved by the Membership and Rules Committee on August 19th. The Committee determined that these changes were not considered substantial, so they will not require a full membership vote. Ms. Moore requested the Board's approval of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Charter, as updated.

A motion to approve the Governance Charter with noted updates was made by John Ellis and seconded by Monica Johnson. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review the 2019 Balance of State CoC Competition Update. Ms. Moore provided an update to the 2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition, reporting that an update is pending review of the 2020 Grant Inventory Worksheet with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Ms. Moore then provided an update to the 2020 CoC Competition for the BoS CoC. Ms. Moore reported that staff completed review of the FY 2020 Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). This step in the competition is required to determine which projects are eligible to submit an application and the total renewal amount a project may request. Following review and verification by grant recipients, the draft GIW submitted to the local HUD office shows the initial Annual Renewal Amount (ARA) to be over \$18.8 million for the Balance of State CoC. Ms. Moore reported that HUD has indicated that in response to the pandemic they are currently exploring alternative approaches to distributing FY 2020 CoC Program funds. Ms. Moore noted that once HUD opens the competition or releases more details, there will likely be a specially called meeting of the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee as well as the CoC Board.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas provide Balance of State CoC updates. Mr. Thomas reported that the CoC grants management training sessions for CoC-funded providers have been scheduled, and the training will be provided by Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC). Mr. Thomas reviewed the training sessions that will focus on basic issues affecting all BoS-funded agencies such as documenting homelessness and grants management. Mr. Thomas then provided a status update for the Youth Action Board (YAB). Mr. Thomas stated that the membership slate for the YAB is in the final stages, DCA staff is seeking participation from varying areas of the State, and this is expected to go out for electronic vote soon. Mr. Thomas also reported that, with Rebecca Hickom's move into the new CoC Performance Coordinator position, there is now a vacant Coordinated Entry Coordinator position within the department that he expects to have filled very soon.

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

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia. At this time, the next meeting is expected to be held virtually.



tonya curry (Dec 14, 2020 10:32 EST)

Signature

Chairperson

Title