

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Atlanta, Georgia
February 24, 2021
Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; ID# is 132 396 6000)**

Present (teleconference)

David E. Blackwell
Linda Boswell
Shannon Candler
Kristy Carter
Rachel Castillo
Chad Cheshire
Tonya Curry
Matthew Elder
John Ellis
Bert Flewellen
Monica Johnson
Bill McGahan
Eric McGhee
Wayne Mack
Joan Oxley
Diane Rogers
Daniel Rosebud
Charlotte Woody

Absent

Sondra Hampton

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)

Isaac Davis
Jasmine Harris
Rick Heermans
Rebecca Hickom
Cynthia Patterson
Rhonda Taylor
Mike Thomas

Guests (teleconference)

Kelsey Taylor-Faith in Rabun County
Debbie Murray-Halcyon Home for Battered Women
Carlton Williams-Macon-Bibb County EOC
Mary Harrison-CSRA EOA
Terry Edwards-New Horizons
Suzanne Dow-GA Mountain Women's Center
Antoinette Fields-HOPE Atlanta
Whitney McGinnis-Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Stephanie Nelson-Theus-PCCI
Barbara Tuck-Albany Community & Economic Development Dept.
Beverly Bloom
Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA
Ailene Gordon-CaringWorks
Ebony Russell-Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Petricia Sailor-Salvation Army Divisional HQ
Lisa Robertshaw-Faith in Rabun County
Reed Fincher-Dalton-Whitfield CDC
Christie Phillips-Rockdale County Government
Jennifer Hamilton Lookout Mtn. Community Services
Danielle Sutton-Gateway BHS
Xavier Han-Asian-American Resource Center

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the "Board") meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tonya Curry at 1:00 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 November 18, 2020 (Tab A).

A motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020 was made by Bill McGahan and seconded by Shannon Candler. 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 Mike Thomas to provide the update on Board appointments and collaborative applicant staff. Mr. Thomas announced that DCA staff is awaiting documentation to confirm appointments from DCA, the GA Department of Education, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The State Housing Trust Fund Commission (SHTF) approved a resolution in January to reappoint John Ellis and Bill McGahan to the Balance of State CoC Board. However, the SHTF Commission appointments have not yet been approved by the Membership and Rules Committee. Mr. Thomas said that, in order to be most efficient, an email vote of the Membership and Rules Committee will be called to approve the whole slate of Board appointments once documentation is finalized for all of them. Mr. Thomas noted that until these appointments are approved, current Board members continue to fill the seats in accordance with the Governance Charter.

Mr. Thomas then provided an update on collaborative applicant staffing. He announced that David Whisnant has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer at DCA effective in April. He also announced that Continuum of Care Coordinator April Woods has resigned from DCA effective March 1, 2021. Finally, Mr. Thomas announced that he also resigned from DCA effective February 26, 2021.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to review the Record E-mail Votes 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. Thomas reported that he was officially recording the result of the e-mail vote requested on December 29, 2020, where the Board approved significant modifications to the Point in Time Count methodology in response to COVID-19. Mr. Thomas further reported that he was officially recording the results of the January 12, 2021 e-mail vote, where the Board approved utilization of a HUD waiver to cancel the unsheltered portion of the Point in Time Count in response to COVID-19.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas for an update on the 2021 Homeless Count Update. Mr. Thomas reported that the night of the count was January 25, 2021. Due to safety concerns associated with rapidly rising cases of COVID-19 statewide between late November and early January, the unsheltered portion of the count was canceled. HUD made this option available nationwide and does not anticipate any negative consequences for CoCs that chose to utilize it. The sheltered portion of the count is ongoing. Surveys went to agencies in late January. DCA is currently conducting follow-up to ensure full coverage of agencies in the CoC. Further follow-up and data validation will take place in March and April. HUD has not announced the official submission deadline yet, but DCA anticipates being prepared for submission by the end of April.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas for an update on the 2020 Balance of State CoC Competition (Tab B). Mr. Thomas reported that HUD received legislative approval to award 2020 renewal funds without a competition. As a result, all eligible grants under the CoC program will be renewed automatically with adjustments for Fair Market Rent. The initial results of this action indicate that 66 projects will be renewed in the Balance of State CoC for over \$20.1 million dollars. This includes planning, coordinated entry, and HMIS funds. HUD has not yet announced plans for new project funding in 2021, but has indicated that it will once again be available through a competitive process.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas who asked for approval of the 2021-2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule for the Balance of State CoC Board (Tab C). Mr. Thomas noted that these dates are very similar to the 2020 meeting dates, and that there would likely be at least one specially called meeting related to the annual competition. The following dates were proposed:

- May 26, 2021
- August 25, 2021
- November 17, 2021
- February 23, 2022

A motion to approve the proposed dates for the next four standing Board meetings was made by Diane Rogers and seconded by Matthew Elder. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas provide Balance of State CoC updates. Mr. Thomas indicated that one member of the Membership and Rules Committee will need to be replaced. One member of the HMIS Committee also needs to be replaced. Finally, Mike Thomas and April Lockett need to be replaced as BoS CoC representatives to the HMIS Steering Committee. DCA will work to identify replacements for these positions and bring them to the Board for consideration. It is likely that Mr. Thomas' successor at DCA will take his place on the Committee. Ms. Lockett was a community representative who now works at DCA and will need to be replaced by another community representative.

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.

Mr. Thomas reported that the State has received over \$552 million from the U. S. Treasury Department to develop a statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program. He stated that DCA will administer the funds and is now in the process of program development. Chairperson Curry stated that the program will assist those with rent and utility arrears due to the pandemic and said that more information can be found on DCA's website which will be updated as the program becomes operational.

Chairperson Curry also thanked Mr. Thomas and Ms. Woods for their service at DCA and said that they will both be missed and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia. At this time, the next meeting is expected to be held virtually.



Signature
Chairperson

Title