

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

Atlanta, Georgia

May 20, 2020

Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; ID# is 797 064 868)

Present (teleconference)

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

Absent

Wayne Mack
Diane Rogers
Nicole Sanders

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)

Isaac Davis
Rick Heermans
Rebecca Hickom
Christy Lovett
Chandra McGhee
Tina Moore
Cynthia Patterson
Rhonda Taylor
Kate Tettamant
Mike Thomas
April Woods

Guests (teleconference)

Amanda Cunningham – NWGA Family Crisis Center
Sharon Scott – CSRA EOA
Chrystal Coker – Ninth District Opportunity
Suzanne Dow – GA Mountain Women’s Center
Teresa Stephens – Ninth District Opportunity
Katha Blackwell – Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Whitney McGinniss – Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Lakeisha Jones – Salvation Army DHQ
Amanda Brand – Safe Harbor Street Outreach
Patricia Fletcher-Edwards – NID Housing Counseling Albany
Virginia Spencer - Inspiritus
Cheryl Williams – New Horizons
Vanna Walker – Project Community Connection
Gail Seifert – Okefenokee Alliance for the Homeless
Barbara Bond-Gentry – HOPE Atlanta
Naomi Ladson – Salvation Army Macon
Stephine Lennen – ViewPoint Health
Vanessa Collier
Randy Weldon, SW Georgia Community Action Council
Monifa Holman – Catholic Charities
Jim McIntosh – Georgia Homeless Coalition
Felecia Stewart – MUST Ministries
Joan Oxley – Carl Vinson Medical Center, VA
Sister Theresa Sullivan-Daybreak
Rhonda Hall-Advocates for Bartow’s Children
Mary Fuller-United Way of the Coastal Empire

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 present on the call/webinar.

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of February 26, 2020 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020 was made by John Ellis and seconded by Bill McGahan. 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.

The first item on the agenda, Board Member Introductions and Board Appointments, was moved to later in the meeting.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to provide the COVID-19 Update. Mr. Thomas reported on Department of Community Affairs 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.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to provide the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Written Standards Review (Tab B). Ms. Moore provided a report to the Board on updates made to language on the HUD requirement to follow eligibility guidance in the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability, which is the HUD annual competition), language for rent calculation to include allowances for utilities to align with regulations for CoC-funded projects, and 2019 NOFA references of DedicatedPLUS projects (CoC-funded PSH). Ms. Moore also discussed the addition of language for the establishment of emergency protocols (and Addendum) in response to a state emergency, public health crisis, or other extenuating circumstances, and she reviewed the Addendum to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards. Ms. Moore reported that on May 11, 2020, the Standards, Rating and Project Selection Committee approved the changes as updated and determined that there were no substantial changes. The Written Standards are required to be reviewed annually, with only substantial changes having to move to the Board for approval. Ms. Moore noted that no action is required, but the updates relate to the next action item for Coordinated Entry.

Chairperson Curry called on Rebeca Hickom who asked for approval of the Coordinated Entry Written Standards, Policies, and Procedures as updated (Tab C). This document provides guidance on the standard aspects of Coordinated Entry across the CoC and also outlines expectations and guidelines for Coordinated Entry based on HUD's requirements for this program component. On May 12, 2020, the Assessment, Placement, and Services Committee approved the updated document and Addendum, and recommended that it be moved forward to the Board for approval. Ms. Hickom discussed the addition of language for establishment of emergency protocols (and Addendum) in response to a state emergency, public health crisis, or other extenuating circumstances (page 2); addition of language establishing that only substantial

changes move to the Board for approval (page 2); clarification on language around permanent housing interventions and assessment scores (page 6); addition of prioritization standards for Homelessness Prevention (pages 8-9, 10); updates to language throughout to clarify assessment scores around recommended interventions as they are meant to inform process, and not be the only housing offered; Appeal Process (page 12); and the Housing Match and Prioritization Process and the addition of the requirement for Case Conferencing (pages 13-14). Ms. Hickom also discussed the addition of language for the establishment of emergency protocols (and Addendum) in response to a state emergency, public health crisis, or other extenuating circumstances, and she reviewed the Addendum to the Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry Written Standards, Policies and Procedures in detail.

A motion to approve the Coordinated Entry Written Standards, Policies, and Procedures as updated, and Addendum, was made by John Ellis and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to review the Youth Action Board Update. Mr. Thomas stated that potential members have been identified and that CoC staff is working to ensure that they meet HUD requirements to serve in this capacity. Youth Action Board members must be age 24 or younger, and at least 2/3 of them must have lived experience of homelessness. Mr. Thomas recognized Daniel Rosebud of the Board for his assistance in this initiative and stated that staff is also considering the creation of a larger advisory board to work with the Youth Action Board once it is operational. Mr. Thomas noted that once DCA determines all final candidates for the Youth Action Board, staff may need to seek Board approval via e-mail. This will likely take place prior to the next full Board meeting, which is scheduled for August.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review the 2019 Balance of State CoC Competition Results and Tier 2 Awards (Tab D). Ms. Moore reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Tier 2 funding awards for the 2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. Included in the Tier 2 funding announcement, the BoS CoC received funding for the Tier 2 portion of the Renewal Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) project straddled between Tiers 1 & 2 and the new RRH project for Youth utilizing reallocated funding. Ms. Moore discussed the total funding awards of \$18.5 million awarded to 68 Renewal projects under the Balance of State CoC, with another \$336,924 awarded to two New projects. Under the 2019 competition, the Balance of State CoC received a total award amount of \$19,493,871, and \$44.6 million was awarded to Georgia projects as a whole. Projects funded in the Balance of State CoC include 50 permanent supportive housing projects, 15 rapid re-housing projects, 2 HMIS projects, and 2 coordinated entry (CE) projects. All Balance of State CoC Renewal project applications in Tier 1 received an award. In addition, the CoC received award for 1 New CE project and the Planning Grant. Ms. Moore noted that the planning project is funded outside of the amount designated for project applications.

Ms. Moore then reported that, unfortunately, one of the new projects slated for reallocated funds and the three bonus projects did not receive funding this year. These included a second Tier 2 RRH project with reallocated funds, a bonus permanent housing RRH project, and 2 bonus domestic violence RRH projects. Ms. Moore noted that nationwide, the total HUD CoC funds awarded this year was \$116 million greater than last year. However, the amount awarded for Tier 2 was \$82 million less than last year. This seems to signify that the increased FMR amounts left less money on the table for Tier 2 projects. In addition, the overall CoC Score & Tier 2 projects that were rescored could have also been factors in HUD's funding decisions.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas provide Balance of State CoC updates. Mr. Thomas provided several training updates. DCA is contracting with Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to provide CoC grants management training for CoC-funded providers. Mr. Thomas reported that due to COVID-19, plans are being made to push the TAC training from this month to a fall in-person training, or a virtual training if that is not feasible. Mr. Thomas also reported on plans to provide case conferencing training for the Coordinated Entry lead agencies around the state, that will be provided virtually. Mr. Thomas also reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs has now recommended Joanie Oxley to represent them on the Bos CoC Board, and he noted that she was participating online and informally welcomed her to the Board.

Chairperson Curry called on Cynthia Patterson to report on Board Member Introductions, Board Appointments, and Staff Updates. Ms. Patterson introduced the following newly appointed and reappointed Board Members, whose appointments were reviewed and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee. Their terms will expire on January 21, 2023.

- The Department of Labor (DOL) appointed Wayne Mack, DOL's Assistant Director of Staff Development, to serve as DOL's representative, replacing Janice Davis.
- The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) reappointed Monica Johnson, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, to serve as DBHDD's representative.
- Macon Bibb County reappointed Charlotte Woody, Assistant Manager of Economic and Community Development, to serve as Macon Bibb County's representative.

Chairperson Curry asked if there was any old business. She reported that it has been brought to DCA staff's attention that Monica Johnson was on the conference call line for the September 4, 2019 Board meeting, but did not answer the Chairperson's roll call. Ms. Johnson did send an email to staff on the day of the meeting indicating that she was on the call. The current minutes for the September 4, 2019 meeting, which were approved at the November 13, 2019 meeting, reflect that she was absent.

A motion was made by John Ellis and seconded by Kristy Carter to amend the minutes of September 4, 2019, and the attendance record, to reflect the attendance of Ms. Johnson at that meeting. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry then asked for new business.

Shannon Candler announced that Gwinnett County has now released Round 1 of their COVID-19 funding as of the date of this meeting. All applications must be submitted to the Gwinnett County Community Development Department no later than June 4. There will be a grant application webinar on May 22 for potential applicants. She asked that anyone with additional questions contact her directly.

Rachel Castillo expressed concern about the capacity of some of the smaller nonprofit organizations to take on homeless prevention activities. It has been her experience that they will likely deal with an inordinate number of phone inquiries for this assistance that may limit their ability to also work to place households in permanent housing. She asked that DCA keep this in mind as it decides on eligible uses of its COVID-19 funding and potentially consider providing funding for increased staffing. Mike Thomas replied that no final decisions have been made for these funds within the agency, but staff is aware of the huge need for homeless prevention throughout the State and the potential agency implications that may result.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 26, 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