

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

**Atlanta, Georgia  
May 25, 2022**

**Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2631 804 5508)**

**Present (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Linda Boswell  
Shannon Candler (by proxy)  
Kristy Carter  
Rachel Castillo  
Chad Cheshire  
Tammie Collins  
Tonya Curry (in person)  
Jimiya Evans  
Alison Goldey  
Sondra Hampton  
Eric McGhee  
Wayne Mack  
Joan Oxley  
Diane Rogers  
Daniel Rosebud  
Maxwell Ruppensburg  
David Whisnant (in person)  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

Bert Flewellen

**Collaborative Applicant Staff (in person unless otherwise noted)**

Amanda Brand (teleconference)  
Jamila Byrd  
Isaac Davis (teleconference)  
Josh Gray  
Rick Heermans  
Tina Moore  
Diana Pitcher (teleconference)  
John Sherekis (teleconference)  
Rhonda Taylor (teleconference)  
Kate Tettamant (teleconference)  
Cordaryl Turner (teleconference)  
Daphne Walker (teleconference)

**Guests (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Lori-Anne Campbell- Salvation Army  
Carolyn Booth- Salvation Army  
Janeane Schmidt- Salvation Army  
Keisha Brown- Salvation Army  
NyKhia Burke- Cummings-Salvation Army  
Arnaldo Pena- Salvation Army  
Jessica Mitcham- Good Neighbor Shelter  
Heather Hutton- Infusion, Inc.  
Matthew Elder- HomeFirst Gwinnett  
Jenny Wood- FaithBridge Foster Care  
Whitney McGinniss, Susan Smith, & Ebony Green- PADV  
Suzanne Dow- GA Mountain Women's Center  
Kimberly Poff- Volunteer Behavioral Health Services  
Randy Weldon- Southwest GA Community Action Council  
Sharon Edwards- Community Outreach Training Center  
Sharon Scott & Mary Harrison- CSRA EOA  
Chrystal Coker- Ninth District Opportunity  
Angela Collins- United Way of the CSRA  
Shelly Simmons- Statewide Independent Living Council of GA  
Stephanie Nelson-Theus- PCCI  
Terisa Liang- Community Action for Improvement  
Ashlee Starr- CaringWorks

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the "Board") meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tonya Curry at 1:02 p.m.

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 noted that she would be serving as Shannon Candler's proxy for the meeting.

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of February 23, 2022 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022, was made by David Whisnant and seconded by Jimiyu Evans. 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.

Heather Hutton introduced herself as a guest and stated that she has lived experience, has been doing homeless outreach since 2011, and has worked with the National Coalition for the Homeless. Ms. Hutton participated in the recent PIT count for Rockdale and Newton Counties and is concerned about the lack of shelters and case management and services in the area. Ms. Hutton said that she hopes that their efforts in conducting the count will help to alleviate this situation, and welcomed those on the call to work with them in Rockdale and Newton counties if they are able. Chairperson Curry thanked her for her comments.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to provide the Board Member Appointment Update and Introduction. Mr. Gray announced that the Membership and Rules Committee approved the appointment of Alison Goldey as one of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission's (HTF Commission) representatives. Ms. Goldey is the replacement appointment for Bill McGahan, who moved out of state and resigned his seat in January. Ms. Goldey is currently the Director of the Chatham County-City of Savannah Land Bank Authority after serving the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority for many years in the same role. Chairperson Curry welcomed Ms. Goldey to the Board.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray who asked for approval of the 2022 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, DCA 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 February 23, 2022, that would be used by DCA for the evaluation of project applications that have been submitted under the State's Emergency Solutions Grants Program 2022-23 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 6<sup>th</sup> priority out of 8, but the Standards, Ratings, and Project Selection Committee recommendation before the Board ranks it as the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2022-23 ESG competition was made by Maxwell Ruppensburg and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore for the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Written Standards Review (Tab C). Ms. Moore provided a brief report to the Board on approved updates to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards. The BoS CoC Written Standards are required to be reviewed annually, with only substantial changes having to move to the Board for approval. Ms. Moore reported that on Monday, May 16, 2022, the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee reviewed the proposed updates of the written standards and addendum in detail, approved 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: updated language for requirement to follow eligibility guidance in the NOFO (page 2 and throughout the document); updates to NOFO references of the definition of DedicatedPLUS projects under CoC-funded PSH (throughout the document); the addition of language where any future waiver or guidance issued by HUD would take precedence over the Written Standards for the duration (page 2); an updated link to the Language Access Plan (page 5); and clarification for dedicated chronic beds for PSH funded under Samaritan Bonus (page 24). Ms. Moore then reviewed the approved expiration of the Addendum to Georgia Balance of State CoC Written Standards and the expiration of the HUD Waivers on March 31, 2022.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray, who provided a report on the 2022 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count Update, which was conducted on February 21, 2022. Mr. Gray noted that the results are preliminary and will not be final until HUD's review is complete, and a full report will be completed once this process has been completed. Mr. Gray discussed the background and methodology of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count process, conducted every two years to determine the numbers of unsheltered homeless individuals who are service resistant. Mr. Gray reported that DCA worked with SimTech Solutions. The 2022 unsheltered count was conducted using the Counting Us app again this year. There was an exclusion of questions for precariously housed in order to focus on those fitting the HUD definition of homelessness and the inclusion of observations in final PIT data. Mr. Gray discussed the regression model with predictive variables as provided by SimTech Solutions, which included predictive variables from census data. Adjustments were made for outlier counties in predicted homeless numbers, and Mr. Gray noted that the inclusion of observation tools was based on HUD guidance with all observation tools submitted were thoroughly reviewed for data quality before final inclusion. New variables that were part of the predictive model included economic, courts and crime, education, government, health, housing, labor, public assistance, and vital statistics.

Mr. Gray reported that the BoS CoC has experienced a 73% increase in the numbers of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness from 2019 to 2022. Mr. Gray noted that even with this increase, these numbers are still 26% lower than they were in 2013. The CoC has a number of factors that could be factoring in, which includes the addition of more street outreach programs, the identification of more providers within the CoC, improved counting techniques combined with new more accurate data for the predictive model, a continuing lack of affordable housing, and the pandemic. By contrast, the sheltered homeless count has remained fairly constant over the last 11 years with only minor fluctuations. In 2019, 50% of those who were homeless were unsheltered. The most recent figures have increased this number to 67%.

Mr. Gray reported that for the period 2019-2022, the BoS CoC has experienced a 40% increase in the number of people homeless at any given time. Factors thought to contribute to this are the recent end of the eviction moratorium, challenges in working with landlords to prevent homelessness among existing

tenant households, and the continuing lack of affordable housing with many fair market rents (FMRs) now lower than open market rental rates.

Mr. Gray reported that Veterans make up 5% of the total homeless population with 3% of the sheltered numbers and 6% of the total unsheltered population. Those who are chronically homeless make up 7% of the sheltered population, 11% of the unsheltered population, and 10% of the total homeless count population. The numbers of chronically homeless and homeless Veterans is extrapolated from the rate of Veteran and chronic homelessness in each of the 12 county clusters in the predictive model.

Mr. Gray reported that a total of 33 of the 152 BoS counties were counted which was more than the 28 counted in 2019, and he noted that and some of these were new counties that had never been counted before. Mr. Gray noted that the focus again this year was on quality with well-trained and equipped teams of volunteers versus just the total number of communities counted.

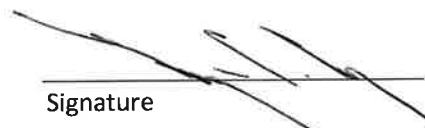
Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore for an update on the 2021 Balance of State CoC Competition. Ms. Moore reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding awards for the 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. Included in the funding announcement are Renewal, New, Domestic Violence Bonus, Permanent Housing Bonus, and CoC Planning projects. In the Tier 1 and Tier 2 awards for the 2021 CoC competition, \$19.8 million was awarded to 64 Renewal projects under the Balance of State CoC, with another \$737,662 awarded to NEW projects. The Balance of State CoC received a total award amount of \$21.3 million, and \$49.8 million was awarded to Georgia projects as a whole. 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 included: 45 renewal permanent supportive housing projects, 18 renewal rapid re-housing projects, 2 renewal HMIS projects, and 2 renewal coordinated entry projects. Ms. Moore reported that in the announcement, HUD also announced Tier 1 and Tier 2 awards for New, DV Bonus, and projects straddling Tier 1 and Tier 2. New funding awarded included 2 new rapid re-housing projects for victims of Domestic Violence (one is only partially funded) and 1 new rapid re-housing project for homeless youth. The **Planning Grant** received an award (\$598,625), which is funded outside of the amount designated for project applications. Ms. Moore reported that one of the two bonus projects did NOT receive funding this year, and the bonus project that was funded only received an award of \$20,981 (of the \$138,580 requested). As a whole, projects in the Balance of State CoC were awarded \$1.2 million more over the previous year.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to provide Balance of State CoC updates, and Mr. Gray provided a brief report on the 2022 Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) application. Mr. Gray noted that staff is meeting regularly with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and Youth Homeless Advisory Group (YHAG) to complete the application, and the CoC Board will be asked to approve it prior to its submittal. Mr. Gray also provided a report on the HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding through the American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP), the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program, the State Office of Planning and Budget's Georgia Investment in Housing Grant Program, and the 2022 NOFO Competition. When the 2022 NOFO Competition opens, Mr. Gray noted that up to two CoC Board meetings can be expected.

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 1:57 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 24, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.

  
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Signature  
*Chairperson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title