

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Atlanta, Georgia  
May 26, 2021**

**Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; ID# is 132 394 9198)**

**Present (teleconference)**

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

**Absent**

Bill McGahan  
Diane Rogers

**Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)**

Amanda Brand  
Rick Heermans  
Rebecca Hickom  
Ambra Houser  
Josh Gray  
Tina Moore  
John Shereikis  
Rhonda Taylor  
Kate Tettamant  
Daphne Walker

**Guests (teleconference)**

Vanassa Flucas-City of Valdosta  
Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA  
Jan Apo-MUST Ministries  
Shonda Miller-Unison Behavioral Health  
Matthew Yarbrough-Unison Behavioral Health  
Ebony Russell-PADV  
Katha Blackwell-PADV  
Whitney McGinniss-PADV  
Teresa Stephens-Ninth District Opportunity  
Christy Day-The Bridge of Tiftarea  
Gregory Russo-WellCare Health Plans  
Taujuana Chiyota-Douglas County CSB  
Jenifer Turner-Reid-VA  
Allison Setterlind-GA Dept. of Early Care & Learning  
Jerome Greathouse-GA Dept. of Community Health  
Danielle Sutton-Gateway BHS  
Tressa Tatro-City of Hinesville  
Jessica Mitcham-Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter  
Susan Worsley-North GA Angel House

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 February 24, 2021 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2021 was made by Monica Johnson 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 Tina Moore to provide the update on Board appointments and collaborative applicant staff. Ms. Moore announced that the Membership and Rules Committee approved the reappointment of Kristy Carter as the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) representative, and Bill McGahan as one of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission's (HTF Commission) representatives. Ms. Moore reported that John Ellis was also reappointed, however, he has since retired from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA and the HTF Commission). The HTF Commission is expected to appoint a replacement member at their July meeting, and that seat is currently vacant. Ms. Moore noted that staff is awaiting formal notice of the Department of Education appointment and working to review one of the DCA appointments. Ms. Moore noted that once staff receives notice for outstanding appointments, materials will be sent to the Membership and Rules Committee for review. Ms. Moore noted that until these appointments are approved, current Board members continue to fill the seats in accordance with the Governance Charter.

Ms. Moore then provided an update on collaborative applicant staffing and reported that three positions have been filled since the last meeting. Daphne Walker is the new Director of the Housing Assistance Division. John Shereikis is serving as the Interim Director of the Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing, and Josh Gray has been promoted as CoC Planning Manager, replacing Mike Thomas. Ms. Moore noted that the Housing Assistance Division has been split into two offices, and Cynthia Patterson is now serving as the Office Director for Georgia Rental Assistance, which provides rental assistance under the U.S. Treasury Rental Assistance Program. Josh will be working soon to fill the vacant Continuum of Care Coordinator position. Chairperson Curry noted that there have been many personnel changes at the agency recently along with some reorganization. She added that the administration is happy to have Daphne Walker take over leadership of the Housing Assistance Division.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore for the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Written Standards Review (Tab B). Ms. Moore provided a brief report to the Board on approved updates to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards. Approved updates to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards include: updated language under Homelessness Prevention for ESG Recipients to allow other documentation outside of a court order, as allowed by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development); and updated language to the chart in *Appendix V: Eligibility Documentation Requirements ESG and CoC-funded Projects* adding language for other documentation for clients who meet Category 1: Risk Factor (C) of the At Risk of Homelessness definition where a court-order is not obtainable. Ms. Moore then reviewed approved updates to the Addendum to Georgia Balance of State CoC Written Standards: Interim Policies and Procedures in Response to COVID-19. Ms. Moore reported that HUD has extended program waivers until the end of June, and updates were made to language in the *HMIS Data Sharing and Privacy* section to reflect updates to the GA HMIS Privacy Policy, which were approved April 15, 2021. Ms. Moore reported that on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee reviewed the proposed updates of the written standards and addendum in detail and determined there were no substantial changes. The Balance of State CoC Written Standards are required to be updated

annually, with only substantial changes having to move to the Board for approval. Ms. Moore noted that no action is required.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to report on the Code of Conduct and the Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policies Review (Tab C). Ms. Moore noted that the Code of Conduct Policy and the Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy must be updated every two years and approved by the Membership and Rules Committee in order to be compliant. Ms. Moore briefly discussed the Code of Conduct Policy and Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy, noting that on May 19, 2021, the Membership and Rules Committee approved both policies with no changes.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore for an update on the 2021 Balance of State CoC Competition. Ms. Moore reported that staff completed the CoC Registration steps as required by HUD, and it is anticipated that the 2021 competition will open sometime in June. Ms. Moore then discussed the upcoming 2021 CoC Competition noting that it is anticipated that up to two (2) special meetings of the Board will need to be called once HUD releases the CoC Application guidelines for 2021. The first meeting will be necessary to establish recommendations for the BoS CoC competition policy, process, and review criteria for Board approval, and the second meeting will be to review the results and priority ranking recommendations to the Board for approval. Staff will try to align these meetings as much as possible, and will keep the Board apprised as further details become known.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to report on the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program as authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Gray reviewed the new program, which makes a total of 70,000 vouchers available nationwide. Housing assistance can be available until 2030, but turnover vouchers will not be available after September 30, 2023. Through the program, selected Public Housing Agencies (PHA) are able to accept allocated vouchers. These tenant-based housing vouchers are prioritized for households experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or who were recently homeless, where assistance will prevent homelessness or housing instability. Mr. Gray reported that staff are in the planning stage, and a partnership between each participating PHA and the CoC is required. Referrals must be made through the Coordinated Entry System or other partners, instead of the HCV waiting list, and Mr. Gray discussed Balance of State CoC roles/responsibilities and outreach efforts to the five PHAs in the Balance of State CoC who received an allocation offer of the EHV vouchers. Mr. Gray reported that the State Housing Authority has indicated acceptance of 798 vouchers, and the City of Albany Housing Authority has requested 25 vouchers. Mr. Gray discussed the next steps, which includes planning and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each housing authority. Mr. Gray noted that the timeline for execution of the MOUs would most likely require staff to call for an email vote with the Board. There was some discussion about the list of PHAs approved by HUD to receive the vouchers. Chairperson Curry noted that information on this program will be posted on DCA's website as soon as program details are finalized.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to provide Balance of State CoC updates. Ms. Moore indicated that staff are working to replace vacant committee seats, noting that staff expected an email vote to replace Mike with Josh Gray on the GA HMIS Steering Committee after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Moore then provided a brief report on the 2021 Balance of State Sheltered Count. Staff worked to finalize the Sheltered Count and Housing Inventory data, and it was submitted to HUD on May 14, 2021. Ms. Moore noted that staff is currently expecting HUD to require a full count in January 2022. For the next update, Ms. Moore reported that HUD opened the competition for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Staff is reviewing the materials, and action items are expected for the Board. The YHDP competition opened May 24, and applications are due to HUD by July 27. And finally, Ms. Moore reported that the upcoming August Board meeting is expected to be a hybrid model (virtual/in-person), and beginning with

the November meeting, attendance is expected to return to the regular format of in-person with a call in option for those who cannot attend.

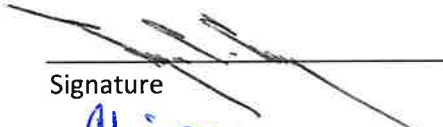
Chairperson Curry asked if there was any old business. No old business was presented to the Board for consideration.

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

Shannon Candler asked if there were any updates on the statewide mortgage assistance program. Chairperson Curry reported that the state is receiving \$354 million that will be administered by DCA's Homeownership Division, and that the program will operate similarly to the now defunct Hardest Hit Fund that DCA administered. Staff is working to reboot the previous online system used for that program and is in the process of hiring staff. Further program guidance is still being issued by the Treasury, and DCA is working to submit the required plan to the federal government outlining how it will work.

There was brief discussion on the status of the federal eviction moratorium. Staff reported that no updates have been received and as currently proposed, the moratorium will expire on June 30. Agency staff is still working with local jurisdictions on the rollout of the Georgia Rental Assistance Program.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia. At this time, the next meeting is expected to be a hybrid model of virtual and in-person.

  
Signature  
Chairperson  
Title