

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Atlanta, Georgia
November 13, 2019
Conference Call – (470) 582-0138**

Present

David E. Blackwell (teleconference)
Linda Boswell (teleconference)
Shannon Candler (teleconference)
Kristy Carter (teleconference)
Rachel Castillo
Chad Cheshire
Matthew Elder
John Ellis (by proxy)
Sondra Hampton (teleconference)
Mike Kraft
Bill McGahan
Eric McGhee (teleconference)
Charlotte Woody (teleconference)

Absent

Tonya Cureton Curry
Janice Davis
Monica Johnson
Diane Rogers
Nicole Sanders

Collaborative Applicant Staff

Rick Heermans
Ambra Houser
Tina Moore
Rhonda Taylor
Dave Whisnant
April Woods

Guests (in person and teleconference)

Cheryl Williams-New Horizons BHS (teleconference)
Kathy Thornton-NW GA Family Crisis Center (teleconference)
Katha Blackwell-PADV (teleconference)
Whitney McGinniss-PADV (teleconference)
Katheryn Preston-GA Alliance to End Homelessness (teleconference)
Jennifer Hamilton-Lookout Mountain CSB (teleconference)
Margaret Schuelke-PCCI (teleconference)
Mary Harrison-CSRA EOA (teleconference)
Robin Grant-SE Health District of Ware County (teleconference)
Steven Scott-Lookout Mountain CSB (teleconference)

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the “Board”) meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kraft at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Kraft welcomed board members, thanked everyone for participating in this meeting and conducted a roll call of the board members present, either in person or on the call. Chairman Kraft noted that he would be serving as the proxy for John Ellis for the meeting.

Chairman Kraft called for approval of the minutes of September 4, 2019 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019 was made by Matt Elder and seconded by Bill McGahan. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Kraft then invited guests to participate in the public comment period and members on the call to introduce themselves. The guests introduced themselves either in person or as they joined the conference call, and there were no additional comments.

Chairman Kraft called on Tina Moore to review the Family Unification Program MOUs – Carrollton and Newnan Housing Authorities (Tab B). Ms. Moore reported that both Carrollton Housing Authority and Newnan Housing Authority are submitting an application for Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, and this application requires a partnership of the Public Housing Authority (PHA), a Public Child Welfare Agency, and the Continuum of Care where it is located (Balance of State CoC). The vouchers will have a family and Youth focus. If the FUP vouchers are funded, Balance of State CoC responsibilities include integrating a prioritization and referral process for the FUP into Coordinated Entry, identifying services to be provided using CoC program funds, participation in regular meetings to include all parties to the MOU, and training for the housing authorities and local DFCS offices on the work of the BoS CoC. Ms. Moore noted that the MOU required the signature of the Board Chair, and requested Board approval of the Balance of State CoC entering into a MOU with the Housing Authority of the City of Carrollton (and Carroll County DFCS). Ms. Moore noted that the date on page one of the MOU for the City of Carrollton, should read as November 13th, 2019.

Ms. Moore reported that receipt of the MOU from the Newnan Housing Authority was still pending at the time of this meeting. Because staff members have not had a chance to review it, the Board determined that consideration of approval of this MOU is tabled for now. An email vote will be requested from the Board at a later date, and a record of the vote taken via email will be entered into the record at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

There was some discussion on the purpose of the application in response to a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), program funding available, the number of vouchers being requested, and possible impact on the Coordinated Entry System.

A motion to approve the Balance of State CoC entering into this MOU, with the date corrected, with the Housing Authority of the City of Carrollton and Carroll County DFCS was made by Bill McGahan and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously. Following Board approval, this MOU will move to the Chairman for signature.

Chairman Kraft called on Ambra Houser to review the *2019 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count Report* (Tab C). Ms. Houser discussed the results of the report and reviewed the background on the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count process, conducted every two years to determine the numbers of unsheltered homeless individuals. Ms. Houser reported on DCA's work in the past with Kennesaw State University staff to develop a predictive methodology to address areas where a physical count could not be conducted. She noted that this methodology was revised by Simtech Solutions for this count to estimate unsheltered homelessness in counties where an actual count did not occur. In addition, the unsheltered portion of the count was performed exclusively using the Counting Us mobile app to collect surveys. As a result, Ms. Houser reported that staff believes that the numbers identified this year as part of the count are more accurate than in years past. A total of 38 counties were included in the actual count, which was a reduction from prior years in order to conduct a more thorough count in the counties actually covered. Many of Georgia's 152 Balance of State CoC counties do not have any CoC-funded agencies for homeless assistance which makes it difficult to fully cover the entire state.

Ms. Houser reported that while there has been an overall downward trend from the 2011 homeless count, there was an increase in the last two years. Ms. Houser reviewed the 2019 homeless count results in detail, reporting that the 2019 unsheltered count totaled 2,262, and the 2019 sheltered count totaled

1,921. The total number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals who were homeless on the survey date of 4,183 in 2019 was 13% higher than the 2017 total of 3,716.

Ms. Houser reviewed the homeless count results by gender, race, household type, and subpopulation. Males made up 57% of the homeless population surveyed, with the majority being unsheltered. A total of 50% of the households were African American and 45% were white. For those in families, 1,122 individuals were sheltered and 101 were unsheltered. For individuals, 796 were sheltered and 2,113 were unsheltered. A total of 8% of those identified were youths which HUD defines as persons 24 and under.

There was discussion on the county breakout, and it was determined that the chart may have an error for some of the counties, including Clay County. Staff will review and follow up with the communications team to make any necessary corrections to the draft report. There was discussion on the increase, overall downward trend, the need to look at areas of increase, and projects serving a more vulnerable population. Staff noted that the new methodology is more accurate, and they believe this is largely why the numbers have increased. It was also noted that there is a tremendous need for affordable housing to serve families experiencing homelessness and that the inventory is decreasing with few replacement units being built. Ms. Houser reported that the full report is expected to be released by the end of 2019. Data is still needed from the other CoCs for other DCA staff to prepare a report for the entire state.

Chairman Kraft called on April Woods to review the *Homeless Youth Initiatives Update*. Ms. Woods reported that this initiative involves creating a systemic approach to address the needs of homeless youth age 24 or younger. Staff have been working towards preparing to apply for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP), the NOFA for which is expected to be released by HUD in the first quarter of 2020. Work includes collecting data and creating formal partnerships with mainstream providers, including the Department of Family and Children Services, Department of Early Childcare and Learning, and the Technical Colleges and Schools of Georgia. This effort will also require establishing a youth-specific coordinated entry system that will involve different access points, assessments, and screening tools for this population, and will entail building a system that will leverage different sources of funding and developing a support system to help youth sustain permanent housing once in place.

Ms. Woods reviewed the requirements of a Youth Action Board (YAB) and discussed work of the Youth Homeless Advisory Group (YHAG). Ms. Woods reviewed the results of the pilot Youth Point-in-Time (PIT) Count that was conducted during the week of June 24, 2019 in Brunswick, Camden, Dougherty, Bartow, and Forsyth Counties. A total of 325 youth were surveyed, with an estimated 49% meeting the HUD definition of homelessness. In addition, of the youth surveyed, 28% were estimated to be precariously housed, including those either couch surfing, staying with family and friends, or paying for a hotel or motel room, and 22% were either in treatment, transitional housing, or living with family and friends.

Chairman Kraft called on Ambra Houser to review the Racial Equity Improvement Plan (Tab D). Referencing the Assessment, Ms. Houser reviewed the purpose and background, the racial disparity assessment, the racial equity improvement framework, and next steps for this effort. Ms. Houser reported that data shows that minorities have a disproportionate share of homelessness nationwide compared to their percent of the total population. Minority populations make up 13% of the general population but represent 40% of individuals experiencing homelessness and 50% of families. Ms. Houser reported that HUD has asked all CoCs to begin looking at this issue more closely and conduct an analysis of the total numbers and reasons for the disparity.

Ms. Houser discussed work of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness that identified the foundational strategies for doing this. The Interagency Council starts with assessing the scope of these disparities by comparing HMIS data to local population and census data. The next step is to assess whether existing programs and systems are providing connections to housing and services at equitable rates and achieving equitable outcomes for clients across race and ethnicities. Once this data has been determined, staff must work with staff and individuals with lived homelessness experience to gauge whether any identified racial disparities are being perpetuated by processes or barriers within the homeless services system. These findings should then be shared with leaders, partners, providers, and stakeholders within the COC to build a shared understanding of their scope and effects.

Ms. Houser reported that Phase 1, which involves a quantitative assessment using the CoC Racial Analysis Tool, Stella data from HUD, and 2019 point in time data, has been completed. Stage 2 is now in process which involves data collection, analysis, and capacity building. The next steps will be to identify and implement programmatic and policy changes and to provide technical assistance to providers and continue data collection efforts to monitor progress.

Chairman Kraft called on Tina Moore to provide Balance of State CoC updates. Ms. Moore reported that seven (7) Board appointments will expire on January 21, 2020. Ms. Moore reviewed the appointments that are impacted and noted that DCA's Commissioner will be reaching out soon to request reappointments/new appointments from each entity. Absent reappointment or a new appointment, Board Members shall continue to serve indefinitely following the end of their term. Ms. Moore noted that she would be contacting each of the Board members with expiring terms to see if they wished to continue serving before the heads of each agency are contacted. Board Members and representative entities with a term due to expire are:

- Georgia Department of Community Affairs appointment – Tonya Cureton Curry
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities appointment – Monica Johnson
- Georgia Department of Community Supervision appointment – Mike Kraft
- Georgia Department of Labor appointment – Janice Davis
- DCA/Membership & Rules Committee appointment - Vacant
- Veterans Housing and Homelessness appointment – Nicole Sanders
- Macon-Bibb County (ESG Coordination) appointment – Charlotte Woody

Ms. Moore then provided a brief report on Balance of State CoC Sheltered Count, membership meetings, and DCA technical assistance and training efforts. Ms. Moore presented the following:

- 2020 Annual Sheltered Count
- Membership Meetings, Training & Technical Assistance
 - T3 - Prevention and Diversion Training – October 2019
 - Regional Membership Meetings – December 2019 (dates TBD)
 - BoS CoC Applicant Debriefing (dates TBD)
 - DCA Housing Symposium – February 2020 Savannah
- Other Projects & Training
 - CoC Grant Management Training (TBD)
 - Data Quality and Performance Evaluation Plan

Chairman Kraft asked if there was any old business. No old business was presented to the Board for consideration.

Chairman Kraft then asked for new business. No new business was presented to the Board for consideration.

David Whisnant reported that Chairman Kraft is retiring from the State in January and thanked him for his service. DCA will work with the Department of Community Supervision on a new appointment. This will also require that the Board appoint a new Chair at the February meeting. Mr. Whisnant noted that CoC Governance rules call for the Board to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair and asked that any Board Members interested in serving in either role to please let Tina Moore know as soon as possible. Mr. Whisnant noted that an important element of the Chair role is to be able to attend most meetings in person. DCA staff will follow up on this and bring the information to the Board at the next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 26, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.



Signature

Vice Chairman

Title