

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

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**November 16, 2022**

**Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2634 165 6664)**

**Present (teleconference unless noted)**

Linda Boswell  
Shannon Candler  
Kristy Carter  
Rachel Castillo  
Tammie Collins  
Chad Cheshire (in person)  
Tonya Curry (in person)  
Jimiyu Evans  
Alison Goldey  
Eric McGhee  
Daniel Rosebud  
Maxwell Ruppensburg  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

Bert Flewellen  
Sondra Hampton  
Wayne Mack  
Diane Rogers

**Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference unless noted)**

Amanda Brand  
Aashish Gauyam  
Josh Gray (in person)  
Rick Heermans (in person)  
Tina Moore (in person)  
Diana Pitcher (in person)  
Cordaryl Turner  
Daphne Walker

**Guests (teleconference)**

Jenny Wood - FaithBridge Foster Care  
Ailene Gordon - CaringWorks  
Jim Lindenmeyer - Cherokee County American Legion  
Doug Belisle - Good Neighbor Shelter  
Mary Elliott - GA Dept. of Community Supervision  
Matthew Elder - Gwinnett County  
Karen Yawn - The Haven  
Taujuana Chiyota - Douglas County CSB  
Shalynda Warren – Project Community Connections  
Rhonda Hall -Advocates for Bartow’s Children  
Suzanne Dow - GA Mtn Women’s Center  
Jenifer Turner-Reid - VA  
Mary Harrison - CSRA EOA  
Kimberly Bowen - Gateway BHS  
Lori Ane Campbell - Salvation Army Metro Atlanta  
Carolyn Booth - Salvation Army Metro Atlanta

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.

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 September 12, 2022 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022 was made by Chad Cheshire and seconded by Shannon Candler. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of September 29, 2022 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of September 29, 2022 was made by Maxwell Ruppensburg and seconded by Kristy Carter. 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 from the public.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the Georgia HMIS Steering Committee Bylaws and Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee Appointments. Mr. Gray noted that the HMIS Steering Committee is responsible for monitoring the CoC's compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) requirements and monitoring user participation. The Bylaws provide a governance structure and outline the responsibilities of all entities involved in the Georgia HMIS Collaborative and also must be updated annually. CoCs are required to adopt and/or re-affirm adoption of the Bylaws annually following any updates approved by the GA HMIS Steering Committee, and updates must be reviewed by the BoS HMIS Committee prior to being sent to the Board for review.

Mr. Gray briefly reviewed the Bylaws that outline the responsibilities of each of the eight participating CoCs in the GA HMIS Collaborative and the HMIS Lead Agency. Mr. Gray noted that a requirement of the Georgia HMIS Steering Committee Bylaws is for each CoC to appoint two BoS CoC voting members to serve on the Georgia HMIS Steering Committee to provide oversight of the HMIS implementation and to represent the BoS Continuum in GA HMIS decision-making, as specified in Section IV of the Bylaws. Mr. Gray noted that the Bylaws require one representative from the Collaborative Applicant and one representative with technical understanding of HMIS.

Mr. Gray reported that the GA HMIS Steering Committee has updated the Bylaws and HMIS Lead staff is conducting a vote of the GA HMIS Steering Committee. Once the vote is finalized, the approved By-Laws and Steering Committee and Administrator appointments will be sent to the CoC Board for review by e-mail.

Chairperson Curry called on Diana Pitcher to review the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Award. Referencing the award announcement behind Tab B, Ms. Pitcher reported that the Georgia BoS CoC has been selected as a YHDP community and was awarded almost \$11.7 million. This is the largest rural award ever made by HUD under the program and is surpassed only by previous YHDP award totals made to New York City and Los Angeles. Funds must be used to address homelessness among persons aged 18-24 involving issues including stable housing, education and employment, establishing permanent connections, and overall well-being. Ms. Pitcher referred to the map in Tab B that shows which communities have received funding under the program. Ms. Pitcher reported that the next step in the process is to develop a Coordinated Community Plan which is due to HUD on April 24<sup>th</sup>, six months after the date of the award announcement. Ms. Pitcher discussed the availability of an extension, if needed, and plans for staff to work with both new and existing stakeholders for the plan development, and Board members were asked to pass on the names of any individuals they think might be interested in participating in the process. Ms. Pitcher noted that technical assistance will be provided by HUD will include youth collaboration, education, and data information. Once submitted, HUD must review and approve the plan before the program can be implemented and applications for assistance considered.

Ms. Pitcher reported that this is expected to be a short turnaround, possibly just several weeks after submission. Board members expressed congratulations on the award.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review 2023 Board Appointments/Reappointments. Ms. Moore reported that seven (7) Board appointments will expire on January 21, 2023. Ms. Moore reviewed the appointments that are impacted and noted that, for six of these seats, DCA's Commissioner will be reaching out soon to request reappointments/new appointments from each entity. The seventh seat is for the Lived Experience appointment of the Membership and Rules Committee, and the Committee will be finalizing the Voting Policy, Process, and Lived Experience Nominations. Once policy is finalized, staff will reach out to the representative Board Member to request a nomination for the Committee, and others as necessary. The Committee may also receive or provide nominations. Absent reappointment or a new appointment, Board Members shall continue to serve indefinitely following the end of their term.

Ms. Moore noted that, for agency appointments, 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. Ms. Moore also noted that there were three other seats that staff were working to secure appointments/reappointments for, and the State Housing Trust Fund is also expected to make a replacement appointment for their second seat soon. Ms. Moore closed by outlining the Board Members and representative entities with terms due to expire as follows:

- Georgia Department of Community Affairs appointment – Tonya Cureton Curry (update pending)
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities appointment – Maxwell Ruppensburg
- Georgia Department of Community Supervision appointment – Bert Flewellen
- Georgia Department of Labor appointment – Wayne Mack
- Membership & Rules Committee appointment – Daniel Rosebud
- Veterans Housing and Homelessness appointment – Vacant
- Macon-Bibb County (ESG Coordination) appointment – Charlotte Woody

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the 2022 Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Special Competition Results. Referencing the *2022 BoS CoC Project Priority Ranking Final - Special Competition* document behind Tab C. Mr. Gray reported that the 2022 CoC Special Competition application was submitted to HUD on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and he reported on the final adjustments to funding requests under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside and the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside as approved by the Board. The final amount requested under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside was \$5,149,382, and the final amount requested under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside was \$11,382,674.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the Balance of State CoC Updates. Mr. Gray reported that 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data was recently finalized by HUD and provided a detailed report of the results as follows:

- Mr. Gray noted that the count was conducted on February 21<sup>st</sup>, in a total of 31 counties with a focus on quality of data over the number of communities involved, and there was an emphasis on full county coverage. As in the past, a predictive statistical model was used to derive numbers for the remainder of the BoS coverage area. Mr. Gray reported that the unsheltered count rose from 2,262 in 2019 to 3,919 this year, which represents a 73% increase. The sheltered number has remained fairly constant over the last five years with a total of 1,896 counted in 2021 and 1,937 this year. The number represented in the sheltered count number includes those in

emergency shelter, transitional housing, or in hotels/motels paid for by a third party on the night of the count. The total number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on February 21st was 5,856, which represents a 40% increase from the 4,183 counted in 2019 when the last full count was conducted. Mr. Gray reviewed the results for special categories including gender, race, and household type as well as special populations such as veterans and the chronically homeless. Veterans represented 5% of the total homeless count population this year, and 10% of those counted were chronically homeless individuals. Data for unsheltered Veterans and chronically homeless was extrapolated from the rate of persons counted within those categories in the unsheltered count who were Veterans or determined to be chronically homeless.

- Mr. Gray reviewed some of the reasons suspected for the increase. The total numbers had been declining significantly since 2011, but they rose a great deal once the pandemic hit. Mr. Gray noted that the physical count this year was much higher quality and that the predictive model was more accurate. This year there were more street outreach teams, and volunteers were better trained, which resulted in a higher quality physical count. In addition, observation data was included in the final PIT data if surveys were not feasible to conduct with the individuals.
- Mr. Gray also reported that the continuing lack of affordable housing units has had a large impact on the increase in those experiencing homelessness. Mr. Gray noted that in 2019, the Atlanta Federal Reserve released a study on rental housing in Georgia. For those at 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), there was a 38,000 unit deficit, and this figure increased to 42,000 for those at 30% AMI. These figures have likely increased as a result of the pandemic, which has added a number of additional challenges to the rental housing market for low- and moderate-income households.

There was discussion about when individual county data will be made available, and Mr. Gray noted that staff is currently working on the report, which is expected to be published within the next month or so. Mr. Gray noted that all jurisdictions within the BoS that have HUD Consolidated Plans have been provided data from the count for their areas. Another question was asked about the 2023 PIT Count. Mr. Gray stated that a sheltered only count is planned for 2023 and planning for the next unsheltered count coming in 2024 will likely begin early next year with no methodology changes planned at this point. He also noted that including observations in the count this year likely helped get a more accurate number, and the mapping feature helped to identify encampments and other hot spots up front so efforts could be focused more on those areas.

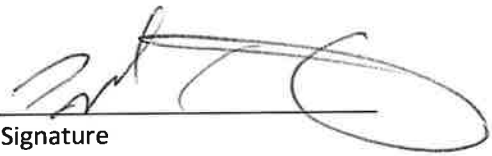
As the final Balance of State CoC update, Mr. Gray reported that notice of the next meeting of the Balance of State CoC membership will be sent soon.

Chairperson Curry asked if there was any old business. No old business was presented to the Board for consideration. However, Chairperson Curry noted that Joan Oxley is no longer on the CoC Board as she has transitioned to another position within the VA and is no longer working with their homeless team. Chairperson Curry thanked Ms. Oxley for her service on the Board.

Chairperson Curry then asked for new business. Shannon Candler stated that there will be a shift in Gwinnett County's representative on the Board. A new Housing and Community Development Division has been created within the Planning and Development Department, which is headed by Matthew Elder who will assume her role. Ms. Candler said that she has enjoyed her time on the Board, and Chairperson Curry thanked her for her contributions.

Chairperson Curry then informed the Board that she would be retiring from DCA at the end of November. Josh Gray thanked Chairperson Curry for her leadership and stated that a new Board Chair will be needed moving forward. Mr. Gray reported that CoC Governance rules call for the Board to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, and he asked that any Board members who may be interested in the position to let DCA staff know. Mr. Gray noted that in addition to running meetings, an important element of the Chair role has been to be able to attend meetings in person. Mr. Gray stated that Vice Chairperson Chad Cheshire has already let staff know that he is interested and able to serve as Chair. Mr. Gray reported that an agenda item to select the new Board Chair will be on the agenda for the first meeting in 2023, and until that time, Chad Cheshire, who is the current Vice Chair will fulfill this role.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will on February 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.



Signature

Vice Chairperson

Title