

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Atlanta, Georgia
November 18, 2020**

Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; ID# is 132 695 2533)

Present (teleconference)

David E. Blackwell
Linda Boswell
Shannon Candler
Kristy Carter
Rachel Castillo
Chad Cheshire
Tonya Curry
John Ellis
Bert Flewellen
Monica Johnson
Bill McGahan
Wayne Mack
Joan Oxley
Daniel Rosebud
Charlotte Woody

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)

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

Absent

Matthew Elder
Sondra Hampton
Eric McGhee
Diane Rogers

Guests (teleconference)

Katie Collins-Carrolton Housing Authority
Maria Beard-CSRA EOA
Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA
Maxwell Ruppensburg-DBHDD
Haley Perez-Archer-CaringWorks
Carissa Gibbons-PADV
Katha Blackwell-PADV
Tameyer Evans-DHS
Suzanne Dow-GA Mountain Women’s Center
Danielle Sutton-Gateway BHS
Jessica Mitcham-Good Neighbor Shelter
Antoinette Fields-HOPE Atlanta
Chrystal Coker-Ninth District Opportunity
Kendall Yearby-South GA CSB
Randy Weldon-SW GA Community Action Council
Gail Seifert-Ware Children’s Initiative

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 August 26, 2020 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2020 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 Mike Thomas to provide the COVID-19 and CARES Act Update. Mr. Thomas provided an update on DCA and Balance of State CoC Collaborative Applicant efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Thomas discussed:

- Continuing activities to distribute ESG-CV funding
- Receiving feedback from people with lived experience
- Engaging with new partners
- Increasing focus on job readiness and training

Mr. Thomas noted that receiving feedback from individuals with lived homeless experiences has been identified as a priority for program development and administration, especially with youths 24 and under. He recognized and thanked Daniel Rosebud of the Board for assisting in identifying potential people for this effort.

Mr. Thomas then provided a report on the status of CARES Act funding which was allocated to DCA's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Programs. Mr. Thomas discussed new staff positions hired to help administer the programs, process reimbursements to funded agencies, and work with the community to educate them about these programs and to identify potential housing units for program participants. He noted that hiring new staff is ongoing.

Chairperson Curry called on April Woods to review Committee Appointments (Tab B). Ms. Woods reported that committee appointments are being proposed for the Assessment, Placement, and Services Committee and for the Homeless Management Information Systems Committee. Ms. Woods discussed responsibilities of the Assessment, Placement, and Services Committee, which include the design and development of the Coordinated Entry System and the development and design of the system of care. Referring to Tab B, Ms. Woods identified the proposed replacement member of the Assessment, Placement, and Services Committee as Deborah Anglin, who would replace Daisy Jones. She noted that Ms. Anglin, Executive Director of Hearts to Nourish Hope, has extensive experience in working with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Clayton County and will bring valuable expertise to the committee. Ms. Woods requested the Board's approval of the recommended replacement member.

Ms. Woods also presented the proposed replacement committee member for the Homeless Management and Information Systems (HMIS) Committee. Ms. Woods discussed responsibilities of the HMIS Committee, which include monitoring the Continuum's compliance with HMIS requirements prescribed by HUD, monitoring user participation in HMIS, and general HMIS oversight in areas related to the HMIS Lead and the HMIS system. Referring to the materials located behind Tab B, Ms. Woods identified the proposed replacement member for the HMIS Committee as Jeff Clark of Safe Harbor Children's Shelter,

replacing Amanda Brand who was previously with the same agency. Mr. Clark has extensive experience in overseeing street outreach and coordinated entry system efforts in Glynn County and will also bring valuable expertise to the committee. Ms. Woods requested the Board's approval of the recommended replacement member.

A motion to approve the proposed committee appointment of the replacement member, Deborah Anglin, for the Assessment, Placement, and Services Committee was made by Bill McGahan and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the proposed committee appointment of the replacement member, Jeff Clark, for the Homeless Management and Information Systems Committee was made by Rachel Castillo and seconded by Shannon Candler. The Vice Chairman called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas to review the 2021 Homeless Count Update. Mr. Thomas reported the following:

- January 25, 2021 has been chosen as the night of the count
- Information on the sheltered and unsheltered count has been distributed to BoS CoC mailing lists
- Recruitment for the unsheltered count leads is underway
- Count training is expected to begin in early December

Despite COVID-19, the count will be like previous years in the following ways:

- There will still be sheltered and unsheltered components
- The Counting Us app from Simtech Solutions will be utilized
- Unsheltered counts will be organized by local leads
- Predictive modeling will be used for areas not canvassed
- The sheltered count will be conducted as usual with no changes

HUD issued guidance on 11/13/20 that details flexibilities for the 2021 unsheltered count due to COVID-19. BoS CoC staff is still analyzing how to best incorporate HUD's new guidance with a focus on safety for the counters and respondents into the process. Updates to methodology may include an extended counting period, shorter unsheltered count surveys, and updated sampling methods for predictive modeling. In addition, personal protective equipment (PPE) will likely be an authorized expense for the funding that is provided to unsheltered count leads.

Mr. Thomas noted that the HUD guidance is still under review as it was just issued and no final decisions have been made as to any proposed changes for the upcoming unsheltered count. One item under consideration would be to extend the counting period from the usual 7 days to 14 and to use a shorter survey to limit interaction times. Sampling methods are also currently under review.

A question was asked about the availability of PPE and whether DCA would acquire these or if that would be the responsibility of the count leads. Mr. Thomas replied that DCA looked at acquiring these earlier in the pandemic and was unsuccessful as health care providers got priority. No decisions have yet been made as to how this will be handled.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review the 2020 Balance of State CoC Competition. Ms. Moore reported that HUD is currently exploring alternative approaches to distributing funds, where pending legislation could allow for automatic renewals of projects currently funded. Absent legislation, HUD will be required to run the full competition. Ms. Moore noted that, once HUD opens the competition or releases more details, the Balance of State CoC may need one or two special meetings of the CoC Board over the next few months.

Ms. Moore also provided a brief update on the 2020 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Competition. Ms. Moore reported that staff have been working towards preparing to apply for the YHDP competition, which is expected to be released by HUD at any time. Staff is working to finalize recommended appointments for the Youth Action Board (YAB), one of the requirements of the YHDP competition, and these appointments will be sent to the CoC Board for review by email. She asked that any Board members contact her if they are potentially interested in reviewing funding applications once they are received.

Chairperson Curry called on Mike Thomas provide Balance of State CoC updates.

Mr. Thomas reported that, as a result of working with the State's Public Housing Authority (PHA) that is administered by DCA, they have adopted a homeless admission preference for the State's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. Details are as follows:

- Continuum of Care preference vouchers are available through the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority HCV Program
- Preference vouchers are currently targeted towards prevention/diversion candidate households with low service needs presenting to Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry lead sites
- Future preference vouchers may also be targeted towards households receiving rapid rehousing or prevention services in the Balance of State CoC who need permanent affordable housing

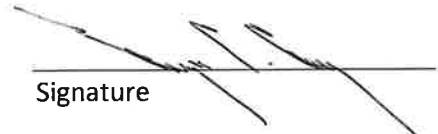
Ms. Moore then reported that five (5) Board appointments will expire on January 21, 2021. She reviewed the appointments that are impacted and noted that Collaborative Applicant staff will work with DCA's Commissioner to reach out soon to request reappointments/new appointments from the leadership of 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 staff 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:

- Five (5) Board appointments expire on 1/21/2021:
 - Department of Community Affairs appointment – Sondra Hampton
 - State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless appointment – Bill McGahan
 - State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless appointment – John Ellis
 - Department of Education appointment – Eric McGhee
 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council appointment – Kristy Carter

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 1:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in via conference call and webinar. At this time, the next meeting is expected to be held virtually.



Signature

Chairperson

Title