

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Atlanta, Georgia
September 14, 2021
Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2632 335 2283)**

Present (teleconference)

David E. Blackwell
Shannon Candler (by proxy)
Kristy Carter
Chad Cheshire
Tonya Curry
Matthew Elder
Bert Flewellen
Sondra Hampton
Bill McGahan
Wayne Mack
Joan Oxley
Daniel Rosebud
Maxwell Ruppensburg
Charlotte Woody

Absent

Linda Boswell
Rachel Castillo
Eric McGhee
Diane Rogers

Collaborative Applicant Staff (teleconference)

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

Guests (teleconference)

Lakeisha Jones-Salvation Army
Whitney McGinnis-PADV
Sabrina Callaway-Clayton County Police Dept.
Randy Weldon-SW GA Community Action Council
Shauntay Harris-City of Hinesville
Britt Aliperti-PCCI
Margaret Schuelke-PCCI
Daniel Donathan-South GA CSB (Legacy)
Annette Davis-South GA CSB (Legacy)
Rhonda Hall-Advocates for Bartow’s Children
Cheryl Williams-New Horizons Behavioral Health
Vanassa Ross-City of Valdosta

The special meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the “Board”) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tonya Curry at 8:30 a.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 Matthew Elder is serving as proxy for Shannon Candler.

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 review the 2021 Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition. Ms. Moore provided an overview of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) overarching policy priorities highlighted in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) regarding ending homelessness for all persons, a systematic response to ending homelessness, strategic resource allocation, using an evidence-based approach, increasing employment, and providing flexibility for housing first with service participation requirements. Ms. Moore discussed meeting with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee to update and finalize the proposed competition policy and process, application documents and scoring criteria, both Addendum documents, and other materials. Referring to materials in the board book (Tab A) emailed to the Board, Ms. Moore discussed the overall competition and then provided an overview of the proposed Balance of State CoC Competition policy and process as they relate to HUD's NOFOA and federal priorities. Ms. Moore discussed the permanent housing priority, HUD's two Tier System for project ranking (relocation and bonus amounts for Tier 2), federal priorities as it relates to Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding, the permanent housing bonus project opportunity, bonus points for leveraging housing and healthcare resources, the Domestic Violence (DV) bonus opportunity, threshold criteria, threshold criteria for Joint TH and PH-RRH Component projects, and scoring for agency capacity. Ms. Moore discussed the scoring criteria around using project performance to score and rank projects, the proposed policy to reduce or reallocate projects for low performance or underutilization, and consideration of returns to homelessness. Ms. Moore discussed proposed competition policy around the prioritization of projects in groupings, incentives for agencies to partner with the CoC in the coordination of a homeless count, incentives for applicants to prioritize Veterans or Youth-headed households, and other bonus points available. Ms. Moore reviewed the proposed scoring criteria for new and renewal projects, proposed review application forms for new projects, threshold criteria for the new Joint TH and RRH Component Projects, and other competition materials.

Ms. Moore reported that, given the timeline, staff will be scheduling a meeting of the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee for October 20 or 21, 2021, and Josh Gray will cover this information with the Board later in the agenda. Ms. Moore requested the Board's approval of the competition policy and process, reallocation policy, Certification Policy Addendum, Coordinated Entry Policy Addendum, scoring criteria, review application forms, and other related materials for new and renewal projects as recommended by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee on September 9, 2021.

A motion to approve the proposed competition policy and process, reallocation policy, Certification Policy Addendum, Coordinated Entry Policy Addendum, scoring criteria, competition documents, and other related materials as recommended by the Standards Rating and Project Selection Committee, and to open the Balance of State CoC Competition was made by David Blackwell and seconded by Matthew Elder. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the 2022 Balance of State Homeless Count (Tab B). Referring to the document, *2022 Point in Time Homeless Count Methodology (September 9, 2021)*, Mr. Gray discussed the purpose of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count and reviewed the status of the last unsheltered count. Mr. Gray discussed the need to understand the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness at a point in time, noting that each CoC is being scored on their commitment to conducting a full homeless count in January 2022. The last Balance of State unsheltered count was completed in 2019 as this requirement was waived by HUD for 2021 due to the pandemic.

Mr. Gray discussed the proposed methodology and process that includes review of the predictive model provided by Simtech Solutions, use of the Counting Us app survey tool for the unsheltered count, and extensive count coverage in targeted counties. Mr. Gray also discussed the street and service based method for the unsheltered count, provider surveys for the sheltered count, the process for deduplication of data, the predictive model, and data processing and submission. Mr. Gray then reviewed the contingency plan, where in the event that HUD provides guidance that affects this methodology, the methodology will be updated to align with the new guidance. Thus far, HUD has provided no guidance on methodology.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, staff met with the Standards, Rating, & Project Selection Committee to review staff recommendations to conduct a 2022 Balance of State CoC Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count and the 2022 Homeless Count Methodology and Process. The proposed recommendations were approved for consideration by the Board. Mr. Gray requested the Board's approval to conduct a 2022 Balance of State CoC Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count and of the 2022 Homeless Count Methodology and Process. There was discussion around rental assistance through CARES Act funding and HMIS. Matthew Elder asked if there would be any consideration of including persons at risk of becoming homeless who do not meet HUD's homeless definition in the count. Mr. Gray noted that the main focus has to be on those who meet HUD's homeless definition at the time of the count, but that some questions may be included in the survey to address impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

A motion to approve the CoC conducting a 2022 Balance of State CoC Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count and of the 2022 Balance of State CoC Point-in-Time Methodology and Process, as recommended by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee was made by Bill McGahan and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the Next Board Meeting (Tab C). Mr. Gray reported that at the next meeting of the Board, the Board will need to review and vote on Committee recommendations regarding the results of the competition, project ranking (as a result of policy and scoring criteria established at this meeting), funding reallocations, and submission of the BoS CoC application to HUD. Mr. Gray noted that given the timeline, staff will be meeting with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee on October 20 or 21, 2021. Mr. Gray requested the Board's consideration and availability for the proposed dates of October 27 or 28, 2021. Mr. Gray also reviewed the date of the next regular Board meeting, which is November 17, 2021.

The proposed date of October 27 at 1:00 p.m. was discussed as a possibility. For those unable to be present, call-in information will be made available. It was also noted that date is when the State Housing Trust Fund Commission is scheduled to meet, but that will take place virtually later that day at 3:30 p.m. so no conflict should exist.

A motion to approve scheduling the next specially called Board Meeting for October 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. was made by David Blackwell and seconded by Kristy Carter. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

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 9:27 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.



Signature
Chairperson

Title