

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

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**February 23, 2022**

**Conference Call Number (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2631 396 9989)**

**Present (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Linda Boswell  
Shannon Candler  
Rachel Castillo  
Chad Cheshire  
Tammie Collins  
Tonya Curry (in person)  
Jimiya Evans  
Bert Flewellen  
Eric McGhee  
Wayne Mack  
Joan Oxley  
Diane Rogers  
David Whisnant (in person)  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

Kristy Carter  
Sondra Hampton  
Daniel Rosebud  
Maxwell Ruppensburg

**Collaborative Applicant Staff (in person unless otherwise noted)**

Amanda Brand (teleconference)  
Isaac Davis (teleconference)  
Josh Gray  
Rick Heermans  
Tina Moore  
Diana Pitcher (teleconference)  
John Sherekis  
Rhonda Taylor (teleconference)  
Cordaryl Turner (teleconference)

**Guests (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Whitney McGinniss- Partnership Against Domestic Violence  
Susan Smith- Partnership Against Domestic Violence  
Suzanne Dow- Georgia Mountain Women’s Center  
Carolyn Booth- Salvation Army  
Britt Aliperti- Project Community Connections  
Bobby Jones- William S. Davies Homeless Shelter  
Jenny Wood- FaithBridge Foster Care  
Sarah Ediss- Gateway Behavioral Health Services  
Patricia Fletcher-Edwards- NID Housing Counseling Agency  
Terisa Liang-Buchanan- Troup County Homeless Coalition  
Wanzina Jackson- Macon Bibb County  
Shonda Miller- Unison Behavioral Health  
Sharon Scott- CSRA EOA  
Lashonda Durden- Infusion, Inc.  
Heather Hutton- Infusion, Inc.  
Teresa McGinniss  
Tiffany Leach

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the “Board”) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tonya Curry at 1:02 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. Tammie Jones joined the meeting after the roll call.

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of November 17, 2021 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021 was made by Diane Rogers and seconded by David Whisnant. 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 provide the Board Member Introductions and Appointments Update. Mr. Gray introduced the newly appointed Super Region "At-Large" representatives as follows:

**Region 1** – Rachel Castillo, CEO of Advocates for Bartow’s Children, Inc.

**Region 2** – Jimiyu Evans, Co-CEO of Project Community Connections, Inc.

**Region 3** – Tammie Collins, Executive Vice President of Community Impact for the United Way of Central Georgia, Inc.

**Region 4** – Chad Cheshire, Director of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) of Volunteers of America Southeast, Inc.

**Region 5** – Diane Rogers, Community Service Director for Action Pact, Inc.

Mr. Gray reported on the following outgoing Board Members:

- Matthew Elder, Region 2 "At-Large" Representative (served 3 years);
- David Blackwell, Region 4 "At-Large" Representative (served 6 years); and
- Bill McGahan, State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless (served 8 years).

Noting the years of service for outgoing "At-Large" Representatives Matthew Elder and David Blackwell, Mr. Gray reported that they have been invaluable Board Members that DCA looks forward to continued partnership with. Mr. Gray also reported that Bill McGahan contacted DCA to let staff know that he was stepping down as one of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless representatives, because he was moving out of State. The State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission will be working to appoint another representative as a replacement. Mr. Gray noted appreciation for Mr. McGahan’s service and noted that he has served on the Board since its inception in 2014.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore to review the Record E-mail Votes discussion item on the agenda. A rule in the Governance Charter allows for the Chair to call for a vote from Board members via e-mail for business matters that the Chair determines require immediate action between regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Governance Charter states that an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board members via e-mail shall be the act of the Board, and a record of any motions, votes, and actions taken via e-mail will be entered into the record at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Ms. Moore reported that she was officially recording the result of the e-mail vote requested on January 21, 2022, where the Board approved significant modifications to the Point in Time Count methodology in response to COVID-19. Ms. Moore further reported that she was officially recording the results of the January 21, 2022 e-mail vote, where the Board approved changing the Point-in-Time Count Date to February 21, 2022, to be followed by a 7-day service-based count. Ms. Moore reported that updates to the methodology were approved with no objections from a quorum of the Board. Votes were received by David Blackwell, Linda Boswell, Shannon Candler, Kristy Carter, Rachel Castillo, Chad Cheshire, Matthew Elder, Bert Flewellen, Sondra Hampton, Eric McGhee, Wayne Mack, Joan Oxley, Diane Rogers, Daniel Rosebud, Maxwell Ruppensburg, David Whisnant, and Charlotte Woody. Chairperson Curry’s vote was not needed to break a tie.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore who asked for approval of the 2022-2023 Proposed Meeting Schedule for the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Board (Tab B). Ms. Moore noted that these dates are very similar to the 2021 meeting dates and that there would likely be at least one specially called meeting related to the annual competition. The following dates were proposed:

May 25, 2022  
August 24, 2022  
November 16, 2022 (\*date adjusted for Thanksgiving)  
February 22, 2023

A motion to approve the proposed dates for the next four standing Board meetings was made by Shannon Candler and seconded by Chad Cheshire. The Chairperson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray, who provided a report on the 2022 Balance of State CoC Homeless Count that was conducted on February 21, 2022. Mr. Gray provided a brief report on the work so far noting that the service-based portion of the unsheltered count is ongoing through February 28, 2022 (for the night of February 21, 2022). A total of 842 Point-in Time (PIT) interviews and observations were submitted through the Counting Us app from 28 counties, and all data is currently being analyzed for quality and accuracy. The CoC deadline for reporting this information to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is expected to be at the end of April, and numbers will be shared with the Board at that time. Mr. Gray thanked the many volunteers that contributed to this effort state-wide, and Chairperson Curry commended him for his leadership with the project.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore for an update on the 2021 Balance of State CoC Competition. Ms. Moore reported that HUD has not yet released an award announcement. Ms. Moore noted that HUD may issue the announcement in one notice for awards in Tier 1 and Tier 2, or through two notices with Tier 1 awards being released first. Once the announcement is released, staff will send a notice to applicants, the Board, membership, and interested parties.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to provide Balance of State CoC updates, and Mr. Gray provided a brief report on the following:

- **Staff Updates** - Mr. Gray reported that Ambra Houser, CoC Data Analyst, and Rebecca Hickom, CoC Performance Coordinator, have both resigned to accept other employment opportunities.
- **Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)** – The LSA report looks at how people experiencing homelessness use the CoC system of care, including how they enter and exit the system and the services they receive. Mr. Gray reported that the LSA report was due to HUD on February 18 and was submitted on time with no errors. Mr. Gray thanked the HMIS lead team for their help in getting this report completed.
- **System Performance Measures (SPM)** – The SPM report measures CoC system-level performance, and HUD uses SPM data as a competitive element in the competition and to gauge the state of the homeless response system nationally. The SPM report is due on February 28, and Mr. Gray noted that a report will be given to the Board at a subsequent meeting.
- **ESG & HOPWA Methods of Distribution** – The proposed 2022 methods of distribution of funding for both programs are now up on the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) website with comments from the public due by March 2.
- **HOME-ARP Collaboration** – DCA has been awarded \$87 million through the American Rescue Plan for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). These funds must be expended by 2030

and can be used for tenant-based rental assistance, rental housing new construction or rehab, supportive services, non-congregate emergency shelters, and administration. Mr. Gray reported that the BoS CoC team is actively collaborating with DCA's HOME team on needs and priorities for the use of these funds and on the development of a plan that must be submitted to HUD for approval for their use.


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.

A status update was requested about the Georgia Mortgage Assistance program. Chairperson Curry reported that it is fully operational and open for applications. There is a portal link on DCA's website for applications to be submitted.

There was some discussion about the Georgia Rental Assistance (GRA) program and the ability to ensure that GRA assistance is not being duplicated with ESG funding for households applying for assistance locally while waiting to hear about the disposition of their GRA application. Chairperson Curry noted that DCA does not limit anyone from getting assistance at the local level as well as from the state, but that staff would get back with them after the meeting to discuss it further and decide how to best share this information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.



Signature

Chairperson

Title