

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Atlanta, Georgia  
November 17, 2021  
Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (1-844-992-4726; Mtg# is 2630 016 0459)**

**Present (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Linda Boswell  
Shannon Candler  
Kristy Carter  
Rachel Castillo  
Chad Cheshire (by proxy)  
Tonya Curry (in person)  
Matthew Elder  
Sondra Hampton  
Bill McGahan  
Eric McGhee  
Wayne Mack  
Joan Oxley  
Diane Rogers  
Maxwell Ruppensburg  
David Whisnant (in person)  
Charlotte Woody

**Absent**

David E. Blackwell  
Bert Flewellen  
Daniel Rosebud

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

Amanda Brand (teleconference)  
Josh Gray  
Rick Heermans  
Rebecca Hickom (teleconference)  
Ambra Houser (teleconference)  
Tina Moore  
Diana Pitcher  
John Shereikis  
Kate Tettamant (teleconference)  
Daphne Walker (teleconference)

**Guests (teleconference unless otherwise noted)**

Debbie Murray-Halcyon Home for Battered Women  
Whitney McGinniss-Partnership Against Domestic Violence  
Janeane Schmidt-Salvation Army  
Carolyn Booth-Salvation Army  
Sharon Scott-CSRA EOA  
Britt Aliperti-Project Community Connections  
Tigist Abdullah- Project Community Connections  
Ryan Arnold-City of Hinesville  
Shauntay Harris-City of Hinesville  
Shonda Miller-Unison  
Cass Hatcher-River Edge  
Nakiyah Cummings-River Edge  
Aisha Scott-View Point Health  
Shaun Sosebee-Family Promise of White County

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, either in person or on the call. Chairperson Curry noted that staff were in a different conference room than usual, and this is why there is no camera for the meeting. Chairperson Curry reported that Joan Oxley is serving as proxy for Chad Cheshire for the meeting.

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 for approval of the minutes of August 25, 2021 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of August 25, 2021 was made by Diane Rogers and seconded by Sondra Hampton. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called for approval of the minutes of September 14, 2021 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021 was made by Matthew Elder 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 October 27, 2021 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2021 was made by David Whisnant and seconded by Wayne Mack. The Chairperson called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to provide the Board Appointment Update. Mr. Gray announced that the Membership and Rules Committee approved the appointment of David Whisnant as the second representative of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless. Mr. Gray reported that Mr. Whisnant is replacing John Ellis. Chairperson Curry welcomed Mr. Whisnant back to the Board, and he said that he was excited to return and looks forward to once again seeing everyone in person soon.

Chairperson Curry called on Tina Moore report on the Voting Policy Update and "At-Large" Election Process (Tab B). Ms. Moore reported that the terms of all five (5) At-Large Regional Representatives expire on 1/21/2022. On November 10, 2021, DCA met with the Membership and Rules Committee to review/update the Voting Policy and Process. The Membership and Rules Committee approved the Voting Policy, Process, and Request for At-Large Nominations. During the first two (2) weeks of December, staff is planning to release a Request for Nominations for the five (5) "at large" seats for the Membership and Rules Committee to review and determine the slate of nominees that will be sent out for membership vote. Requests for Nominations expected to be open December 7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Moore noted that current "At Large" Board Members who are interested are asked to complete and submit a Nomination Form during this process. Policy in place specifies "Absent Reappointment Board Members shall continue to service indefinitely following the end of their term," and current terms for "At-Large" Board Members expire January 2022. The form to be submitted has also been updated to include diversity questions. Ms. Moore referenced the Request for Nominations document in the board book, which includes information for potential nominees regarding minimal criteria, expected characteristics of Board Governance Members and time commitment, board responsibilities, Super Regions county coverage, and the nomination and voting process. Ms. Moore reported that following the submission of nominations from interested parties, the Membership and Rules Committee will review them in order to develop and release a slate of proposed candidate nominations (1 for each region) for full membership vote on the slate as a whole. The voting policy allows each member organization to have one vote in this process. At-Large Board Members with a term due to expire are as follows:

- At-Large BoS Region 1 Appointment – Rachel Castillo
- At-Large BoS Region 2 Appointment – Matthew Elder
- At-Large BoS Region 3 Appointment – Chad Cheshire
- At-Large BoS Region 4 Appointment – David Blackwell
- At-Large BoS Region 5 Appointment – Diane Rogers

Ms. Moore also reported that the terms for two (2) Board appointments will also expire on January 21, 2022. 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: Clayton County (ESG Coordination) Appointment – Linda Boswell and Gwinnett County (ESG Coordination) Appointment – Shannon Candler

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to review the 2022 Balance of State (BoS) CoC Homeless Count Update. Mr. Gray discussed the upcoming count, for which the count date has been identified as January 24, 2022. Mr. Gray reported that information on the sheltered and unsheltered count has been distributed to BoS CoC mailing lists, recruitment for unsheltered count leads is underway, and count training is expected to begin in early December. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued guidance on conducting the count on November 15, 2021, and they have indicated that they do not plan on granting exceptions this year. CoCs that received an exception last year should note that the exception only applied to 2021, and CoCs should expect to meet the regulatory requirement of conducting a full count at least every other year if they did not count in 2021. Mr. Gray noted that HUD worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Healthcare for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) to update safety information. The BoS CoC will analyze how to best incorporate this updated guidance with a focus on safety. As in the past, the unsheltered count surveys will be collected through Simtech Solutions' Counting Us app.

Mr. Gray reported that for the unsheltered count, staff have received ten applications to cover seventeen (17) counties, and staff is actively recruiting for more of these. Approximately 35 counties are expected to be counted with a data collection focus on quality over quantity and an emphasis on full county coverage. It was requested that any correspondence in this area be copied to the County representatives so that they too can assist in identifying potential coordinators.

Chairperson Curry called on Josh Gray to provide the Balance of State CoC Updates. Mr. Gray reported on the following:

- DCA is facilitating a listening session scheduled with the U.S Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) for November 22 that will give CoC membership agencies the opportunity to provide feedback as a new federal strategic plan is being developed by that agency. USICH is particularly interested in barriers that exist to end homelessness as well as issues involving racial equity and the equitable distribution of resources to combat the problem.
- The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program is up and running and referrals are being received from community partners as well as individuals seeking assistance. DCA's BoS team is working closely with the Public Housing Authority team to pass on referrals and to get vouchers issued.

- The 2021 CoC Competition application was submitted to HUD successfully prior to the November 16 deadline. Mr. Gray thanked Board Members Joan Oxley, Chad Cheshire, and Matthew Elder for their time spent serving as part of the application review and scoring team in this year's process.

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 1:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.



Signature

DCA Dep. Comm.

Title

Chairperson