

ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Board Meeting

August 10th, 2023—11:00 a.m.

Zoom

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes (*pages 2-5*)
- III. Partner Reports
 - HUD
 - DHS
 - HMIS
- IV. Old Business
 - Governance Charter Review
 - i. Vote on in September
 - Delta Hills Local Homeless Coalition Realignment
 - i. Vote on New LHC Realignment (*page 6*)
 - Lived Experience Board Members
 - FY 2023 NOFO
 - RRH Learning Collaborative
- V. New Business
 - Election for Chair
 - i. Nominee, Chonda Tapley
 - Training (Required for CoC funded housing projects)
 - i. August 18th, 11:00 through zoom (1 hr)
- VI. Committee Reports
 - Coordinated Entry Committee
 - i. 7.25 Minutes Included (*pages 7-8*)
- VII. Coalition Reports (*pages 9-10*)
- VIII. Next meeting of BoS Board – September 14th, 2023
- IX. Adjourn

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care is to work toward eliminating homelessness through collaboration of innovative solutions.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care is to facilitate a coordinated effort of planning, integration of mainstream resources, and implementation of programs targeted at reducing homelessness and improving housing stability across Arkansas’ diverse local homeless coalitions that comprise the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

**Arkansas Balance of State
Continuum of Care General Meeting
July 13th, 2023**

Coalition/Organization	Attendees: Voting Members	Attendee: Non-Voting Members
ARVHAN	Cody Shelton, Mary Thompson	
BBMN	William Tollett (he also served as proxy for Chonda Tapley)	Cassie Johnson, Nicole Brakebill, Jessica Minton
Collaborative Applicant		Casey Kidd, Whitney Force
Delta Hills	Shannon Haward, Myracle White	
DHS		Sandra Johnson
EAR	Cassie Rutledge (proxy for Josephine Flowers), Raymond Whiteside	
HMIS		
HUD		
Mississippi	Lisa Willard, Phyllis McClendon	Venna Oldsen
NEA	Shane Fore, Jana Burnett	Madelynn Williams, Jessica Strickland, Avery Collins, Tony Thomas, Jacob Bright
Phillips	Rosie Burton	
RHC	Paul Henley	Stephanie Gee, Shelley Faulknor
SSVF-St. Francis House		Desiree Willmuth
SWAP	Sarah Fowler	Sue Legal, Robin Surf, Bill Burrough, Adam Rogers, Jenny Martinez
Toadsuck	Lacey Strom, Melissa Dyson (proxy for Aimee Prince)	Gabe Simon, Lacey Crosby, Shawanna Rodgers, Laura King, Breanne Burton
Cloudburst TAs		Katie Peterson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order via virtual platform at 11:01 am by the Director, Casey Kidd in absence of Chair, Melissa Allen.

Roll Call

A welcome was given and roll of attendees was recorded.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by William Tollett to approve the minutes for June, and Myracle White seconded. Minutes were approved.

Federal and State Reports

HUD:

No one present

DHS:

- ESG CV will be ending 9/30. Agencies need to ensure they are up to date on invoicing. Invoices cannot be approved after October.
- Regular ESG for 22-23 will end 9/30 as well, and there are agencies behind which need to get caught up as that causes issues for agency and DHS.
- FY 23-24 applications are still being scored. Monitoring is being scheduled with agencies currently.

HMIS (from BoS HMIS Regional Coordinator):

- HMIS will be doing updates on 7/20-7/21 with a layout change.
- Data Sharing Agreements for HMIS participating agencies should be returned to Whitney at earliest convenience. This will be needed in order to participate in coordinated entry.
- Data clean-up
 - Corrections have been sent with deadlines. If you have questions, reach out to Whitney.
 - Casey indicated that we scored 29 out of 59 on the system performance section of the CoC NOFO, so it is an area in which we must improve.

Old Business

Governance Charter Review:

- Please send any suggested to revisions to Casey by 7/20.

Delta Hills Local Homeless Coalition Realignment:

- Toadsuck Exec. Committee, BoS Exec. Committee, and DH agencies in Cleburne and White counties met to discuss realignment on 7/12.
- Current DH LHC will meet on 7/25 at 2:00 through zoom.
- Proposed realignment will be presented for vote on 8/10

Lived Experience Board Members:

- Two individuals have indicated interest in serving in this role and will be discussed with exec. Committee.
- Will be introduced at August board meeting if approved by exec. committee

New Business

FY 2023 NOFO:

- RFP has been sent regarding NOFO including deadlines for each step (letter of intent, project applications, rank and review, public postings, and application to HUD).
- Project application Q&A will occur on 7/26 at 2:00 pm through zoom.
- All items are posted to website under grants and bids tab.

Policies and Procedures for CoC:

- Casey presented anti-discrimination policies and procedures, emergency transfer policy, notice of occupancy rights under VAWA, and Educational Responsibilities to the board for a vote to implement for CoC funded agencies.
- Sarah Fowler made a motion to accept all 4 items for CoC funded agencies to implement, and Shannon Haward seconded. The motion passed.

Vulnerable Populations for Coordinated Entry:

- Serious Mental Health Illness, Substance Use Disorder, and Domestic Violence have been discussed as the top 3 vulnerable populations in the CoC through general meeting, LHC discussion, and with coordinated entry committee. Through discussions those remained the top 3 discussed and were brought to the board by the coordinated entry committee.
- Shannon Haward made a motion to accept those 3 populations as the most vulnerable to be prioritized in coordinated entry, and William Tollett seconded it. The motion passed.

Policies and Procedures for CoC:

- Casey thanked everyone for participating in the anonymous membership survey and indicated ways in which the information will be implemented.
- If you do want to talk about your input further or have other questions/concerns/suggestions, please reach out to her.

Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative:

- 6 part zoom series and 1 in person series focused on rapid rehousing programs and items that go with that such as landlord engagement, housing placement, and successful examples of programs.
- Contact Casey if you would like to register and do not have the link.
- Program will occur every other week, and we hope it will start early August.
- You do not have to currently have a RRH program to attend. Open to anyone.

Trainings:

- Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence will provide in-person training for our CoC regarding survivor centered support including a simulation for us to participate in on 2/14/2024 and 8/14/2024. Please save the dates and more information will follow. CoC funded agencies are required to attend. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
- We are working to schedule Fair Housing training through Legal Aid of Arkansas. Will follow-up with more details on this.

Committee Reports:

Coordinated Entry: No updates outside of report included in board packet.

Coalition Reports: Outside of reports in the board packet, the following was the only LHC update presented:

- SWAP
 - Coordinated Entry Coordinator will be starting on 7/31

- Will be voting next week on 2nd voting member
- Working on getting eLOCCs setup for the CE CoC grant
- City of Hot Springs purchased church that they plan to turn into a resource center along with warming and cooling center

Other Disucssion:

Casey indicated that one item from membership survey was to ensure we are sharing success stories. Casey shared numbers regarding the number of households served through CoC TH, CoC RRH, ESG RRH, and ESG HP through the most recent completed grant year. Other success stories shared:

- United Way of Ouachitas served several families with rental assistance through CDBG funds from City of Hot Springs.
- Stepping Stone Sanctuary has now placed 16 homeless individuals into long-term sustainable housing over the last year with none returning to homelessness.
- Serenity, Inc. was able to serve 2 families recently with housing in an area where housing is very difficult to find.

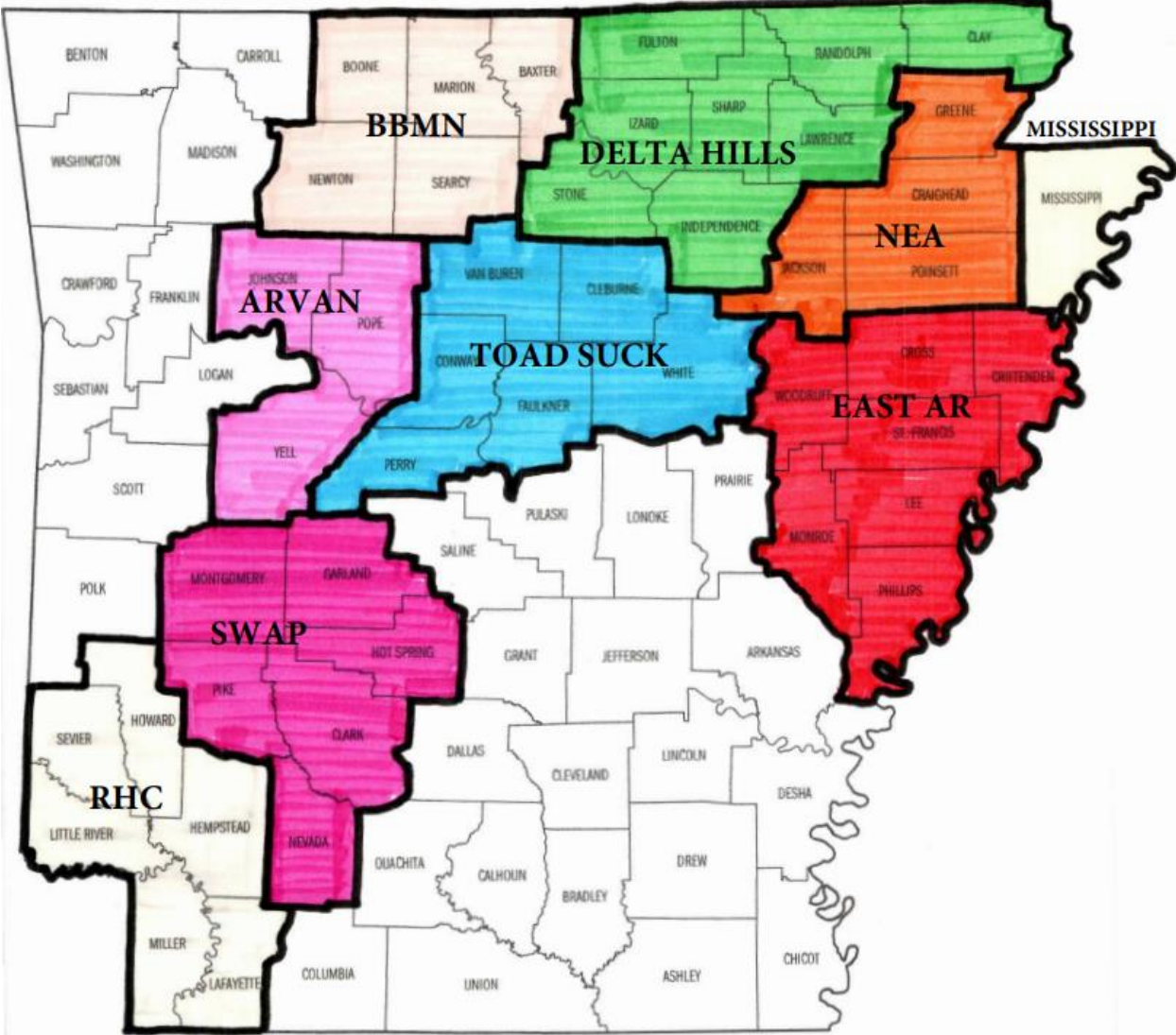
Casey asked if anyone has any advocacy points for homelessness pertinent to the state of Arkansas or their programs, to please let her know, and she'll share at Capitol Hill Day meetings on 7/19 as part of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Next meeting: August 10th through zoom

With no other discussion, Casey Kidd adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am.

Minutes recorded by Casey Kidd via recording of meeting.

ARKANSAS



Coordinated Entry Meeting Notes 07/25/2023

Local Homeless Coalition	Attendees
ARBoS HMIS	Whitney Force
ARVHAN	Absent
BBMN	Chonda Tapley
Collaborative Applicant	Casey Kidd
Delta Hills	Myracle White, Nerissa Passmore, Shannon Haward
Eastern Arkansas	Josephine Flowers
Legal Aid	Sherry Thompson
Mississippi County	Lisa Willard
Northeast Arkansas	Alicia Whitlock (CRDC – 8 counties)
Phillips County	Absent
RHC	Absent
SWAP	Sarah Fowler
Toadsuck	Lacy Strom, Spring Hunter
Cloudburst TA	Ashley Tolman, Katie Peterson, Rori Durham

Action Items from Last Meeting

- ✓ **Whitney** will send data sharing agreements to HMIS participating agencies. In process.
- ✓ **Casey** will present 3 vulnerable populations to be prioritized to board. Done

Today's Agenda Items

- Josephine requested clarity, because of being out during the planning meeting, about two action items that were not brought forward to this month's agenda. Casey explained that TA plan to present on phased assessments at a later time and that collecting policies and procedures have been placed on hold.
- Data Sharing Agreement Update – Whitney Force
 - Whitney shared that the data sharing agreement has been sent out to each of the local homeless coalitions using HMIS. The initial request for returned copies yielded approximately 7. After the second request for forms, three additional agreements were received. Whitney will continue to monitor until all forms are received.
- Vulnerable Populations – Casey Kidd
 - Casey reported that the board accepted the recommendation from the coordinated entry committee regarding the three most vulnerable populations: mental illness, substance use and domestic violence.

- Update Coordinated Entry Coordinator – Sarah Fowler
 - Sarah shared that Autumn Jordan has been hired as the coordinated entry coordinator and she will join their organization Monday, July 31st. She will meet with Casey, Wednesday, August 2nd. Katie offered to set up meetings with TA to assist with onboarding.

- Housing Problem Solving Training and Discussion – Cloudburst TA Team
 - Katie, Rori and Ashley shared a presentation on Housing Problem Solving (HPS) to define what HPS is and what it is not. HPS was defined as a “first response/front door strategy”. “HPS is person centered, housing focused approach to explore creative, safe and cost effective solutions to quickly resolve a housing crisis. It is not a program. It is not a system”. The goal of HPS was defined an approach for “helping people avoid or exit quickly from homelessness”.

Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding HPS as TA explained the benefits of HPS to individuals facing homeless.

Ashely offered up the option for ARBoS to consider including HPS as the coordinated entry process is being developed.

With no other discussion, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd.

Notes recorded by Josephine Flowers.

Local Homeless Coalition Reports

ARVHAN: No report

BBMN: No report

Delta Hills:

Delta Hills met on 07/25/2023. The main discussion was over NOFO and the DH Realignment. Margie's Haven House, Purple Butterfly Shelter, and AR Legal Aid all intend to apply for CoC funding this year. Letters of intents have been submitted. When it came to the DH realignment, each participate was asked if they had any questions, comment, or concerns with the majority agreeing to the new proposed BoS LHC map. One organization had concerns about joining a new LHC but not because of the regrouping but because my Executive Director and I (Shannon) have helped them whenever they had grant questions or concerns. I have emailed them to let them know that regardless of LHC, I am always available to help when needed. Another organization had questions about how DH became the largest LHC and its origins before becoming part of BoS and their only concern was "feeling not wanted" as part of the new proposed LHC. They voiced that each LHC should be all-inclusive and work towards the same goal. Currently there are no further DH meetings scheduled since we do not know the outcome of the vote.

Eastern AR: No report

Mississippi: No report

NEA:

The NEA LHC met on 15th with 13 individuals in attendance. Casey Kidd gave updates from Balance of State regarding data sharing agreements, delta hills realignment, and lived experience board member spots available. Each organization in attendance gave an update on services/funding available, success stories, and challenges they are facing. They will meet again at 10:00 am on 8/17 at 300 S. Church in Jonesboro (Jonesboro Municipal Center).

Phillips: No Report

RHC: No report

SWAP:

We voted in a successor for Sue Legal's board position, Boyce Mitchell. Boyce works for Ouachita Behavioral Health & Wellness, overseeing their PATH program. Boyce is an ally to many as he works to place those facing/experiencing homelessness. In addition, two gentlemen indicated interest to serve on the BoS board as those with "lived experience". We discussed the Community Resource Center/Warming-Cooling Center that the City of Hot Springs purchased. Currently, they are waiting on zoning along with adequate sprinkler system installation before

putting out their RFP for operations. We discussed attendance in the summer months and moving forward.

Toadsuck:

1. Laura King announced her relocation to NW Arkansas and resignation as chair of the LHC

2. Announcement of new leadership:

i. Spring Hunter as chair, elected for a two year term

ii. Lacey Strom as vice-chair, one year term

iii. Mary Wood as secretary

3. Balance of State status: Toadsuck would like to welcome Van Buren and Cleburne Counties into the Toadsuck Coalition, but it was recommended that White County be assigned to another LHC that is within their common referral network such as Independence County.

4. Agency Reports were made in which several service providers plan to change programming in the fall. Updates will be given in September to create a current Map of Resources.

5 HMIS Data Sharing Agreements must be signed NOW. Any agencies that want to consider utilizing HMIS should reach out to Whitney Force to hear more about benefits.