

ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Board Meeting

November 9th, 2023—11:00 a.m.

Zoom

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of October Minutes (*pages 2-4*)
- III. Approval of August and September Minutes (*separate attachments*)
- IV. Partner Reports
 - HUD
 - DHS
- V. Balance of State HMIS Updates
 - Whitney Force
- VI. Old Business
 - Governance Charter Updates (*separate attachment*)
- VII. New Business
 - LSA Report-FINAL deadline 1/17/24
 - i. Report Process Dates
 - ii. Cooperation from HMIS Agencies is a MUST
 - Training Opportunities 10/23-12/24 (*pages 5-6*)
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - Coordinated Entry Committee
 - Discharge Planning Workgroup
 - PIT Count Committee
- IX. Coalition Reports (*pages 7-8*)
- X. Next meeting of BoS Board – December 14th, 2023
- XI. 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 Fall General Meeting
October 12th, 2023**

Coalition/Organization	Attendees: Voting Members	Attendee: Non-Voting Members
ARVHAN	Mary Thompson	Mandi Geels, Rashad Woods
BBMNS	William Tollett, Chonda Tapley	Cassie Johnson, Tammy Smith, Nicole Brakebill
CoC Staff		Casey Kidd, Whitney Force, Autumn Johnson
Delta Hills		Bobbie Boozer, Michael Phifer
DHS		Lorie Williams
EAR	Raymond Whiteside, Josephine Flowers	Ethel Hutchinson, Rose Dawson, Avery Collins
HMIS		
HUD		
Mississippi		Venna Oldsen, Teresa Miner
NEA	Jana Burnett	Megan Baird, T. Wilkins, Danielle Lawrence, Jacob Bright, Marty Timmons, Theresa Aasen
Phillips		
RHC	Paul Henley	Stephanie Gee
SSVF-St. Francis House		Michelle Simon
SWAP	Sarah Fowler	Loren Morphew, Gina Weesner, Sue Legal, Robin Surf, Mark Sniff
Toadsuck		Shannon Haward, Lacey Crosby, Gabe Simon, Matthew DeSalvo, Spring Hunter, Melissa Dyson, Shoshana Wells
VA		Bobby Reeves, Andre Jones
Lived Experience	John Hooker, Jeremy Harmon, Jessica Strickland	
Cloudburst TAs		Katie Peterson, Ashley Barker Tolman
Other Community Partners		Alisa Green (ADFA), Christy McMurphy (KS BoS), Beth Sanders (ACADV), Eric Arganbright (KS BoS)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order via virtual platform at 11:01 am by the Director, Casey Kidd.

Roll Call

A welcome was given and roll of attendees was recorded.

Approval of Minutes

Due to time constraints, minutes will be voted on at the November board meeting.

Federal and State Reports

HUD:

No one present.

DHS:

Please ensure that you have submitted or will submit quickly your September ESG CV and/or Regular ESG invoice for processing. Please remember that ESG CV is not submitted through Quick Base—only regular. Contact your grants analyst if you have questions.

HMIS:

No report at this meeting (any updates needed prior to next meeting will be sent)

Old Business

Brief updates given as follows:

- Delta Hills Local Homeless Coalition Realignment—we now have 9 coalitions within Balance of State. We will continue conversations to ensure that White county is located in the best LHC for the agencies and clients.
- FY 2023 NOFO—submitted on 9/25 ahead of 9/28 deadline

New Business

Guest Speakers:

- Christy McMurphy and Eric Arganbright with the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care spoke on background of their CoC including board and committee make-up, progress that has been made throughout the CoC including their increased annual renewal demand funding through the CoC grant competition, and how the progress has occurred. They also answered questions from BoS CoC members giving guidance on various topics.
- Beth Sanders, ED of the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, facilitated a discussion regarding DV facilities along with best practices while working with DV survivors if you are not a DV facility. The CoC will be training with them starting in the spring regarding client centered approaches along with safety planning. She offered to speak directly with agencies that would be interested in further training and information.

PIT Count

- Shannon Haward made a motion for 1/24/24 to be the date for the PIT count for 2024 in Balance of State. Danielle Lawrence seconded that. There was no opposition. Volunteers can either go out of the night of the 24th or can count during the day of the 25th and ask individuals “where did you sleep last night.” More information and training will follow

Committee Reports:

None

Coalition Reports:

None

Next meeting: November 9th through zoom

With no other discussion, Casey Kidd adjourned the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Minutes recorded by Casey Kidd via recording of meeting.

Arkansas Balance of State 10/23-12/24 Training Opportunities

- **November 15th, 2023: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm through zoom (at latest)-Arkansas Balance of State 101-led by Casey Kidd**
 - Would be great for new members but all are welcome to attend. I will go through exactly what a CoC is, how the Balance of State is structured with the local homeless coalitions, our responsibilities, etc. No required attendance for any funded agencies. Anyone is welcome to attend!
- **December 11th, 2023: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm through zoom (at latest)-Why is HMIS so important, and Why should I use it?-led by Whitney Force and Casey Kidd**
 - We will discuss what HMIS is, where the data goes, what data is collected and why, how it impacts non-funded agencies, and how our HMIS steering committee works. No required attendance for any funded agencies. Anyone is welcome to attend!
- **January 17th, 2023: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm through zoom (at latest)-PIT Count Volunteer Training. Casey Kidd and PIT Count Committee Members**
 - **MANDATORY** for anyone that will volunteer in the 2024 PIT Count. This training will go over the app that we use to conduct the survey, proper etiquette, safety, dos and don'ts, difference in sheltered and unsheltered, and offering support/resources.
- **February 14th, 2024: All Day-In-person (Location TBD)-Serving Families Experiencing Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, and/or Stalking-Led by Brandy Daily, Community Response Facilitator for Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
 - **MANDATORY** for any CoC funded agency staff. Join the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence for this interactive session to break down the dynamics of domestic abuse, human trafficking, and stalking. In this session, participants will explore harm-reduction strategies and leave with evidence-based interventions to provide trauma-informed services.
- **March 5th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Human Trafficking 101-Led by Megan Brown, Executive Director for Hope Found of NEA**
 - We will learn more about Human Trafficking including debunking myths about it along with how we can better recognize potential signs of it occurring with those we serve.
- **April 11th, 2024: All Day In-Person Spring General Meeting (location TBD)-Training Topic TBD**
- **May 15th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Housing Problem Solving/Diversion-Led by TBD**
 - We will discuss what Housing Problem Solving Entails, how to diversion works, and how we can work better together to facilitate this process in order to avoid individuals remaining unsheltered
- **June 19th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Coordinated Entry 101-led by CE Team (CoC Staff and CE committee)**

- **MANDATORY** for any CoC and/or ESG funded agency staff as these programs are required to participate in CE. We will do a general Coordinated Entry 101 to look at where we are in the development process, what it will look like once implemented, how access points will work, and who should be included in the process.
- **July 17th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Fair Housing Training- led by Jason Auer, Legal Aid of Arkansas**
 - **MANDATORY** for any CoC funded agency staff
- **August 14th, 2024: All Day In-person (Location TBD)-Serving Families Experiencing Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, and/or Stalking-Led by Brandy Daily, Community Response Facilitator for Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
 - **MANDATORY** for any CoC funded agency staff (same as Feb., so you are only required to attend one but can attend both!) Join the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence for this interactive session to break down the dynamics of domestic abuse, human trafficking, and stalking. In this session, participants will explore harm-reduction strategies and leave with evidence-based interventions to provide trauma-informed services.
- **September 18th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Mainstream Benefits Training-led by Casey Kidd**
 - **MANDATORY** for any CoC funded agency staff. We will talk about what mainstream benefits are available for your clients along with any changes that have occurred over the last 12 months.
- **October 10th, 2024: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (through zoom) Fall General Meeting- Training Topic TBD**
- **November 18th, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (at latest) through zoom-Arkansas Balance of State 101-led by Casey Kidd**
 - Would be great for new members but all are welcome to attend. I will go through exactly what a CoC is, how the Balance of State is structured with the local homeless coalitions, our responsibilities, etc. No required attendance for any funded agencies. Anyone is welcome to attend!
- **December 2nd, 2024: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm through zoom (at latest)-Why is HMIS so important, and Why should I use it?-led by Whitney Force and Casey Kidd**
 - We will discuss what HMIS is, where the data goes, what data is collected and why, how it impacts non-funded agencies, and how our HMIS steering committee works. No required attendance for any funded agencies. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Local Homeless Coalition Reports

ARVHAN: No Report

BBMN:

The coalition met on 10/20 for the regular monthly meeting. We discussed ESG funding for RRH and HP availability for House of Hope. We also discussed Ozark Opportunities funding, and that they do not have any sort of rental or utility assistance available until at least January. The current Federal continuing resolution for the budget is affecting by Ozark Opportunities and Harrison Housing Authority. We also talked about the plan for the warming station. Harrison House of Hope will not be hosting a warming station; they are planning to use their hotel funding for hotel stays if needed during the winter months. We discussed the church and EMS that Harrison Housing Authority worked with last year and availability for all community members to stay if needed due to being homeless; however, power outages and heating source not working or not working properly. We briefly discussed the PIT, and William Tollett will be taking the lead for BBMNS, and we will begin discussions and planning at the next meeting.

Delta Hills:

The CoC will be working on rebuilding the DH coalition with finding leadership as the next step.

Eastern AR:

The coalition met last on 10/10 with 12 members present. New members from the realignment were welcome, and the September minutes were approved. The only housing funding availability at that time was through the Marion School District's ESSER funds that could be used for up to 3 nights in a hotel for students in the district and their families if homeless. A flyer was developed regarding the EAR LHC along with homelessness data and contact information. There is further discussion occurring regarding a single email address to use for individuals in need of assistance. They are continuing to work on ensuring that all agencies are represented in the membership of the coalition. Whitney, HMIS Coordinator, shared the system update had occurred. Data quality is still a focus, and the LSA report will be opening soon so expect emails if you use HMIS. Reminder was given that the Fall General Meeting for the Balance of State would be on 10/12. Local event information was shared by various members, and the meeting was adjourned with agreement that the November meeting date would be changed to November 7th.

Mississippi: No report.

NEA: The NEA coalition meeting was rescheduled from 10/19 to 10/26. 10 members were present for the rescheduled meeting. Organizations present gave an update on their programs, challenges or barriers they are facing, volunteer opportunities, and success stories. Information was presented regarding upcoming meal events for individuals in need along with outreach

items and open programs/funding availability. The group continued the discussion from previous meetings regarding 1) the need for more emergency shelter bed capacity, 2) the need for more affordable housing, and 3) the need for more services for those homeless individuals facing serious mental health illness. The NEA LHC meets every other month and will meet again in December with date TBD because original date is the week of Christmas.

RHC: No report.

SWAP:

The coalition did not meet in October due to members being out of town for conferences. The next meeting will occur on Thursday, November 16th at 2:00 pm.

Toadsuck: No Report