

**Arkansas Balance of State  
Continuum of Care Board Meeting  
January 11, 2024**

<b>Coalition/Organization</b>	<b>Attendees: Voting Members</b>	<b>Attendee: Non-Voting Members</b>
ARVHAN	Cody Shelton, Mary Thompson	
BBMNS	Shirley Lemmer (Proxy for William Tollett), Chonda Tapley	Cassie Johnson, Nicole Brakebill
CoC Staff		Brandon Turner, Whitney Force, Autumn Johnson
Delta Hills		Michael Phifer
DHS		David Mote, Lori Williams, Lurenda Duren, Kesha Rogers-Kelley, Nancy Mixon, Carla Morris
EAR	Josephine Flowers	Avery Collins, Jennifer Johnson, Rose Dawson, Ethel Hutchinson
HUD		
Mississippi	Lisa Willard, Phillis McClendon	
NEA		Madelynn Williams, Danielle Lawrence
RHC		
SWAP	Sarah Fowler	Gina Weesner, Robin Surf
Toadsuck	Shannon Howard, Lacey Strom	Matthew DeSalvo,
VA		Bobby Reeves, Andre Jones
Lived Experience	Michelle Simon, John Hooker	
Other Community Partners		Alisa Green (ADFA), Linda Morgan (ADH),

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order via virtual platform at 11:02 am by the Director, Whitney Force.

**Roll Call**

- A welcome was given.
- Roll of attendees was recorded.

**Approval of December Minutes**

- A motion was made by Shannon Howard
- Seconded by Josephine Flowers
- The motion unanimously passed.

## **Federal and State Reports**

### **HUD:**

- No one present.

### **DHS:**

- David Mote with Green County DHS advised that there was nothing to be reported.

### **HMIS:**

- Whitney Force advised that the last part of the LSA is being worked on and preparation for the System Performance Measure Report has started.
- Brandon Turner will be sending out requests for data such as Bed and Unit Inventory as preparation for system updates.

## **Old Business**

### **Domestic Violence Training –**

- A location has been reserved for the training. The training will take place at the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton on February 14. Hopefully from 9a.m. to 11:00a.m. Participants will receive education and training in survivor-centered services for direct victim service providers. Content will include an overview of safety planning, emergency transfer plans, best practices for managing warm referrals, cultivating and protecting confidentiality, and more! Training includes an immersive simulation activity, with handouts and resources provided.
- Whitney will be sending out a sign-up sheet.

### **Guest Speakers –**

- If anyone would like to speak at the monthly meetings or knows of anyone that would like to present, please email Whitney.

### **LSA Report:**

- Whitney touched on this, but this report is due on 1/17/24.
- The number of warnings has been cut in half compared to last year. There are only 20 warnings to be explained.

## **New Business:**

### **Guest Speaker –**

- Linda Morgan, Homeless Shelter and Encampment Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Health. This is a very new initiative at the Arkansas Department of Health. The goal is to try to reach and provide more services and have a greater reach across Arkansas to work with homeless shelters encampments, and congregate living facilities. One of the initial aims of this initiative is to provide support and resources to the homeless, service encampments and living facilities because they want to build that critical infrastructure and in doing so they want to be able to provide services to individuals who are homeless such as screenings, health screenings, that will include HIV, glucose,

heart disease, mental health, substance misuse, etc. Ms. Morgan will be doing Narcan training for any shelters or place across the state that would like to receive the training.

**FY2024 CoC Nofo –**

- Registration for the NoFo was submitted January 9, 2024.

**Collaborative Applicant –**

- The CoC Board Chair, Chonda Tapley, advised that the MOU between the CoC and the Collaborative Applicant expired December 31, 2023.
- The voting board members voted to extend the MOU for 60 days and conduct a monitoring, per the MOU, during the 60-day extension.
- A monitoring committee has been created.
- Working with TA's on a monitoring tool.
- This is a common practice with all CoC's and Collaborative Applicants.

**PIT Count Vote –**

- The BoS Executive Committee met and voted on the topic of an unsheltered count. This year the unsheltered count is optional. The data can be collected but it cannot be reported. They chose to not make the unsheltered count mandatory. Each LHC can still hold an unsheltered count and enter that data into the counting us app. Myself or Brandon can pull that data to each LHC for their records. The only difference is that we will not do all of the breakdowns for the data and it will not be mandatory. Next year we will be required to do both.
- A motion was made by Shannon Howard and seconded by Lacey Strom to approve the decision to hold a mandatory sheltered count and an optional unsheltered count. The motion unanimously passed.

**Training-**

- If anyone would like to see certain trainings this year, please feel free to email Whitney and we will look at getting those set up.

**Committee Reports:**

**Coordinated Entry:**

- No meeting in December.
- Next meeting will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Autumn reminded the LHC Chairs that she needs the resource mapping completed and sent back to her as soon as possible.

**Discharge Planning Workgroup:**

- No meeting in December.
- Next meeting will be held in February.

**PIT Count Committee:**

- The mandatory training for the PIT Count will still take place on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m. via Zoom.

**Coalition Reports:****ARVAN**

- Cody Shelton Advised that they hosted a PIT Count meeting.
- Cody Shelton is the new chair and Mary Thompson is the co-chair.

**BBMNS**

- Chonda Tapley advised that they had their December meeting and will have their January meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- New member from Searcy County.
- Working with William Tollett on the PIT Count.

**Delta Hills**

- Autumn and Whitney meet with someone from Delta Hills that may be interested in participating in the coalition.

**Eastern Arkansas**

- Josephine Flowers advised that they held their January meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the PIT Count. They will be doing both the sheltered and unsheltered count.
- Discussed refining their by-laws.
- Working on the resource mapping.

**Mississippi**

- Lisa Willard advised that their last meeting was in December where they discussed the PIT Count.
- Working on developing a network to better assist the homeless population and strengthening their partnerships.

**NEA**

- No Report

**RHC**

- No Report

**SWAP**

- Sarah Fowler advised that their December meeting was canceled due to the holidays.
- They will host a sheltered and unsheltered PIT Count.
- They have had a large number of people sign up to volunteer for the PIT Count.
- Two warming shelters have opened up in Hot Springs at St. Luke's Church and First United Methodist.

**Toadsuck**

- Lacey Strom advised that their next meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- They will host a sheltered and unsheltered PIT Count.
- The new emergency shelter in Conway has opened. It can house 36 individuals 18 and older. Doors open at 3:30P.M. each day.

**Next meeting: February 8, 2024 at 11:00A.M. via zoom**

With no other discussion, Whitney Force adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

*Minutes recorded by Whitney Force via recording of meeting.*