

ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE
Minutes February 13, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Zoom

- I. Welcome
- II. Meeting called to order @ 11:06 am by William Tollett - Chair.
- III. Approval of Minutes: January Minutes, Autumn Johnson made a motion to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.
- IV. Partner Reports
 - ADFA – No report provided
 - HUD – No report provided
 - DHS – No report provided
- V. Balance of State Update
 - Collaborate Applicant - No report provided
 - Homeless Program Director – Lauren Morphew stated that we counted 626 homeless individuals in our continuum. This does not include the Data Generated reports that she sent out to everyone. I am still waiting for some of the data generator reports to be returned to her so we can finalize those and get those sent off to HUD. So, if anyone has any questions or needs assistance with any of that, I will always be more than glad to help with that. I think that’s about it. We just had a very successful PIT count. William Tollett wants to say before the whole Balance of State, our appreciation to you, Lauren, and your coordination preparation on follow-through on the PIT Count you’ve been very supportive and very quick to reply and so we appreciate that. William Tollett asked Lauren if there will be a report that can be generated that can show us the homeless count by LHC’s. Lauren said that yes there will be one.
 - Coordinated Entry - Josephine Flowers we are asking everyone to give their attention to the spreadsheet that we have that everyone is recording to as you come into with individuals who are homeless or who are at risk of being homeless. If you’ve had contact since January one, I think that is what we decided. I know, in one of our meetings in our East Arkansas local homeless coalition meeting, one of the participants was asking if we have a list of people that we had contact with. Is it okay for us to go ahead and enter those people on the spreadsheet, and the answer is yes. So, starting from January one if there’s anyone that you’ve had contact with that you could enter on the sheet, it would

be a plus for us in getting our tool tested. We must have data to see if our tool is working. So, I'm just encouraging everyone if you serve individuals that are homeless and you've had contact, please go ahead and enter them on the spreadsheet. You have to complete the assessment and then enter the data. We're asking if you would just take time and do that so that we'll have the feedback that we need to develop the best tool that we can have. Bryce asked, where do I enter that data? Do we have a spreadsheet for that? Autumn Johnson, it is in the email that I sent you after the SWAP meeting. If you look below, there is a link to it, and I can send you the link again.

VI. Old Business

- William discussed the ESG grant, noting that reimbursements for expenses incurred prior to the grant funding will not be allowed. The grant period runs from the time of funding through September 30th, and delays in the application process have left many agencies without necessary funding. Josephine Flowers inquired about the changes in agency management which contributed to the current funding issues.
- The PIT count is set for January 23rd, and Rashad Woods highlighted the importance of preparation for the event, which will include both unsheltered and sheltered counts. Mark Sniff reported on his progress with HMIS and LSA, mentioning successful data analytics training and collaboration with organizations to clarify data discrepancies.
- William confirmed Kimmy's leadership for Delta Hills and Lily Rourke's for SWAP.
- Mark Sniff reporting zero data errors in HMIS and LSA. House Of Hope urged local homeless coalitions to remain engaged, and various coalitions provided updates on ESG grants and training communications.

VII. New Business

- Mark Sniff, ADFA, has started to have involvement with the HMIS leads across the state. They're just kind of learning the platformer helping them understand how that data directly relates to the grants, specifically ESG grants. So, we're having a monthly meeting with them all the leads across the state. Currently in the HUD exchange the system performance measurement report is still sort of paused and delayed. We're checking daily to see when that might become available. Currently, *we are working on cleaning the point in time, counting housing inventory, counting data for the pre upload. Once we make our first upload it should kind of flag maybe some of the errors. And so, I'll be contacting a lot of the

individuals who are part of that count. To clarify that data so that we can have really for submission of the report. So we're just waiting on HUD to give us the green light to go ahead and start submitting those reports. But we have a lot of data from the point in time housing inventory count that we're currently working on.

VIII. Committee Reports

- Steering Committee Updated – Sue Legal said that she that they have cancelled all meeting for December.

IX. VIII. Other Coalition Updates

- William Tollett asking of those receiving federal funds. Do you or your agency or board talk about Plan B if the funding is cut or withdrawn and I am not just speaking about the ESG, but if you have any other federal dollars.

X. Coalition Reports

- ARVAHAN – Cody Shelton, I do not have a report. We have been waiting on the verdict on the ESG and doing what we can with our CSBG dollars, but that's about it.
- BBMNS – Cassie Johnson, we met and spoke about the effect of the EGS Grant to our programs and if Section 8 was being affected.
- Delta Hills – No report gives
- Eastern Arkansas – Josephine Flowers, we had our meeting Tuesday, and we didn't have a whole lot to cover, we still have a few seats that are vacant for some of the region that we cover. We talked about the pit count. I think the one thing, and Jennifer, our chair is here as well, but I think the one thing that we wanted to bring back was some questions about future years, the possibility of doing the pit count on the weekend. Jennifer Johnson said that they discussed having the pit count during warmer climate because it's hard to locate individuals when it's cold outside because they're huddled up inside of vacant properties and places like that. So that might be more helpful. We also filled one of our vacancies. I think that is all.
- Mississippi – Lisa Willard we had a great turnout for the pit count, volunteers, etc. I think we did a good job on locating, you know, the majority of the homeless people in our country. I haven't had a meeting this month, but I am looking forward to having it real soon. But you know, we just have the problem finding affordable housing in our area. The rent has skyrocketed and you know there's not enough placed to move people. I've got a pretty full shelter and no place to move them into. So, it's challenging.

- NEA – No report given
- RHC - Shelly Faulkner, we are trying to hold on like everybody else until we hear something from the ESG grants. So, we're just trading water right now.
- SWAP – Autumn Johnson, provided an update on the coalition, noting that they were really concentrating on Pitt Count. At their upcoming meeting they hope to review the results of the post-Pitt survey, discuss creating a Pitt prep timeline for next year and recruiting for engaging and re-engaging SWAP Coalition members. With the warming center becoming a shelter this year, we will have some wonderful opportunities to support its work, and we want to ensure that we have as many players at the table as possible.
- Toadsuck – Lauren Morphew, I met for pit count training, and they were very receptive, and they had a good turnout. I think that we meet next Tuesday, on the 18th.

XI. Other Coalition Updates

- Autumn Johnson wants to remind everyone, if you're having a coalition meeting. If you don't mind to please invite Lauren Morphew and William Tollett to their meetings.
- Boyce, I just want to speak to what Autumn said a second ago before we get off. My homeless coalition in Hot Spring County were actually asking about maybe you guys could come down. We meet on the first Monday of every month, no matter what day that lands on. You are always welcome to come to and educate them. I do my best to tell them how the structure works, but a lot of my volunteers are elderly and they've only been doing it locally. They do not have a big picture of how everything kind goes together. So, they would love for someone to come down. Autumn Johnson asks, is there any way that if we weren't able to make it in person that we could do Zoom. Boyce, I don't know if we can do Zoom, but we can definitely have a call in. Autumn Johnson said that if they could have a computer or laptop available then they can set up the Zoom meeting for them. Boyce agreed to that.
- Lisa Willard asked if someone could tell her they are supposed to discuss in these coalitions meetings. She doesn't usually have a whole lot to discuss to keep people interested and to keep them coming to the meetings, especially on a monthly basis. So, are we required to have monthly meetings? And then also, what are some of the topics we should discuss? William Tollett answers, monthly meetings are recommended highly and what I think the best response to that Lisa would be is to

let me work with Autumn and some of the other executive committee members and sort of put together an agenda listing of things that may be helpful for any of our LHC's and email that over to everyone.

- Jennifer Johnson asked if the CLC was covered. William Tollett answers. We did not cover that. The 2024 CLC program awards were announced, but there's been a pullback on those awards right now and during this time of evaluation on the funding in DC. I do not know, so I am going to ask this question, did the agencies that received the award, did John get any notification from HUD directly regarding the award? John, no sir. William, okay, I will send out an email to all the agencies and the dollar amount to let you know, but it is a pullback. It is like ESG and other federal dollars. We're hoping that they're going to be reinstated, but we will go ahead and let you know the agencies that were involved as being named the recipients and the dollar amount that was associated with that. Jennifer asked to also let us know if we weren't awarded. William said that he would notify the recipients individually if awarded or not and the amount awarded.

XI. Next Balance of State zoom Meeting

- March 13, 2025 @ 11:00 am

XII. Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Cassie Johnson, ARBoS Secretary.