

ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Minutes May 8, 2025 – 11:00 AM

Zoom

- I. Welcome
- II. Meeting called to order 11:00 am by William Tollett - Chair.
- III. Approval of Minutes: May Minutes, Lisa Willard accepted the minutes, seconded and approved by the group.
- IV. Partner Reports
 - ADFA – No report provided
 - HUD – No report provided
- V. Balance of State Update
 - Collaborate Applicant – Loren Morpew, no updates given. William asked if she has received communication from everyone that was awarded the ESG Funding. Loren received an award list from ADFA. She will be sending that out. William spoke about the award money, not able to spend as of yet. There will be training in the future, to keep a look out in your emails regarding the training.
 - Homeless Program Director – Mark Sniff, make sure that everyone is utilizing HMIS. Right now, the HMIS Leads are running reports that ADFA is wanting. Try to capture as much data as possible. Regarding new ESG recipients, ADFA is going to require the use of HMIS, all the things that we have captured in the past, demographics, income status, program funding types. They are also wanting case management notes and time tracking. They want their enter and exit dates. If anyone organization needs training or guidance, please reach out and we will make sure everyone is on the same page. If you are a new provider, please reach out to Mark and he will help.
 - William Tollett asked Mark about the case notes that ADFS is requesting. Is there a place to download separate case notes as a pdf or word document.
 - Mark answered, “Yes there is a place within each client to create attachments. Once again reach out if you need help with this
 - Coordinated Entry –Josephine Flowers they have met with the ESG provers this week. We met with the domestic violence providers to get a since of how we can collect information from them for the coordinated entry process. We kind of share ideas about that so that we can make sure that all the members that are served through domestic violence have anonymity and for us to be able to collect

for the spread sheet. That is about where we are to get a good since to get everyone involved.

VI. Old Business

- Committee Meetings – William Tollett wants to talk about committee meetings. Sue reminded us at our last meeting and spoke to us regarding the need to reactivate our committee participation that is part of planning grant that we are a recipient of and with all the sorts of turmoil over last year as we had so many transitions in leadership, the committees were not very active except for coordinated entry. And so, Sue sent those out. And then Loren followed up information on that just to let people know who's serving on those committees and to begin meeting. I'd like to hear from the different committees. Have you all met? Are you looking at meetings and scheduling meetings. I'll start first with rank and review. This year, there is not going to be a new NOFO drop. It's a continuation year. And so, I'm going to be sending out a meeting request for us just to look over rank and review the process we go through and see if this is the time we need to make any adjustments, but we will not be meeting for the purpose of actually reviewing and ranking grants. I do want to say and remind our membership, as Loren has done as well, if you're requesting a letter of support from the balance of state, you have an attendance requirement that you have to meet in order to be in good standing. And so, unfortunately, we were not able to issue this past NOFO for a couple of entities because they did not meet those qualifications. But that's rank and review. Loren, could you talk about Pitt? I know you're going to sort of coordinate that as we're as a committee, if you want to give some kind of an update on that.
- Loren Morpew, So I will be glad to be the chairperson of the Pitt committee. I'm already doing it. So, it just kind of makes So I'll reach out to the PIT committee with any questions or concerns or any updates that we need to be aware of. However, Mark and I met with SimTech Solutions. So, when everyone uses the Counting Us app, they're the app designers that we are contracted with. Mark and I met with them earlier this week. And we have until the end of the month to submit all the PIT and HIC count information. So, I think we're in pretty good shape. We have a lot of data. We have one of the best Pit counts that we've had in a decade or maybe ever. So, I'm super proud of that. And it just really shows that, you know, our need in this area. So, congratulations to everyone. I'm just incredibly proud. And like I said, we have until the end of the month to submit all the information I might be in contact with you needing some kind of specifications, but I will not wait until the last minute to reach out to you.

VII. New Business

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VIII. Committee Reports

- Steering Committee Updated – Mark Sniff, the last meeting we had, we discussed visibility across the state in terms of HMIS information. We are waiting on the continuum to give us the okay before we do that. We also discussed ADFA reporting, some of the barriers we are all facing in our Continuum of Care and regarding the ESG recipient some of the different changes that we will be going through. William asked if we have any new recipients that has not used ESG in the past. Mark, the only one that I know of is Hot Springs Community Resource Center. He has them set up and trained already. He will check again to make sure that there are no other ones not set up yet.

IX. VIII. Other Coalition Updates

- William has asked to meet with Loren Morpew this month regarding the in person meeting later this year. He would like to discuss the date and location where the meeting will be held, so that everyone plan for it.

X. Coalition Reports

- ARVAHAN No report given.
- BBMNS – Cassie Johnson, we spoke about the ESG Grant funding and also Chonda gave us an update on the situation with HUD and funding.
- Delta Hills – No report given.
- Eastern Arkansas – Josephine Flowers, our meeting for this month is next week. Our meeting from last month already reported on in last months AR BoS meeting.
- Mississippi – Lisa Willard, I am going to be transparent and let you know that we did not receive our ESG Grant this year. This is the first year in many years that we have not received the grant. The lady with ADFA was going to go over our scoring and help me with this next grant cycle. She said that it will be opening up in August/September. Housing is still being hard to find, especially affordable housing. In our rural area a 1-bedroom apartment are going for \$1,000.00 a month. They will be meeting quarterly going forward.
- NEA – Danielle, they did not meet in April. They meet every other month. Back in Marh when they met, they went over the Pit Count. Our next meeting is next Thursday. They will be meeting to talk about getting committee members to help with next year's pit count.
- RHC – No report given.

- SWAP – Loren Morpew, giving report. Livvey gave her information to report. She was not able to attend the meeting. Committee work is wrapping up. We launched several key committees, Pit Count, Committee Membership and Engagement, Public Awareness, Education, Strategic Planning etc. Sing ups are ongoing and we already have some new members. Launching a SWAP Facebook and are refreshing the website to improve communication and visibility. Under strategic focus, we are prioritizing pit count planning, bylaws, and governance requirements and early planning for homelessness symposium. We have upcoming events; veterans resource rally is going on today. They are utilizing the Community Resource Center.
- Toadsuck – Lauren Morpew speaking about Spring requesting to step down and are looking for someone to take her place.

XI. Other Coalition Updates

- William asked Loren Morpew about moving the pit count to a warmer month. She replied by saying No sir, HUD has made it urbanely clear and any information that you can find on the exchange that pit counts has to occur in the last 10 days of January. Since we no longer have our field offices and they are going to a local level we might have an opportunity to be heard to make that change.
- Loren Morpew I have a few federal funding updates. As you probably say that President Trump released is skinning budget, as they call it late last week. The President's budget eliminates funding for CBDG and HOME programs. This will take effect in fiscal year 2026, you are talking about July 1, 2026. So, these funding cuts will go into effect July 1, 2026. These programs should be funded by state and local governments. These cuts will deeply cut HUD rental assistance programs which include public housing, ternate based rental assistance, housing for the elderly and the disabled.

XII. Next Balance of State zoom Meeting

- June 12, 2025 @ 11:00 am

XIII. Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Cassie Johnson, ARBoS Secretary.