

ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Minutes April 9, 2026 – 11:00 AM

By Zoom

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.

- I. Welcome
- II. Meeting called to order 11:15 am by William Tollett.
- III. Approval of Minutes: November, December, January, February & March Minutes voted on. Motion by Chonda Tapley, second b Phyliss McClendon. Sue Legal asked that it to say Zoom instead in person.
- IV. Partner Reports
 - ADFa Nick Sherwood gave an update for ADFa. They are getting ready to send out the training schedule for those that received the ESG awards. I will send that out to the CoC as well. Make sure that they get the training information. No other updated information.
 - HUD – No agent present.
- V. Balance of State Update
 - Collaborate Applicant – Sue Legal. We have registered for the FY 26 NOFO. That is the first step. The next step will be to complete the grant inventory worksheet, which will determine our annual renewal demand. After that is completed, I believe they send that out to us so that we know our numbers. Then they open the application up. I'm guessing it's probably going to be July at this point at the earliest. William Tollett – Will Rand and Review Committee be involved? Sue Legal – Yes, they will. Once the NOFO is opened up then we will set the date that the application, which will be 30 days prior to

the actual HUD deadline, and then all the applications will be sent to Rank and Review at that time.

- HMIS – Mark Sniff gave an update. So, we are now undergoing our submission process for the point in time and housing inventory count the due date on that is the 30th of April. I did send out a form to kind of survey everybody's housing inventory. It's everything from beds to vouchers, anything that can be considered shelter. I haven't got a good response back on it, only a couple of organizations have sent that out to me. So please, if you have received that, which I'll do a follow up email, please get that to me as soon as possible, because a lot of those inventory changes need to be made within HMIs for the report, so I'll have to, I'll have to go in and make those changes and update previously. We did have a lot of data quality error that was kind of a result of the housing inventory, so we kind of want to make sure that we get it up to date and correct. So, after the 30th, we should have an official Point in Time Count housing inventory, count that we can kind of distribute out to you all for future grants or any other things that you're going to use that data for. So please, please get that back to me as soon as possible, possibly before the end of the week, so I can start to make those changes. And that's all I have for HMIs.

Suel Legal - Thank you, Mark. So, can I also interrupt here that housing inventory count? That's really important that we have it correct, because it counts as points on our NOFO application, and that's one area where we've always lost points, and the more points that we get, the more applications we can get funded. So that's why that's really important to get all that information back to him so that it's accurate.

- Coordinated Entry – Mark Sniff – We did have a work group meeting last month. We do plan on meeting up this month as well. We discuss policies and procedures, kind of where, where the work group sort of left off, when, whenever autumn left us. We did do kind of an overview of the prioritization system and assessment system that that Desiree and I have been working on. We're also working on implementing a online, sort of assessment process where individuals can go on and take the assessment themselves, if that's how they choose to sort of enter the Coordinated Entry System. Our next meeting, we should, we were going to kind of take a look at that, Desiree sort of spearheading that. And then we also a couple of new access points. I will say, if you are, if you did agree to become an access point in the Coordinated Entry System. Please try to make meetings. Well, we're going to try to move faster and cover a lot of different things and sort of the workflow of what you guys can expect as an access point. So, I please encourage you guys to be a part of those meetings if you are an access point and anybody, if you did not receive an invitation to that coordinated entry committee, and you want to be a part of that, please reach out, email me. I'll make sure you get added

onto the list so that we, as a group and as a community can kind of work on building that process. Desiree, is there anything else you want to add to that?

Desiree Willburn – I just that I did send, I did share a PowerPoint presentation with the work group on how the form works with screen recordings and audio. You know, your feedback is very valuable. Like Mark said, we sat down together, what was that last week, and kind of rethought how that might work to make it more in line with the actual assessment. But, you know, having the group's feedback and what's going to make sense and work the best is really important. I don't want to just create something that with, you know, my tunnel vision, thinking that it's right, and then, you know, it's terrible, you know how that goes. So, I just, I would really appreciate any suggestions for improvement, things that are left out, things I haven't thought about and that kind of thing.

VI. Old Business

- Okay, thank you so much. Our information underneath our old business for at for report and HMIs have both been covered by the entities, individual updates and reports, so we will not have them restate the same information they've already provided. Um, mark the steering committee. Do you have an update from the steering committee?

VII. New Business

- In person General Meeting – It has been decided that it is to early to have a in person meeting, but for all LHC to open the meeting up to all their members.

VIII. Committee Reports

- Steering Committee – Mark Sniff - Yes, sir. So, the Steering Committee did meet last month. Um, we're kind of discussing different voting members, I believe, for the Balance of State, Myracle is our first voting member. If you are interested in being a voting member for the steering committee, I think it's going to default to me if nobody else wants to become a voting member for that specific committee. So, we did go over that we are looking also for a secretary for the committee. So, if that's something that you're interested in doing as well, we have not had a secretary for a minute, and I believe that is that position is open. So, if you are interested in that, please reach out. We'll get you involved in the next theory committee meeting. We're also kind of working on capturing specific pieces of data for some of the reporting that ad for wants. We are having a hard time doing it through HMIs, but we are getting some assistance from some of the HUD TAS on how we can kind of reach a

middle ground between what ADFA is wanting to capture, and then what we are able to capture, so we should have some updates on that. The further we kind of discuss and get some help for that, we have confirmed visibility across the state, meaning that if you have, if you receive a client with an HMI's who has, who has received services in another part of the state, you should now be able to see the history of that as a general user. So, if somebody comes through the hot springs community resource center receives services, and then ends up, you know, somewhere across the state, whether it's within the Balance of State or not, we should be able to see the history of those services. Which is, which is a great thing, because we can read, you know, everything from transactions to how you know we serve that individual in the past. And then we did discuss the ESG agreement, which Nicholas just gave an update on. So that's, I believe, all we have for from the steering committee.

- Coordinated Entry – Mark Sniff – Information given earlier in the meeting.

X. Coalition Reports

- ARVAHAN – No report given
- BBMNS - Cassie Johnson We met last month. We've had a short meeting. Didn't have too many we got an update from Chonda on our housing in our area, and then we did talk about starting quarterly meetings, because our turnout has been kind of low, and that was about it.
- Delta Hills – No report given
- Eastern Arkansas – Josephine Flowers - So William, we had a, not really a good turnout last month, so we really didn't have we didn't have a meeting. We're scheduled to meet next week, on Tuesday
- Mississippi – Lisa Willard, William, I had had to step away for just a minute, so we have not had a meeting, but I am working on that, but I'm still talking to people that are in, you know, with the dealing with homelessness and housing, still the same thing. Our rate rent rates have increased significantly. So, I'm having longer shelter stays and more difficulty finding rentals to move people into. But we're just kind of kind of a housing crisis here, okay, but that's all I have. I tell you,
- NEA – This is Jana Burnett. I'm I wasn't prepared to do this, but we have been trying to revamp our coalition, and it's we. We elected all the officials last meeting and voting members, and I don't think they're on here, but anyway, it's going well. We meet every month and every other month we do, you know, virtual if need to. So first getting it going again.
- RHC – No one present to give an update.

- SWAP – Chris Joannide gave an update. I am really, really excited for swap. I'm not going to lie; we've got our committees in action. We actually, I chair the homeless prevention committee. I had a meeting just last week. We went through a lot of different ideas and things that we're going to try to implement. Another committee member, Livy, she heads up the Affordable Housing Committee, and she also met last month, and so she's working on things, and then voices over the recruiting committee, and our attendance is way, way up. So to me, that tells me that we're all starting to roll in the right direction, if you will. We, as in the Community Resource Center and beautiful life recovery house were awarded some CDBG funding, which is kind of cool. So I'll be able to get a generator for my property, and then beautiful life recovery house, which will be a transitional facility for ladies, we'll be able to get some dirt work done, if you will, some preliminary stuff that needs to get happening. Mark on a side note, if you need help with that housing inventory count, please let me know. And I don't mind reaching out to the locals here to figure out who needs to be on there, so please just let me know. And then one of the things that we've talked about internally is reaching out to the other four counties and getting different contacts at those counties, because as we start to prepare for the ESG grant, I would like to bring those into our umbrella, if you will. Because we technically, on paper, we serve five counties, but it doesn't seem like we get any funding for those other counties. So I am hopeful that we can build some of these relationships with other counties to incorporate them into our grant to where we can start sending funding to the other counties to meet their needs and desires. Hopefully so legislative committee, oh, yeah, sorry. We also have a legislative committee that meets has been meeting regularly, and we are getting ready to launch a four-part series in the newspaper talking about homelessness and things that it involves, and what it looks like, and what we're doing to get upstream to do A lot of more prevention efforts. So, stay tuned.

- Toadsuck – No report given

XI. Next Balance of State zoom Meeting

- June 11, 2026 Zoom Meeting @ 11:00 am

XII. Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Cassie Johnson, AR BoS Secretary.