

# ARKANSAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Minutes May 14, 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. William gave a personal announcement. This will be my last meeting serving as chair, I will be participating until I step away from my role at House of Hope. My health conditions have continued to deteriorate and I have elected to do. I am going to spend the remainder of my time with my family.
- III. Approval of Minutes: April Minutes voted on. Motion by Chonda Tapley, second by Jennifer Wilter.
- IV. Partner Reports
  - ADFA – Alicia Green as you know, we started the 2026 -2026, the ESG award effective date was May 1<sup>st</sup>. So those that were awarded for the 20256 -2026 ESG funding have already started to prepare for their disbursement. We are really happy for those subrecipients that are going to be making a difference in your districts. The closeout for the be, I believe it's June. I think Nicholas is on the call. He works closely with BDO, which is the, excuse me, consultant that we hired to actually us run ESG the first, you know, when we first were awarded it, were assigned it. So, Nick, did you have anything to add? Nicholas Sherwood  
I don't think so. Alisa Green - But everything is going really well, and we anticipate having a meeting next month. I don't remember the date off the top of my head, but in preparation for ESG application. So, once we get all those details ironed out, we'll

start that. And our goal is to eventually get it back to where it's an October-September program year.

William - I'm assuming you'll be doing an email out once the 26-27 year opens up?

Alicia Green - Yes, yes and then like last month we tested the progress report so you all will be receiving them through your COCs as well as we'll post them on the website for ADFA and the progress report just basically tells you, you know, how they're pacing in regards to the funds that they have received in the different activities under the different components. So, we are trying to make sure that that information is disseminated to everyone so that way, you know, if we are sending the, like I sent them to Desiree, hey, can you help this person? She knows which nonprofits and organizations in your district for Balanced Estate, you know, are doing what and with what?

Desiree Willmuth - If I can piggyback onto that for a minute, when I get those emails, what I do is connect them to the point of contact for the LHC, because I actually don't know firsthand all of the agencies that are in every area of the Balanced Estate.

- William, I'm sorry, Lisa with ADFA again, and my apologies for being out of order. But I failed to just to mention recently, well, a couple days ago, I sent out our notices for Save the Date. Has an annual training, if you will, that we are doing, so we're calling it a summit, and ADFACTS is the title for this year's training, and we're inviting, you know, all those that participate in the application process for any of the federal housing programs, including ESG, and it is in September. So, if I missed anyone, and you heard about it, and you didn't get an invite, please make sure I get your email, because you may not be on my contact list. But I did send it out to all the nonprofits, as well as the PHAs that I had on my list. And it is September. Alicia Green - 16th and 17th in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

## V. Balance of State Update

- Collaborate Applicant – Sue Legal. I don't know if everyone knows, but we heard from the HUD field office regarding the coordinated transfer of the grant. Apparently, they waited too long. The grant expired as of February or March because United Way wanted to make sure that they were reimbursed for what they had invoices for. So, they would not allow it to be transferred prior to that. They only spent the other will probably be returned to HUD. At this point, I don't know anything about FY 25 because we've not yet been awarded for quarter three or quarter four. And I'm not sure where our COC falls within those quarters. HUD's doing it differently. This year, they're only awarding per quarter based on when your grant expires. And so far, quarter one and quarter two, no one in Arkansas has been included. As far as the FY26 NOFO, we have done the registration. The next step is the grant inventory worksheet. And then the NOFO will

most likely drop. They're saying it should be out June 1st. I don't foresee that happening since the grant inventory worksheet usually takes a month or two months. So, it's just a wait and see at this point.

- . HMIS – Mark Sniff gave an update. I'll first start off that the point in time count and the housing inventory count has been completed and submitted. I'm working on kind of a comprehensive report that breaks down a lot of the subpopulation information like chronic homelessness, veterans, just a kind of a quick overview on some numbers. We had a total of 425 individuals counted. Our sheltered count was 226, which was a lot higher than last year. We got a lot of victim service provider numbers, more so than we did last year, so that kind of helped that count. And then the unsheltered sat Hopefully, in preparation for next point in time count, we can get a little bit more organized because we did have a lot of areas that that had pretty robust counts that didn't have any counts at all this year. So, we hope to get a little bit more of an accurate number of this next point in time count. And then data quality reports are going to be sent out sometime this month. Same as a couple months prior. Just trying to get our data a little bit cleaner so that when we it is time to submit our large reports to HUD, we're not having to kind of fix a lot of data errors and flags. And so, I appreciate everybody's cooperation in participating in that. For coordinated entry, the committee did not meet last month. We do plan on meeting this month. Desiree has a lot of great things to share that she's been kind of working off of the priority list I sent. I'll let her speak on what she has for that, but there's a lot of great training videos that she's recording, and we have a lot of exciting things coming through the pipeline. Desiree, if you want to talk about that a little bit more, detail.
- . Coordinated Entry – Desiree Willmuth – Thank you, mark. So, as most of you know, mark and the Coordinated Entry Work Group, they did a lot of good work before I came on board developing policies and procedures and some tools. An assessment, a paper assessment for the prioritization, as well as a spreadsheet that mark built to automatically rank people on that list. So, what I've done is just kind of built on that and put it online so that the assessment can be done by anyone, anywhere, at any time. It'll work for, excuse me, people in need who come across our website to be able to submit, you know, their information. It doesn't ask for sensitive information. It just, the most personal information it asks for is their name and what county they live in, and then the rest of it is just questions about their general living situation, background, that kind of thing. And it feeds the data automatically into a spreadsheet, automatically scores the prioritization and triggers an email notification to a point of contact in that person's LHC. So again, going back to what I said earlier, we need to make sure that all of our LHCs are functioning and have a reliable, responsive point of contact identified that can receive those emails and just really clarify that the expectation when someone, when the point

of contact gets that email, the expectation is not that, you know, you as the point of contact enroll that person in your program with your agency. That is not the expectation at all. The expectation is that if that person doesn't fit in, you know, your program, that you help them to connect with their, appropriate resources. And, you know, part of that will be through the coordinated entry process itself. If they're experiencing homelessness and if they're housed and just in need, it'll be, you know, navigating resources in your area. I do have a YouTube channel set up for our, for the training. And if I can share my screen Let's see. I'm just going to show you what that YouTube channel looks like, so you should be able to see it now. If you go on YouTube and just search for this handle at ARBOSCOC it'll pull up our channel and the videos for the training demo. This playlist right here ARBOS tech and tools demo. This will get you all of the I'm going to lost that. That'll give you all of the videos that I've posted so far demonstrating this.

Desiree Willburn – And then there are other some other playlists that I've put together from sources like the HUD channel National Alliance channel and that sort of thing. So that the YouTube channel is really the best place to go to get a good explanation of it. It's more than I can really explain in a brief synopsis here on this meeting. But it is it is set up to make a distinction between people who are experiencing homelessness and those who are housed but have a need and you know it handles those two different scenarios differently. And we can set up the email notifications to go to the same person or different people depending on whether someone is experiencing homelessness and needs to go through the coordinated entry or if they're housed and have other needs and just need resource navigation. So those are questions for us to talk about to identify who's going to be the best point of contact to help people get connected with the resources that they Do we have any questions on that?

#### VI. Old 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.

#### VII. New Business

- William Tollett - In the area of new business with me having submitted my resignation, would like to open the floor and see if there's anyone that would be willing to serve as chair. I have spoken to Chonda and she is still responsible for the Fayetteville Housing Authority as well as her primary role here in Harrison. She's not really step up and give the time to the chair role because of those additional responsibilities and really felt like it would be better if we open the floor up for any nomination for chair for the Arkansas balance of state that would

resume those responsibilities. Or if you were interested in serving as a chair and want to get some more information, if you will just speak up and let us know so we can get that information to you, we would be very appreciative.

- Sue Legal - I've spoken with Chris Joannides and he is willing and interested, so I would like to nominate him. Okay.
- William Tollett - Chris is part of SWAP and very engaged in SWAP. I don't know if he's on here today, but he has great leadership skills. Are you willing to accept the role of balance of state chair, sir?
- Chris Joannides – Yes, William, I would be honored to accept.
- William Tollett - Well, Chris, I want to say thank you so much for being willing to take that role and just wish you the very best as you fill out this year and then in October at the in-person meeting. Will be electing for the 27 year and Chris would be able to serve two additional full year terms if he so chose to and you as a board chose to keep him in that role because he's just fulfilling the six-month term here of a term that I'm vacating so just be sure everybody's clear on that. Well Chris, we welcome you as the new Arkansas balance of state chair. And if you reach out to Desiree, I know she'll be very willing to bring you alongside and can get you any information that you might need, her and Sue both. They're great individuals and I've enjoyed working with Sue and I know you have as well. So, thank you.

#### VIII. Committee Reports

- Steering Committee – Mark Sniff - The steering committee had a brief meeting. We were going over the same way we sort of have consistent end user agreements and agency agreements. We were going over consistent MOUs across the state. So, the Little Rock Catch had kind of set out their MOU and we're sort of comparing and seeing what we want to add and remove and then following up this coming meeting to kind of discuss that. Okay.
- Coordinated Entry – Mark Sniff – Nothing that we've already covered, sir.

#### X. Coalition Reports

- ARVAHAN – No report given
- BBMNS - Cassie Johnson – We will be meeting in July.
- Delta Hills – No report given
- Eastern Arkansas – Avery Collins - We tried to have a meeting this past Tuesday, but I think Jennifer was busy and wasn't able to get on. But there wasn't really anybody there. So, we're going to try again this next month, I guess.
- Mississippi – Lisa Willard - Hi, this is Lisa with the Mission. We haven't had a meeting. I do hope to have one later this month.

- NEA – Hey, William, this is Dalton Hodges. Had a great meeting last month, you know, kind of talking more large picture directional things about how we want to be, you know, start our organization, meetings, where we want to meet, all those things, but had a good meeting. We're starting to kind of hone in on getting committees formed which I think will be tremendously helpful. Kind of with what you're mentioning Desiree, I think we're going to have a committee that really focuses in on coordinated entry and kind of be in that point of contact for anybody that reaches out and needs to be connected to resources. So, hope that'll be helpful there and we meet again next Thursday at like I said largely talk about that committee formation discussion and some other items but I think we're moving in the right direction.
- RHC – Dolly - Hey, this is Dolly Henley, and I jumped on the meeting for Paul, and he's not with me right now, but they have not had a meeting. I just wanted to let you know that. Okay.
- SWAP – Chris Joannide - Hi, Chris and Boyce here. We, as a coalition we met, our committees are also meeting outside of those meetings, and Boyce and I actually have started traveling to other counties. We went to Montgomery County a couple weeks ago, and I don't know the exact layout, but if anybody is from Pike, is it Nevada? Or Clark County, we would like to get a a contact, I should say, in those three counties. We're trying to do some strategic planning with PITS and with an upcoming ESG grant this fall. The friends of the Resource Center would like to apply for some additional funding in hopes that they can maybe take care of some of those other counties. Our membership is increasing. Last month we had 33 different folks here representing numerous different nonprofits. We are working on a tenant certification program for our guests and clients that we put into transitional housing or different apartments and stuff to make the landlords a little bit more accepting, if you will. And then lastly, the Resource Center, this September 17th, we're going to have our first annual big fundraiser. It's September of teeth, but I didn't say that. It's called Boots and Bowties. So, if you're in the neighborhood and you'd like to purchase a ticket and help support our first annual, that would be greatly appreciated. Please follow us on Facebook. We also put on; SWAP has an active Facebook page now. So please follow that as well. And we're going to do a little bit better job of keeping folks up to date on that website as well. So lastly, Really, really looking forward to working with Desiree on coordinated entry and mark, of course. I'm super stoked for that, and I'm hoping that we get that rolled out. I know the position is going to take a little bit for the funding to come through, but I'm in high hopes that we'll get that at least started, and by trial, by error. We're a huge supporter, so thank you. Thank you, Chris. We appreciate that.

- Toadsuck – Jennifer Welter - This is Jennifer Walter. And we did meet last month, and we meet again on Tuesday.

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.