



## Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** August 19, 2021

**TIME:** 10:30 am

**FACILITATOR:** Maria Morris

### Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via Zoom.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for July's membership meeting were approved.

### Guest Speaker

**Brooke Minton, Housing and Employment Navigator with United Healthcare**, explained that her position was created to address social determinants to healthcare. United Healthcare has observed how social needs affect overall health and want to bridge the gap. United Healthcare wants to connect clients with community resources to provide for their housing, food, employment, and transportation needs. Ms. Minton expressed appreciation for the collaboration she had with the CoC to address her client's housing needs. Brooke Minton can be contacted at 662-251-4869 or [a\\_minton@uhc.com](mailto:a_minton@uhc.com). Members expressed their desire to work with her and her team.

In response to a member's concern, Jill Buckley explained that Tommie Brown is an outreach worker for the Downtown Business District; she is not sure of the exact boundaries. He works to connect persons with services they need. The ones who have partnered together to address homelessness in the downtown area are working on creating a printable guide to pass out and provide to businesses. Tommie Brown can be reached at 601-832-5227.

**Dr. Charles Husband with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)** explained that they provide public transportation to the State. MDOT is currently in need of drivers. MDOT is working with Tamara Stewart at Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) on a new initiative: homeless individuals can enter a 4-week training program to receive a CDL license with passenger endorsement at no cost to the individuals. At the end of their training, the individuals will have access to working for MDOT given that they don't have an extensive criminal record. The program should be up and running in 2 weeks; it will be announced sometime next week. MDOT needs drivers around the State. MDOT partners with local organizations to provide needed transportation and not only for disabled or elderly individuals. MDOT is always looking for partners to keep people informed of their services and identify populations that need assistance and provide that assistance. MDOT does charge for their services but works to make it as affordable as possible. Dr. Husband will provide the CoC with a list of their resources. Dr. Charles



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Husband can be reached at 601-359-7800 or [chusband@mdot.ms.us](mailto:chusband@mdot.ms.us). MDoT also assists with transportation for those who need to get vaccinated. The contact number to request this service is 866-813-3616.

### HMIS Update

Maria Morris informed the membership that Mary Elbert was hired as the new HMIS Administrator approximately 2 weeks ago. Mississippi Housing Partnership (MHP) was named the HMIS Lead. The HMIS 1 grant has already been transferred to MHP; the HMIS 2 grant will be transferred on January 1, 2022. Ms. Morris mentioned that they are developing training for new staff then will work on training funded organizations.

### HMIS Fees

Michelle Shelton reminded members that an HMIS fee of \$500.00 per project annually was approved to be charged to all ESG- and CoC-funded agencies, and the invoice will be sent out on September 1, 2021. If organizations are unable to meet the remittance deadline of September 30, 2021, they should send a letter to Michelle Shelton for consideration by the CoC. Due to HUD's suggestion, Maria Morris explained that those who receive ESG-CV funds will be charged a user fee of \$1,200.00 per user annually. In response to a member's question about receiving HMIS reports, Maria Morris noted that they will be addressing the issue moving forward as there are plans in place. The CoC is still looking to hire a data analyst.

### RAMP Grant Status

Melvin Stamps explained that despite the eviction moratorium being extended until October, individuals can still receive utility and rental arrear assistance through RAMP-ERA. Members were encouraged to spread the word and direct individuals and landlords to [ms-ramp.com/era](http://ms-ramp.com/era). There is an FAQ page, and contacts for application assistance providers are supplied.

### Updates from Standing Committees

**Performance & Evaluation** - Margaret Johnson informed the membership that their committee just had a meeting regarding monitoring and the scoring tool for the NOFA. During that meeting, they set up 2 subcommittees to address these two items: Margaret Johnson will be over the Monitoring subcommittee and Chantel Maye will be over the Scoring subcommittee. Melvin Stamps and Christianna Jackson have been preparing for the needed policies for the NOFA. Ms. Johnson encouraged individuals to reach out to assist these subcommittees and organizations who are eligible to apply for funding. **From the chat:** Members need: R.Chantel Maye- [rose.maye@va.gov](mailto:rose.maye@va.gov) (Scoring and review subcommittee) meeting August 23 at 10am. Data and HMIS committee (PIT count subcommittee) will meet September 28 at 2pm.

**Executive** - Maria Morris informed members that a document was created to track in-kind services for match. Members were encouraged to document their volunteer time for any activities for the CoC and asked to submit the completed forms to Michelle Shelton.



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**Community Engagement** - Since the committee chair was absent, Jan Hillegas provided an update on their activities: it was decided that there wouldn't be an in-person event in September; however, they will have an online dialog at the end of September. Members are encouraged to send their ideas for the dialog to Gwen Thompson. Willie Mae Berry also mentioned that they are working to update the resource guide to include additional resources. Maria Morris noted that she found a national resource guide called Aunt Bertha which she will send the details on as it could be potentially helpful. Jan Hillegas mentioned that they will also be working on a printable resource guide and will coordinate with those creating one for the downtown area. It was also requested that members receive reports from the board on their activities, and Maria Morris acknowledged the request and said that she would ask the Secretary to create the report.

### Upcoming HUD NOFA

Melvin Stamps informed members that the NOFA for the FY21 Competition Funding Cycle was released yesterday. He explained that the deadline for the Consolidated Application is November 16, 2021 at 7 pm CST. Mr. Stamps also mentioned that renewing applicants can import their information from their FY19 application, however, this option is not available for those renewing for the first time. New applications can be completed in full in compliance with the FY21 components. Members were encouraged to reach out if they have any questions. Maria Morris informed members that a meeting will be called to create a timeline and action plan.

### Resuming In-Person Meeting

Maria Morris informed members that, in accordance with CDC and other state guidelines, it's been decided that the CoC will continue having meetings on Zoom until COVID numbers are lower. The board will continue to monitor the situation. Ms. Morris also encouraged members to get vaccinated and, if they have any questions or need assistance getting vaccinated, they can contact her.

### Planning Director's Report

Melvin Stamps informed members that the FY21 NOFA guidelines, timeline, and requirements will be sent to the membership, added to the CoC website, and publicized to a local newspaper soon. Mr. Stamps also mentioned that Mississippi Housing Partnership will officially be the Collaborative Applicant on September 1st, and Planning Grant staff transfers then. Coordinated Entry staff will transfer later. He also requested that members reach out and tell others about the CoC and its mission and encourage them to join the CoC.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was shared with the meeting documents prior to the meeting.



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### Open Forum Discussion

Jan Hillegas mentioned that there's still a woman sitting on a corner that she is concerned about who is mentally ill. She wants to help her in any way she can but has been told that the woman doesn't want assistance. You can contact Jan Hillegas at 601-352-3398 or [newmsian@hotmail.com](mailto:newmsian@hotmail.com). Gwen Thompson informed members that they met with Amanda Coleman at the Hinds County Chancery Court to see what can be done for those who don't want to be helped. Ms. Thompson explained that Ms. Coleman instructed them to call 911 when they came into contact with someone who is mentally ill; the police department will contact the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). She mentioned that we will need to verify with JPD/CIT on a protocol for encountering mentally ill persons. If someone wishes to be committed, arrangements can be made with the State hospital: \$158 would need to be paid; \$850 would be paid by Hinds County. Mr. McAfee, who assisted with establishing CIT in Mississippi, explained that the plan had two phases: 1) stop law enforcement from killing mentally ill individuals, and 2) end homelessness. He expressed that he has many resources at his disposal and will help with establishing a protocol. Ferdinand McAfee can be reached at 601-624-3026 or [mcafee39204@gmail.com](mailto:mcafee39204@gmail.com). Mr. McAfee will meet with Jan Hillegas at Voice of Calvary Ministries in the morning to try to assist the lady that has been sitting on the corner.

Rolanda Alexander mentioned that hospitals have just been dropping people off without checking if they have an available bed. Ms. Alexander will meet with Willie Mae Berry to address the issue. Ms. Berry can be reached at 601-321-2400 or [wberry@hbhs9.com](mailto:wberry@hbhs9.com).

Reggie Wiggins brought up an issue that they've been facing. There have been difficulties involving landlords with programs, even money is not enough to motivate them to participate because of the eviction moratorium and related issues. Reggie Wiggins and Maria Morris will meet to see who can assist addressing the issue from a landlord's perspective. Amy Lyon expressed how they've had to take a creative approach, since there were less vacancies; they've had to work more with mom and pop apartments. Maria Morris reminded members that there will be new funding coming to the State in the next year for preventing and ending homelessness. Members are looking forward to the opportunity to address the issues with an action plan.

### Announcements

The next membership meeting will be on September 16th.

### Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.