

**Mississippi Balance of State CoC
Governing Council Meeting Minutes**
Thursday, September 26th, 2019
10:00 a.m.

TIME AND PLACE

The Mississippi Balance of State CoC Governing Council was called to order at 10:00a.m. The meeting was held at the E.T. Wolkfolk State Building, 501 N West St. Room 117, Jackson MS 39201.

ROLL CALL

Elected COC Governing Council Members, the HMIS Lead Agency, and the CoC Collaborative Applicant

CALL TO ORDER

Hannah Maharrey, MS BOS COC Director, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Ivie Pulliam, Abby Miller, Myron Hutson, Kimberly Moore, Louise Meyer, Ledger Parker, Bethany Latham, Florida McKay, Demetra Bates, Kim Townsend, Stacey Howard, Martha Mitternacht (via online call), Reginald Glenn

Additional Notes

GC members Sherry Holloway, Allen Williams, and Stephanie Johnson were not able to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes were not submitted for the May 2019 Governing Council meeting.

ADOPTION / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Attendee adopted a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded. All in favor by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS – NEW:** Three members of the Governing Council transitioned off the council: Hannah Maharrey (Northeast), Leslie Payne (East Central), Case Hicks (MS Permanent Supportive Housing Council representative). 2 new members joined the council: Stephanie Johnson (Northeast), and Abby Miller (East Central).
- II. CONTINUUM OF CARE UPDATES:** U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' Effective End to Veteran Homelessness announcement at Rapid Rehousing Institute. Successful Rapid Rehousing Institute included over 100 attendees and a visit from the Jackson HUD office, and the Veterans Affairs office. Two Rapid Resolution Training was implemented in the Balance of State, one in Tupelo and one in Hattiesburg. Best practices study "Strengthening Partnerships Between Law Enforcement and Homelessness Services Systems" released by US Interagency Council on Homelessness and The Council of State Governments Justice Center, MSBOSCOG and Tupelo Police Department participated in the convening and were included in the case study.
- III. COORDINATED ENTRY –** update given by Bethany Latham, HMIS Lead.
 - 1. REGIONAL APPROACH-** 5 regional outreach teams add to waitlist

2. **HMIS/WAITLIST** – discussed having Salvation Army Laurel and Mica House added to HMIS.
3. Outside referrals were discussed, these referrals come from local churches and small non-profits. At this time these agencies do not need HMIS access and will make referrals to CoC agencies and/or outreach teams
4. Also, discussed who qualifies for Waitlist, only add to waitlist if client is found in homelessness. No phone waitlisting.

IV.FY2019 COC APPLICATION

1. FY2019 NOFA Policy Priorities

- a) MS Balance of State CoC will follow HUD's policy priorities for the FY2019 Program Competition, currently found in the FY2019 NOFA.
- b) Ending homelessness for all persons. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness.
- c) Creating a systemic response to homelessness. CoCs should be using system performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.
- d) Strategically allocating and using resources. Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoCs should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness.
- e) Use a Housing First approach and Providing Flexibility for Housing First with Service Participation Requirements. Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have participation requirements of preconditions. FY2019 NOFA also provides communities and programs with flexibility, without penalty, to use service participation requirements after people have been stabilized in housing
- f) Using an Evidence-Based Approach. CoCs should prioritize projects that employ strong use of data and evidence, including the cost-effectiveness and impact of homelessness programs on positive housing outcomes, recovery, self-sufficiency, and reducing homelessness.
- g) Increasing employment. CoCs and CoC-funded projects should work with local employment agencies and employers to prioritize training and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. CoC's should also promote partnership

2. RATING and RANKING

- a) The Rank and Review Committee is comprised of Governing Council members who do not receive COC funding and are not on the GC executive committee. The rank and review committee met on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 to rank the FY2019 project applications.
- b) **RATING FACTORS –**
 - i. The committee will rank and fund projects (reallocated, new, and renewal) based on the following priority order:
 - ii. Performance Measures: Determined via HUD Rating and Ranking Tool using HMIS info
 - iii. Performance Measures: Ranked by performance within project type based on CoC adopted standards from most recent APR available and MPRs generated by HMIS
 - iv. Agency Capacity: Determined by threshold requirements

- v. Target population as identified by unmet need analysis
- vi. Project Service Area
- vii. The Ranking Committee will also consider other priorities during ranking such as: The priority of new projects and The importance of renewal projects

b) Criteria for Rating New Projects

- i. Experience
- ii. Design of Housing and Supportive Services
- iii. Timeliness
- iv. Financial
- v. Project Effectiveness
- vi. Other Local Criteria

c) Ranking

Tier one

1. MUTEH, Inc – COC Rapid Rehousing
2. Bolivar County Community Action Agency – BCCAA Rapid Rehousing
3. AIDS Services Coalition – 227 Place PSH
4. MUTEH, Inc – HMIS I
5. MUTEH, Inc – HMIS II
6. Resilience Development Corporation – COC Delta New Project PSH (New Project)
7. Recovery House, Inc – COC Rapid Rehousing
8. AIDS Service Coalition – 121 Haven House PSH
9. MUTEH, Inc – BOS COC CES (New Project)
10. Catholic Charities Jackson Diocese – Natchez COC Rapid Rehousing (New Project, split between tiers 1 and 2)

Tier Two

10. Catholic Charities Jackson Diocese - Natchez COC Rapid Rehousing (New Project, split between tiers 1 and 2)
11. USM- Institute for Disability Studies – Project Recovery COC RRH
12. Multi-County Community Service Agency – PSH Rapid Rehousing
13. AIDS Services Coalition – COC Rapid Renewal

3. **APPEALS PROCESS** – Three of the agencies with projects in Tier 2 applied for a ranking appeal. The Governing Council discussed the precedent that was set for past application cycles and what options the GC has for creating a new appeals policy. With documentation from October 2014 to present the precedent the MS Balance of State COC Governing Council has for ranking appeals is that an agency can only appeal the ranking process, and not the numerical ranking itself. The current appeals document is out of date and needs to be updated. M. Mitternacht, executive committee chair, weighed in and said that the Ranking Committee is comprised of members of the Governing Council and that the ranking decision that they determine should be upheld unless gross negligence within the ranking process is determined. It was decided by the GC that the appeals process needs to be proactively updated not reactively. At the December 2019 Governing Council the appeals process will be further discussed.

V.GOALS FOR 2019

1. **TRAINING** – multiple trainings are being planned for the MS Balance of State including training on motivational interviewing

2. **EVENTS** – regional coalitions are implementing new events such as Homelessness 101, Project Connects, and creating community based resource guides
3. **STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COALITIONS** – council member suggested we reach out to tribal communities in Philadelphia MS area
4. **NETWORKING REGIONAL COALITIONS TOGETHER**
5. **OUTREACH TEAM BUILDING**
6. **PIT COUNT PLANNING**
7. **SITE VISITS (2019-2020)**

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2020

1. **ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**
2. **TASK FORCES/WORK GROUPS** – discussed stigma reduction within outreach and housing services.
 1. **HIV/AIDS**
 2. **LGBTQ+**
 3. **YOUTH**

NEXT GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, December 12th, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm