

**Mississippi Balance of State CoC
Governing Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 15th, 2023
10:00 am**

TIME AND PLACE

The Mississippi Balance of State CoC Governing Council was called to order at 10:00 AM at the Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Room 138, Jackson, MS 39201.

ROLL CALL

Elected CoC Governing Council Members and the CoC Collaborative Applicant.

CALL TO ORDER

Marika Baliko, Interim CoC Director, called the meeting to order at 10:23 am.

PRESENT

Rebecca Nelson, Ledger Parker, Chantel Maye, Cindy Cheeks, Samantha Kalahar, Florida McKay, Bethany Rodgers, and Reginald Glenn – 6 voting members present, quorum reached.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes were submitted for the 6/15/23 and 6/16/23 follow-up meetings. S. Kalahar motioned to have the minutes accepted as submitted, seconded by R. Nelson. All in favor by acclamation. Note: September 2023 meeting was substituted for participation in the CoC Membership meeting in Meridian.

ADOPTION/ REVIEW OF AGENDA

L. Parker adopted a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by R. Nelson. All in favor of acclamation.

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Since the March 2023 Governing Council Meeting, the Council has been working to recruit new members to fill vacant Council seats. This includes many recommendations to the Council made by other Council members.

- ***Ashlee Lucas**, the Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator at the MS Bureau of Investigation was recommended to the Domestic Violence Advocate Representation on the Council. Ashlee declined the invitation to join the Council.*
- ***Ed Sivak**, the Chief Policy & Communications Officer for Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union was recommended to the Council but declined the invite.*
- ***Fred Miller**, Mayor of Rolling Fork, MS has yet to formally accept the invite but seemed interested in participating. The CoC Director will follow up with potential members to confirm acceptance or rejection of the invitation.*

Hannah Maharrey, former CoC Director and current Executive Director of Good Samaritan Health Services, was recommended by M. Baliko and others as a potential member representing the Healthcare sector for the Council.

- *Hannah's sister, Jade Maharrey, works for the MUTEH HMIS which may put her in a place to recuse herself from any talk about funding for the CoC-funded agency.*
- *Her current position at GSHS interacts with the homeless population working to provide free healthcare to the underserved.*
- *Hannah could also present on behalf of the CoC thanks to her previous knowledge of the Continuum and speaking skills.*

A motion was made to invite H. Maharrey to join the Governing Council by S. Kalahar. The motion was seconded by R. Nelson. All in favor by acclamation.

AGENDA

1. INTERIM DIRECTOR: GOALS FOR 2024

- a. **CoC Strategy CoC Application** – The focus of 2024 for the Governing Council and CoC will be to work to improve our work to reflect our CoC Written Application to HUD. Council members were encouraged to read and refresh themselves with the CoC's most recent Application to see objectives that can be focused on.
- b. **Program Training** – Due to multiple changes in program regulations and processes, the CoC Director would like to focus on creating multiple training opportunities to give agencies a chance to understand new processes and adjust their program implementation. This will be inspired by the VA's program training model. Experienced service providers can share their knowledge with other programs to ensure that all are compliant.
- c. **Coalition Meetings and the Goals of Coalitions** – Support of regional coalitions must be envisioned to help agencies gather and maintain local support. Regional Coalitions as currently structured are larger-city-focused with little attention given to smaller outlying communities.
 - i. Regional Coalitions must be reoriented into local city taskforces to help agencies feel support in their jurisdiction. The gathering in turn can help smaller agencies see it resources and possible objectives in their service area.
 - ii. The Governance Charter must change in its definition of the make function of Regional Coalitions or the newly formed structure.
 - iii. The coverage of these coalitions must be based on data that supports the case for the need for a task force in the proposed area.
 - iv. As task forces meet monthly, coming together as a coalition could happen once or twice a year depending on need or interest.
 - v. The Council has decided to create a workgroup dedicated to overseeing the restructuring of Coalitions. L. Parker volunteered to spearhead the workgroup.

- d. **CoC Written Standards** – Because of the multiple policy changes coming among program types, the CoC Written Standards need to be adjusted to reflect said changes.

2. DISCUSSION: THE STRUCTURE OF FUTURE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a. **Reports/Presentations** – The Council wants to reduce HMIS and CES reporting to occasions when noteworthy gaps or changes appear in the system. Additionally, this could include system issues and celebrations.
- b. **Clear Goals** - The Council wants to define and maintain clear goals for the year that keep them focused on the tasks to fulfill.
- c. **CoC Communication** – Happenings of the CoC can be communicated via the MS Balance of State Facebook page and crafted newsletter.
- d. **Agency Presenting before the Council** – The Council suggested that GC meetings be held at CoC-Funded agencies to give them a chance to view them closely before Rank & Review. This could include a brief tour of facility and services that leads into the Council meeting for that quarter. The CoC Director will set dates for the remote meetings to coordinate the agencies involved.
- e. **Meeting Time Frame** – 10 am – 12 pm
- f. **Proxies** – If members are not able to attend meetings, they will be asked to send knowledgeable proxies. If not possible, they need to be moved from the Council.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

S. Kalahar is applying for a youth service program grant from HUD. The grant will work with MS-503 but wants to work with all the State’s CoC networks. The grant will also include partnerships with the mental health sector, benefits providers, and other state systems. The aim is to ensure that youth who are acclimating to life beyond foster care can transition into life outside of the system smoothly. This includes having a network in which each system interacts with youth as a one-stop-shop navigation component.

ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.