



TIME & PLACE

A meeting of the Balance of State’s East Central Region was called to order at **10:01 AM from Meridian WIN Job Center (2000 Hwy 19 North, Meridian, MS 39305)** on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024.**

CALL TO ORDER

Reginald Glenn, CES Data Bridge Director, called the meeting to order.

ATTENDEES

Present were the following:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Reginald Glenn	BoS CoC	Tracy Coleman	USM-IDS
Hope Woods	USM-IDS	Shay Smith	USM-IDS
Chantel Maye	VA Jackson	Sharnese Mayfield	VA Jackson
Benjamin Stephens	MS Band of Choctaw Indians	Nana Frazier	MS Band of Choctaw Indians
Marie Sipp	Care Lodge DV	Jowanda McCoy	MUTEH Inc.
Curtis Dahl	MUTEH Inc.		

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- III. Updates from Member Agencies
 - a. Benjamin Stephens and Nana Frazier presented about services available through the Choctaw Department Family and Community Services
 - b. For more information about their community services, visit: <https://www.choctaw.org/department-of-family-and-community-services/>
- IV. Coalition Business
 - a. **CoC Application Submission**
 - i. The application was officially submitted on October 28th.
 - ii. Ranking & Review and all relevant materials for the CoC Application can be found at the following link: <https://msbos.org/ranking-review/>
 - iii. This year NOFO was a 2-Year NOFO—Reallocation can still happen in 2025
 - iv. CoC membership is a must for CoC and ESG Funding
 - v. Now the real work begins!
 - b. **CoC Vision & Mission for 2025**
 - i. The CoC Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by providing funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and State and local governments and facilitating access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families.
 - ii. Our main priorities will be:
 1. Housing the Unsheltered
 2. Monitoring Compliance of Agencies
 3. Training CoC Agencies for Capacity Building in Most Needed Areas
 - c. **CoC Goals**
 - i. To-Do List for 2025

1. PIT Count: Happening in late January 2025. Details to be announced in the coming weeks.
2. More Training: CoC will work to develop more training for needed areas in CoC social service management.
3. Monitoring Year: 2025 will be monitoring all CoC and ESG programs for compliance with funding requirements.
4. Partnerships & Collaborations: The CoC will work to generate more collaborations for the mutual benefit of service areas and CoC service collaboration.
 - a. The CoC currently has a MOU with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).
5. CoC Dues: The Continuum will be reintroducing a dues structure for member agencies that will go toward match for CoC grants. Information will be announced soon.
6. Improving System Performance Measures (SPMs): We will work to improve metrics for better reporting with the LSA.
 - a. Two areas needing improvement:
 - i. Returns to homelessness
 - ii. Increasing income for program participants

d. December 2024 Regional Meetings - VIRTUAL MEETINGS

- i. All December Regional Meetings will be held online via Zoom. Announcements and Meeting links will be sent via email.

e. Update on Assistant CoC Director

- i. Miranda Horn, Asst. CoC Director recently left the organization for another opportunity but will still do contracted work for the Balance of State in a limited capacity.

f. Regional Issues & Concerns

- i. Landlord Barriers: Landlords have created various barriers making it hard to house homeless individuals including:
 1. Application Fees (refundable and non-refundable)
 2. Requiring 2-3 times the rent as income
 3. Background checks for minors living with primary clients in housing
- ii. There has been an increase in the need for homeless prevention services with a lack of HP funding.

g. Waitlist

- i. The agencies present provided updates for the Regional Housing Waitlist, and case conferencing was conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.