



Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 16, 2021

TIME: 10:30 am

FACILITATOR: Melvin Stamps

Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for August's membership meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker

Jill Johnson with Adult & Teen Challenge of the Greater South explained that Adult & Teen Challenge (ATC) is a faith-based ministry for those struggling with life-controlling issues, such as addiction or abuse. ATC offers a free 9-month in-patient facility program, a 4-month internship, and long-term recovery care. ATC operates a number of facilities in various states, including Brandon, MS. The Brandon location only accepts women; their only location that accepts men is in Russellville, AR (arrangements can be made for transportation, if an individual has no means of transportation). Requirements to enter the program: aged 18-65, 2 proofs of identification, pregnancy test for women, and tests for diseases, such as TB, HIV, and COVID. ATC accepts individuals with any mental diagnosis, except for schizophrenia, since ATC is not a hospital; clients are allowed to take medicine, except for narcotics, sleep aids, etc. or medications that require intensive monitoring. To get more information, go to www.atcgreatersouth.org. Jill Johnson can be reached at 601-622-5023 or jjohnson@atcgc.org. Ms. Johnson can answer questions and accept referrals. Ms. Morris encouraged Ms. Johnson to become a part of the Central MS CoC.

Continuation of Contract Support

Melvin Stamps informed the membership that the board voted to extend Christianna Jackson's contract for her consulting services in preparation for the NOFO and the CoC's consolidated application. Mr. Stamps also mentioned that the funds for extending Ms. Jackson's contract will come from the CoC treasury.

RAMP Grant Status

Bobby Pamplin provided an update on the RAMP program: because he lost a case manager, Ms. Davis was promoted from case manager assistant to case manager; Zena Smith was hired as the case manager assistant; Frederick Brandon is the outreach worker; last month RAMP applied for a program



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modification and was approved for additional funding; RAMP is in negotiations to relocate to downtown, hopefully by October 1st. In response to a member's comment, Maria Morris clarified the difference between the Emergency Housing Voucher program, RAMP-ESG, and RAMP-ERA. She explained the challenges that the state is having dispersing the funds. The toll-free number for RAMP-ERA is 888-725-0063. Jan Hillegas suggested that the CoC have a single phone number for people to contact to get directed to the proper organization. Ms. Morris explained the difficulties with setting up the phone line, specifically having enough resources and manpower to support it. However, Maria Morris noted that the issue will be added to the next board meeting's agenda to research how it can be addressed with a collaborative effort. She also mentioned resources that are available now, such as MAC centers and Aunt Bertha.

Updates from Standing Committees

Executive — Maria Morris informed the membership that they will be having a meeting today at 3pm to address some issues with setting up online payment of dues.

Resuming In-Person Meeting

Melvin Stamps noted that there have been some improvements in COVID numbers and the amount of vaccinated individuals is up to 50%. However, he indicated that the CoC will continue to meet via Zoom until further notice, out of respect for everyone's health and safety.

Built for Zero

Melvin Stamps informed the membership that he met with Garen Nigon with the Built for Zero initiative on September 14, 2021. He explained that Built for Zero helps communities countdown to zero; 84 communities nationwide are part of the initiative; they assist in developing real time data, improving Coordinated Entry Systems and by-name lists, and developing a case conferencing tool to become more productive. Mr. Stamps noted that there won't be a fee assessed to join as the Central MS CoC is a new agency to the initiative. He informed members that he will be reaching out to different individuals to develop a team that will be meeting this month. There will be a virtual training on November 2 & 3, 2021. More information will be provided as it comes. Melvin Stamps expressed what a big opportunity Built for Zero is, as the Central MS CoC will be able to work with organizations who've developed best practices, such as the Gulf Coast CoC which has achieved ending homelessness in one of their subpopulations. Maria Morris encouraged members to be involved and reach out to Melvin Stamps if they are interested.

FY20 Planning Grant Status — Match

Melvin Stamps informed members that match documentation for the FY20 Planning Grant was submitted on August 31, 2021 in the amount of \$18,700.00 as in-kind services from Dr. Dorsey-Kidd, the Board Secretary, and Ben Washington, the Board Treasurer. There were no issues; the match documentation was accepted and approved for September 1, 2021.



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Announcement of FY21 Central MS CoC Application

Melvin Stamps noted that, on September 9th, the membership was informed of the FY21 competition cycle and the CoC application guidelines. The CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released in order to prevent and end homelessness, addressing housing needs. Members were encouraged to review the NOFO announcement, application guidelines, scoring tool for new and renewal applications, and the reallocation policy; all documents are available on the CoC website. Important dates to remember: 09/24 - letters of intent due by 4pm to the Planning Director, 09/29 - workshop on entering applications in eSNAPS, and 10/08 - new and renewal applications due to the Collaborative Applicant. Christianna Jackson explained that HUD doubled the possible DV Bonus to \$383,000 and encouraged DV providers to apply.

HUD Technical Assistance

Melvin Stamps informed members that two new technical assistants have been assigned to our CoC: Patrick Whitmore and Allen Marzelli. He noted that there is no time limit on their assistance, and they will assist with ensuring the CoC and its members are functioning properly and at the necessary performance levels. Mr. Stamps related that at their meeting on 09/09, all expressed their eagerness to work together to improve the CoC.

Tracking of Volunteer Hours

Mary Elbert noted that volunteers began tracking their time last month and CoC staff will begin collecting the forms soon. The tracking form will be resent to all members. Maria Morris emphasized the need for the tracking as some volunteers' time can be used as match for various grants. It was clarified that any who are not a CoC staff member can turn in their volunteer hours.

HMIS Fees for CoC- and ESG-funded Agencies

Mary Elbert reminded members of the HMIS fees for CoC- and ESG-funded agencies. The HMIS fee is \$500.00 per project annually.

HMIS Fees Structure for ESG-CV Funded Agencies

Mary Elbert explained the HMIS fee structure for ESG-CV funded agencies. The HMIS fee for ESG-CV funded agencies is \$1200.00 per user annually (\$100.00 per user, monthly).

Data Analyst

Melvin Stamps explained that Maria Morris and Jill Buckley have been working tirelessly to locate a data analyst, and they have identified a candidate, but the start/hiring date has not been established yet. Maria Morris expressed excitement over the chosen candidate and noted that they are working out the financial and employment details. She also explained that once hired, the data analyst will be working at Stewpot until the 1st of the year then will transfer to the new Collaborative Applicant.



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Planning Director's Report

The PD noted that some 40+ organizations make up the CoC membership. He informed the membership that 5 new organizations have joined since July: Dependable Source Corp Center for Community & Workforce Development, Southern Christian Services for Children & Youth, Inc., Behavioral Solutions of Mississippi, Step Two Restoration, and Clean Slate Behavioral Health Solutions, LLC. He expressed excitement over working with these new members to accomplish our goal of ending homelessness. The PD also noted that some gaps in the membership were noticed and expressed a need to recruit more members to ensure adequate representation. Maria Morris reminded members of the NOFO release and noted that the CoC definitely needs more applicants who are domestic violence or youth services providers.

Treasurer's Report

Ben Washington explained the details of the Treasurer's Report which was shared on-screen during the meeting. As of 08/31/2021, the ending balance was \$3,661.06. Mr. Washington noted that he had also been in contact with Navigate, which provides grants for non-profit organizations, in the hopes that the CoC could get \$50,000 to \$100,000. Maria Morris mentioned that she has been in contact with Navigate and is preparing the one-page letter to request the funds. She also noted that it would be a donation this year, but it would be a competitive grant next year. Melvin Stamps explained that the CoC is in the process of setting up online dues payment and will notify everyone once everything is set up.

Open Forum Discussion

Reggie Wiggins related his experience of being homeless and trying to get into housing for which he qualified. Mr. Wiggins noted that the 3-person Coordinated Entry staff has been bombarded with the highest call volume they've ever had because of the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program. He emphasized the need to focus on the issues faced and how to address them and knowing what homeless individuals need and how to get it to them. Mr. Wiggins encouraged communication between organizations and a focus not only on the problems faced but on finding solutions to the problems. Katina Pace noted that, since July 1st, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VI has received 113 referrals, all from Central MS CoC. Ms. Pace expressed her thanks to Reggie, Cassandra, and Precious for all that they have done for the EHV program.

Announcements

Melvin Stamps informed members of resources for vaccinations: transportation available, call 877-978-6453; county health departments, local pharmacies, and healthcare providers offer free vaccinations. Maria Morris explained that vaccinations should be available for anyone who needs them and health organizations are looking into vaccine hesitation and how to address people's concerns. She also informed members that rental assistance application assistance providers are partnering to offer vaccines at their events. The next event will be on October 2, 2021 in Vicksburg at the auditorium as a part of their Octoberfest. Volunteer opportunities are available; to volunteer contact Maria Morris or



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Tim Collins. Jan Hillegas mentioned the woman that has been on the corner of Rose and Robinson for over a month and expressed her hope to get her the help she needs. Members encouraged her to speak with her and see where she wants to go. Jan Hillegas also mentioned that the Community Engagement Committee hopes to hold a dialogue soon, and she offered proofreading assistance for applications for CoC funding. **From chat:** Agencies needing proofreading of your application can contact Jan Hillegas at newmsian@hotmail.com.

The next membership meeting will be on October 21, 2021 at 10:30 AM.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.