



## Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** April 21, 2022  
**TIME:** 10:30 am  
**FACILITATOR:** Maria Morris

### Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via Zoom.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for March's membership meeting were approved.

### Guest Speaker

**Charles Harris, Ex. Dir., Housing Education and Economic Development (H.E.E.D.)** - Charles Harris provided a description of his organization. He explained that his organization does outreach work to raise awareness of people's rights and examples of discrimination. He provided a brief history on fair housing month and noted that they provide reverse mortgage counseling. Mr. Harris informed members that he will be having a conference shortly and will share the information with everyone. He answered members' questions and discussed current issues being faced with apartment complexes. Charles Harris can be reached at 601-981-1960 or [heed@netdoor.com](mailto:heed@netdoor.com).

**Putalamus White, CEO, The Jackson Resource Center** - Ms. White informed members that they have opened the first permanent supportive housing campus in Jackson. The campus, which officially opened in March, has 30 units, and currently has 15 tenants. She explained that they bring housing and other resources to the clients, so that they don't have to go out to get them. Organizations will come to the campus to offer services. Ms. White shared some of their success stories that resulted from having supportive services right there for their clients. She informed the membership that she currently has 13 spots available and noted the specifics of the program which included: rent is \$640 which is 30% covered by the client's income and 60% is covered by local organizations; tenants are provided 3 meals a day, 5 days a week; they have a store and barber shop/salon on site; if tenants have no money, they are able to earn JRC bucks by completing community service to pay for items in the store. REACH Langley will have its grand opening on May 4 beginning at 11 am at 1129 Langley Avenue. Putalamus White can be reached at 601-906-1591. Ms. White also explained the eligibility requirements: verified homeless; no more than \$24,000 annual income; if applicable, must take any prescribed medication and comply with treatment; and must be 18 years or older. It was clarified that a client does not have to have income to be accepted.

### 2022 PIT Count/HIC Submission Update

Mary Elbert explained that they have not yet submitted the report yet due to technical issues. She noted



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that they were waiting for an update, but it should be ready now to run the report, and she should be able to submit it as soon as possible. She informed the membership that the deadline for submission is April 29, 2022. The final report will be shared with the membership.

### HOME-ARP - Update

Melvin Stamps informed the members that they are in the consultation phase for the allocation plan. He reminded the membership that \$3 million was allocated to the City of Jackson and \$38 million was allocated to the State. He provided an overview of the requirements for developing a plan, eligibility requirements, and previous and upcoming meetings. The main concerns have focused on the supportive services needed, job training, and the development of non-congregate shelters. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Attendees of previous advisory meetings shared some points of interest and noted that more meetings need to be held.

Grace House can be contacted for information on CDL driver instruction. Additional vocations are available now and more will be available soon. Some vocational training opportunities are available to felons as well. Grace House can be reached at 601-353-1038.

### Updates from Standing Committees

Maria Morris encouraged all to participate in at least one committee.

**Community Engagement** — Gwen Thompson informed the membership that they will be holding Project Homeless Connect and a Homeless Conference this year during the third week of September. She estimated that they have 12 members. Maria Morris expressed her desire to assign Barbara Lawrence to the committee, since she is busy in the Vicksburg area.

**PIT Count subcommittee** — Chantel Maye expressed their plans to host PIT Count events to encourage more participation and raise awareness. The upcoming event is planned to be a brown bag lunch. She noted that they are accepting donations of meat, fruits, bags, etc.

**Coordinated Entry System** — Reggie Wiggins informed everyone that they would be holding a meeting today at 3 pm. He emphasized that coordinated entry is a focal point, so work needs to be done. He noted that his committee needs more participation. He mentioned that there are biweekly waiting list calls and that they will be trying to alternate these calls with meetings providing CE assistance and meetings with service providers. Mr. Wiggins emphasized that all should be active and knowledgeable of what programs are available in the area.

Members discussed how to improve the referral process, so that it's easier to know what's available and for which programs the client will qualify. It was noted that we are in the process of considering a new vendor that has more capacity.

### Volunteer Hours Tracking Form for In-Kind Match

Maria Morris explained the reasons for tracking volunteer hours. Melvin Stamps informed the membership that a new form is in the works that will better meet standards. He noted that it is being



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modified and will be shared. Reggie Wiggins encouraged members to fill out the form before the meeting starts.

### HMIS Access Forms - Mary Elbert

Mary Elbert noted that 20 agencies have turned in their forms on time. She mentioned that she is still awaiting forms for 6 agencies, though only 1 of them is currently entering data.

### HUD Match Documentation Requirements

Melvin Stamps noted that a major factor assessed is the ability to meet the 25% match requirement either as cash or in kind. He emphasized that agencies must have documents to show their ability to meet the match requirements. Match must be secured and used for eligible activities. Melvin Stamps informed the membership that match documentation must be approved by the Collaborative Applicant before the application can be approved and submitted. The match clinic presentation is available online and was emailed to the membership.

### HMIS Payment Fee Structure - HOPWA & SSVF Programs

This topic was tabled until the next meeting. It was noted that the Board approved the addition of HOPWA and SSVF programs to the HMIS fee structure, however, additional factors are being considered.

### COVID Update & Impact

During the Open Forum, Maria Morris noted that COVID would be a standing item. She mentioned that a new booster is available. Maria Morris can be contacted for any related needs.

### Planning Director's Report

Melvin Stamps emphasized the importance of our goal of collaboration and coordination. He noted that we currently have over 60 member organizations and 3 new members have joined in the last month. He expressed the importance of raising awareness, making good use of Facebook. Mr. Stamps is prioritizing developing relationships with city officials. He informed the members that he met with the mayor and chief of police of Vicksburg this month. The PD informed the membership that our HUD technical assistant will be hosting an Introduction to the CoC training. The training will take place on May 25, 2022 from 11 am - 12:30 pm. The training details will be shared after today's meeting. He noted that House Bill 1313 has passed which allows those leaving foster care who are aged 18-21 to legally sign rental and utility contracts. The passing of this law removed a barrier faced for those leaving foster care as, before the law passed, no one could sign a lease or rental agreement under the age of 21 without a sponsor.

### Treasurer's Report

The report was shared on screen. Melvin Stamps related the details of the report. A list of members who have paid their dues as of March 31, 2022 was shared on screen. He noted that anyone not listed still needs to pay their dues. Michelle Shelton noted that four additional members have paid their dues that aren't listed: Voice of Calvary Ministries, New Dimensions, City of Jackson, and New Way Mississippi.



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### Open Forum Discussion

Barbara Lawrence spoke on her goals in preparation for the PIT Count and other events. A special thanks was expressed for her efforts this year. Maria Morris emphasized that further engagement is needed to meet needs for various efforts. Gratitude was expressed to the agencies that supported the interns as they've been given valuable experience. Members discussed the issues surrounding individuals just being dropped off after being discharged from the hospital. Willie Mae Berry will be sent additional information on the incidents, so that it can be discussed during the next discharge planning meeting. At Merit Health River Region, the discharge planners are Ingrid Powell and Andrea Shelton, and they can be reached at 601-883-5000. Members also discussed whether contacting a reporter would be helpful. Willie Mae Berry noted that she has met with a reporter previously, but the topic can be discussed further.

### Announcements

There were no announcements made.

### Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.