



## Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** May 19, 2022

**TIME:** 10:30 am

**FACILITATOR:** Maria Morris

### Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via Zoom.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for April's membership meeting were approved.

### Guest Speaker

**John Horhn, State Senator | District 26** - Senator John Horhn noted issues faced that contribute to homelessness in Jackson. He gave some observations on how to address certain issues, such as more coordination of services, increased communication, and officer awareness. Senator Horhn explained the importance of the Capitol Police as they serve in the area and noted that additional officers were added under the Department of Public Safety. The Senator expressed that there was no cohesive policy for the legal side of the activities of the homeless population. He presented some of his ideas to address homelessness, such as coordinated services, improved data collection, and a vehicle identified as being able to provide assistance. Attendees provided feedback on the ideas the Senator presented. Senator Horhn suggested that, if we needed a legislative champion, we should engage a professional lobbyist with connections, identify a benefactor, and come up with a 3-year strategy. Two individuals the CoC was encouraged to connect with were Beau Lucky with the Capitol Police and Jane Alexander with the Community Foundation of Mississippi. He also noted that there are hundreds of incarcerated individuals who qualify for parole but cannot be released as they would become homeless. Members discussed how unused schools could be repurposed as homeless facilities.

### HOME-ARP - Tamara Stewart, Mississippi Home Corporation

Tamara Stewart explained that they are now receiving input to make allocation plans. Kimberly Stamps provided an overview of the program and eligible populations and activities. It was clarified that while the State received \$38 million, some Participating Jurisdictions within the State received additional funds. They shared a PowerPoint presentation with the membership about HOME-ARP. Members were allowed to ask questions. A poll will be shared with the membership to answer some questions for Mississippi Home Corporation.

### Updates from Standing Committees

Maria Morris noted that standing meeting dates have been set for all committees.



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**Coordinated Entry System** — Reggie Wiggins informed members that they would be meeting today. He will provide more information at the next meeting.

**Strategic Planning** — Dr. Mary Manogin informed members that their next meeting will be held next Thursday.

**Executive** — Maria Morris noted that they will be working with the Finance Committee on fundraising activities to address gaps. More updates to come on plans.

### Volunteer Hours Tracking Form

Michelle Shelton thanked members for all their time and effort in supporting the CoC. She reminded everyone why documenting volunteer hours is so important and that a revised volunteer hours tracking form was sent out after the last membership meeting. Michelle Shelton requested that completed volunteer forms be returned at least monthly. Maria Morris reminded members to turn in their forms after today's meeting.

### HUD Match Documentation Requirements

Melvin Stamps noted the issues that have been faced with match. He mentioned that a clinic regarding match requirements was held. Mr. Stamps reminded the membership that match documentation must be approved by the Collaborative Applicant prior to application submission. Match documentation requirements will be a standing item on the agenda and more information will be provided moving forward.

### COVID Update & Impact

Maria Morris noted that there is a new COVID variant and the nation is preparing for a new surge. She mentioned what personal testing resources are available, and that there are incentives for COVID vaccines and boosters by community health centers throughout the state. The need to be prepared for positive tests was emphasized. Members discussed what shelters can do to address unvaccinated clients or those who chose not to disclose their vaccination status. It was noted that there are grants available for testing and establishing precautionary measures.

### 2022 PIT/HIC Count data

Melvin Stamps noted that a full Count was completed on February 22 & 23. He provided details from the PIT Count, and the report was shared on screen. The report will be added to the CoC's website by tomorrow. Mr. Stamps also discussed the numbers from the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). The current utilization rate was 51% which is low, however, more data is needed to determine why the utilization rate was so low. It was emphasized that utilization rates are down across the nation due to CDC guidelines. Lizzie's House has noticed that some will come in then leave, not returning for assessment. The Salvation Army can only serve half of the population they used to because of the need to social distance. Melvin Stamps informed members that they mentioned on the report that COVID affected the utilization rate. It was noted that the PIT Count subcommittee will be working throughout the year to raise awareness and



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build a stronger relationship with those who are a part of the Count. Their first event will be a brown bag lunch.

### HMIS Fees | Needed Changes and Action Steps According to HUD Guidance

Melvin Stamps informed the membership of HUD guidance that was given to the Collaborative Applicant and the Board Chair on April 25th: the HMIS Lead is the only entity that can receive and request HMIS fees. Action steps to be taken: 1) Immediately stop collecting fees; 2) The CoC must turn over collected fees to Mississippi Housing Partnership (MHP); 3) MHP must review current fee structure and determine how to move forward; 4) HMIS fees may be used as match as long as they were not paid by CoC program funds. A total of \$26,200 will be transferred to MHP by May 31, 2022. Proof of the transfer and related documentation must be submitted by then as well. Mr. Stamps noted that moving forward MHP is the authorized agent to receive HMIS fees, so any further information will be provided by them.

### Treasurer's Report

This item was tabled.

### Open Forum Discussion

Members discussed a news article regarding mental health incidents in Copiah County. It was noted that Copiah County is not covered by Hinds Behavioral but is covered by Region 8. A contact for them is Shane at 601-518-7115.

### Announcements

Reggie Wiggins informed the membership that he, Precious Berry, Fred Brandon, and Melvin Stamps attended the Built for Zero learning session and he will be providing additional information soon. It was announced that Chamon Williams has relocated to Louisiana, so someone will soon replace her as Vice Chair. **From chat:** City of Jackson is hosting a Grant Application Workshop tomorrow at 200 S President Street beginning at 9:30 a.m. for any non profit interested in applying for CDBG HOME ESG and/or HOPWA funds.

### Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.