



# CATCH

Central Arkansas Team Care  
for the Homeless

Board Minutes  
Friday, February 21, 2025 at 9am  
Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center

**Call to Order** 9:09am by the President

### **Introduction of Board Members & their agency name**

**Attendees:** Dr. FranSha Anderson (ARSILC), Greg Chastine (St. Francis House), Ben Goodwin (Our House), Michelle Spencer (City of Jacksonville), Chris Porter (CORPP, Inc), Dr. Lashun Bland (Lonoke/Jacksonville PHA), Bailey Noland (CNLR), Steven Morris (River City Ministry, Carol Miles (DePaul USA), Andre Jones (VA), Lekita Colclough (Women & Children First), and Artina Blackmon (People Trust).

**Absent Board Members:** Ashley Young-Golden (BCD) and Matthew DeSalvo (CLR).

**Non-Board Member Attendees:** Erin Stanger (Providence Park), Tracey Shine (CLR), Cecilia Cole (CLR) and Kevin Howard (CLR, HNP Director).

### **Approval of Minutes of January 2025**

- ❖ Motion: Michelle- *to defer the minutes until the Secretary or Program Coordinator adds in the full discussion of the meeting from last month. Ideas shared in email yesterday.*
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steven

Approved to defer to next month.

### **President's Update- Dr. FranSha Anderson**

- ❖ A lot of bills that would be of interest to us or the people we served have been deferred.
- ❖ A new bill has been introduced this week by Nicole Clooney (NWA); don't know if it will be next week.
- ❖ If you have not been listening, go to the [arkleg.state.ar.us](http://arkleg.state.ar.us) website to get alerts.
- ❖ Retreat will be next month on March 14 at Willie Hinton

### **Committee Updates**

#### PIT Count- Andre Jones

- ❖ The PIT Count did successfully go forward on January 22, 2025; got a lot of good feedback especially the use of the electronic method of data collections, it was very smooth and easy to use. Big thanks to City of Little Rock (Mark & Kevin) for developing it.
- ❖ Few lessons learned;

- Strengthening the message about the Point in Time Count, the importance of PIT Count and when it occurred. Got a lot of responses about planning and development- it was kind of cavalier to some people not fully understanding about the importance of PIT Count
- The PIT Count is a collaborative effort, but some operating in silo, some gatekeeping. Let's respect the work of committee and if there are requests, donations, concerns or people want to volunteer, please steer them to the actual committee members. There was a lot of preparation that was missing until after the effect or information that came late. We want to include and accommodate everybody, but it is kind of hard to incorporate last-minute ideas when we worked for six (6) months to put things in place. There was a little disregard and disrespect of the work of the committee at the end-getting calls up until 5:30p when the PIT Count starts at 6p.
- Redirect people back to committee members as we are done planning.
- People want to actively engage, agencies you may know about or people you have personal relations with because we did try for several months to contact certain organizations or agencies was unsuccessful, but they say they talked to this person or that person, but the message is not always getting back to the committee. So, we can't incorporate that.
- Raw data looks good

Dr. FranSha: Do you think starting early and maybe additional training not so much right before we start? What do you feel about that?

Andre: Part of that was due to finalizing the electronic method used -working out bugs and making sure the format was compatible with HMIS for upload directly and not have duplicate or reenter information. As far as starting early, plan starts in June, and I started giving reports in February. There were things that came up questions/concerns that were not brought to our attention until within a week of the count. I didn't want it to feel disregard on our part, but I feel like we were disregard because we didn't get the information and now, we are struggling to incorporate what everyone needs and meet them. So, starting earlier I don't know what that would look like, but it is certainly a consideration going forward.

Michelle: HUD has a regulations that is out a worksheet that is for the Point in Time Count that goes month by month to stay on task for any expectations for that month and I think we utilize the tools that are in place for us to utilize, we will be able to stay on point and answer questions or mishaps that need to resolve in immediate time instead of last minutes as you say.

Andre: The tool was used in this year's Point in Time Count and that's how reports were given each month/meeting on the work of the Point in Time Count, even when there was not a whole lot actively being done. When people are raising questions or raising concerns at the very last minutes when I was speaking of because when it comes up every month, that's an opportunity for concerns or questions that's an opportunity to present it but when the Point in Time is Wednesday and you wait until Tuesday before that's a dilemma for everyone, you feel disrespected, disregarded and we feel overwhelmed because we're trying to meet everyone but you cannot always incorporate everyone at the last minute.

Ben: Thank you for your leadership in the process and from my perspective it went really well. I look forward to what the numbers say. Looking ahead at one (1) of the key uses that number could be put to and should be put to is communicating. We talk about it in terms of HUD funding but honestly, I don't see a direct correlation there because our numbers have gone up, but our HUD funding has gone down. I do see that it's an important tool to communicate with the community, so I look forward to us, as soon as we reason it can confident number sharing with the community- we have done that in the past. Some years we have waited for HUD to finalize the numbers; but I strongly recommend we don't do that. Last time it took them over a year to do that and at that point we were talking about it- over reality. I have been involved in the past; it's something that the media are always interested in and want to cover when the numbers go out. I propose -what we have done in the past, produce a press release as CATCH soon as we are confident in numbers we share with the community. Will help draft it and I think we should designate somebody on the committee to fill those calls when the press wants to talk about it.

Bailey: Will the shelter/unsheltered count be every year or every other year per the regulations?

Ben: We are the group to hash that out, we can decide. We have talked about it for over fifteen (15) years but never decided to do it because it's a huge lift, all volunteer effort because no one pays us to do it, and everyone is extending themselves to do it. But it would be nice to have that data point every year so see if what we are doing is making an impact on what the trends are.

#### Data HMIS- Artina Blackmon

WellSky training center has been set up for everyone that was interested. Please check your emails user information for training there. If you have any issues, please send emails to [helpdesk@equalopportunities.org](mailto:helpdesk@equalopportunities.org).

- ❖ WellSky is our HMIS servicing software, and if you're interested in using it, please let me know so I can get you signed up. We regularly send out emails and updates to keep users informed.
- ❖ Additionally, our HMIS Workshop is still in progress. This training serves as a prerequisite for more hands-on, high-level training opportunities. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to get involved!

#### Public Policy and Community Awareness-Chris Porter

- ❖ Good turnout at the Capitol and thanks to those who attended and those who didn't miss a treat.
- ❖ New administration has new ideas that relate to us- on how to deal with HUD
- ❖ Need to sign a letter to alleviate the cuts that may affect the people we are trying to help
- ❖ As far as community goes, this cold snap we know didn't affect a lot of people that we are supposed to take care of and there's things going out on Facebook- got some negativity coming towards the way we are supposed to be helping homeless people in the City of Little Rock and surrounding area that's being broadcast throughout the media and I say we do our very best from local government to the bottom to make sure we are on the same page on the way we treat our homeless people. I would like to commend all the people who took time out at the warming center throughout this cold snap, good job and appreciate and I know they do too.

- ❖ Really need to be caution with the cold and the effect it's having on our people. If you have room on your floor to get them out of the woods and get them out of the street, please spare them. Sometimes we have to go above and beyond our norm.

#### Membership & Training- Ben Goodwin:

- ❖ Both the governance charter and the bylaws specify that officer elections be held annually, specifically in the December board meeting. The governance charter further specifies that it is the role of the Membership & Training Committee to prepare a slate of officers for the board for a vote. To get us back on schedule, the Membership & Training Committee proposes the following schedule:
- ❖ Board members may nominate themselves or another board member for one of the following positions:
  1. President
  2. Vice-President / President-Elect
  3. Secretary
  4. Treasurer
  5. Parliamentarian
- ❖ Nominations are due by March 7. They should be emailed to [ben@ourhouseshelter.org](mailto:ben@ourhouseshelter.org).
- ❖ The Membership & Training Committee will prepare a ballot for board members to vote on officers on the March 14 board meeting. Officers will be selected by majority vote. If a nominee does not get an outright majority on the first ballot, there will be a runoff election (in the same March 14 board meeting) between the top two vote-getters for that position.
- ❖ Officers elected on March 14 will serve until December 2025, when there will be another officer election, which will get us back on schedule.

Michelle: Would like to add an addition-Bylaws states a treasurer position as well. There's no bank account; in the past we received donations that needed to be carried over to the account but never got that established with the current treasurer but that is an open position.

Tracey: Opposed to that role...just an empty spot.

Artina: I know we've tabled the minutes and that's great, however, if we want to get an official amendment like someone would need to submit a proposal for that- like an email or Michelle since you had so discrepancies on it.

Michelle: Where does it state that? Where does it state you have to do a proposal for an amendment to the minutes.

Artina: Because we do not know what you are amending.

Michelle: I stated in the email.

Artina: You will need to break down what you want to add. Can you make it clear in a proposal so we can look at it?

Michelle: It's called a review or making the minutes public to everyone so they can listen to the minutes and make a better decision on voting on the minutes.

Artina: Not going against the fact, you want to do that, there's nothing wrong with that. We just want you to break down what you want to add and submit that.

Michelle: I did that in the email, did you not receive that.

Artina: I did and read through them, but it did not say verbatim, you just stated we talked about these things, and we discussed these things. Like for meeting topics, what happens, what was said, not verbatim.

Michelle: I don't have the minutes that were recorded. That's why I asked for a second

Artina: You stated you had something you wanted to add.

Michelle: I have my notes, and I know what I spoke about in the meeting.

Artina: Can you put that in bullet form?

Michelle: Yes, I can do that.

Artina: Great not trying to make things complicated.

Artina: We were nominated for these positions without initially realizing the term length was set annually. This has been a particularly short term—closer to nine months rather than a full year—and I don't believe any of us would have signed up for such a limited timeframe. Nine (9) months is not sufficient to implement meaningful change, especially in volunteer roles that require balancing existing responsibilities. Given the ongoing transitions and challenges before we stepped into these positions, it wasn't clearly communicated how the process would unfold. Nine (9) months was more like a place holder, and I don't think any of us, because these are volunteer positions everyone is holding, would have signed up for nine (9) months. Essentially, this short timeframe has served as a placeholder rather than a full-term opportunity to make substantial progress. I also don't believe it has been fair to expect Dr. FranSha to achieve meaningful impact under these conditions. Moving forward, we need to first align the Bylaws with the Governance Charter before conducting, because the Governance Charter is incorrect in some instances - many typos and it was a template the TA gave us that came from Miami. We need to tailor things to what we are actually doing, and make it work for [Central] Arkansas. The next group [of leaders] should not find themselves in the same position we are in—expecting to drive real change but only having 9 to 12 months, especially when dealing with complex regulations, evolving HUD policies, and structural constraints.

Dr. FranSha: If we transition, I will not know what to give the next President because every board you transition, is like what would you give and it's a learning experience. The Parliamentarian has helped in a lot of ways, and you grow together.

Chris: Is this an opportunity to motion to extend the length of time? I know we have to go back to Governance and Bylaws, I think once go back aligned. I think it was extended within a year; I want to make sure we stay in a uniform way of doing things and we don't have hiccups up and it's not to our satisfaction and equal to everyone around on this board and anyone that might want to be a part of the board. There's no rules changes because I'm not in position anymore. We need to look back and see how it been running, what was working or wasn't working and mainly give a person time to do something before we start to replace them. Again, Ben, is this an opportunity to motion to review

those documents so we can come up with a uniform way that benefits our cause? It is hard to really do what we said what we were going to do when we don't have time.

Dr. FranSha: Chris, can Michelle make her statement because I told her she could go after you and then Ben can answer your questions.

Michelle: We have a Governance Charter that was approved I believe last year, and we have a section that states we have annual nominations. That does not mean officers leave their roles, that means if the board decides we need to transition to new officers. It does not say you all will lose roles you have been working on. We have Governance Charter and Bylaws that dictate what we should be doing in this meeting. The Governance is what we said we will be going by in 2024 we will be going by and backup as Bylaws. I always sat in these meetings and stated that they don't line up but that doesn't say that section doesn't line up, they both coincide with one another in those two sections. The roles are understood the officers are in place annually until there's a rollover till the next year. Unless that officer has been reelected for the next year. Everyone thinks they are rolling off or being voted off or anything like that. If the Governance and Bylaws are not what's going to be governing us, why are we here?

Artina: Governance has errors, and they have to align properly, and it does not state in the Bylaws annually.

Michelle: Yes, it does.

Artina: how I read it is if a seat is open, or someone is stepping down.

Greg: By having the election on March 14 that puts us back on track on the regular/annually schedule because no one wants to roll off on the positions. It just puts us back on the calendar schedule for the officer. Is that correct?

Ben: just trying to align us with the Bylaws. The Bylaws also states annual election of officers in our December meeting. That has been our practice.

Dr. FranSha & Artina: Last year was February.

Ben: Because Matthew DeSalvo resigned as President. So, she wouldn't have 1 year as President, only ever had one (1) year as officer.

Dr. FranSha: Chris, does that answer your questions.

Chris: Yes

Andre: On behalf of those not actively participating in this discussion. I feel like I sit in a unique position, and that I've not been a member for long, but people talk about how we have been here for so long, and this is how, but I have been here long enough, I'm not amongst ears. It feels like, why I understand governance charter and bylaws are important. It sometimes feels weaponize in this space and when there's an attempt at discussion, then the nuclear weapon is brought out and someone makes a motion to shut down whatever discussion is going on or to shut down what's being said. It does not feel productive, doesn't feel good being in this space because I have sat on this board for over a year, going into year two and we talk about Governance Charter but what we have not talked about is how we impact homelessness in Central Arkansas...motion for comments to be added.

Dr. FranSha: I do my very best, I pride myself on everything I do. When you sit in the position that you are the first African American woman in thirty-three (33) years to run an organization with 14 blemish free audits, that's a lot to say and that's me. I pride myself on being at the Capitol, not just for people with disabilities, homeless and seniors that are homeless. If you talk a step back and listen sometimes to what you are saying (you all are adults, and I'm coming to with you love) I love being in a room where we are productive and I love being President but I'm not trying to hold on to anything, no one wants me to be. But if I'm supposed to be here, I'm going to be.

Steven: As someone new and not being around all the politic and just recently viewed all the documents. My beliefs on the board I've been on, the purpose of your Bylaws is to keep these things from becoming personal and use conditionally for a particular motive outside than the purpose of the board. Things happen and returning to what we have can help us not to continue having this conservation and not be put in a position where anyone is being targeted by, just to have our go to in times where anything is brought up and if we want to amend that, we got a process. We can suggest an amendment, can review and vote on by the board and AR-500 committee. We have in front of us something that should help us avoid a lot of the problems that we seen to be having and maybe we can put some of thing to rest and be able to move forward.

Tracey: Revisiting everything- we have voted that elections are going to take place in March and get the ballots in. Chris was asking about a motion to revisit the Bylaws.

Ben: We have not voted, that's what my committee proposal

Chris: It's not a motion, but a question.

Dr. FranSha: Ben's proposal that all nominations be sent to him by March 7 and vote March 14. Is that correct?

Ben: That's what my committee proposal.

Motion: Ben- *followed the outline that I described and accepting nominations for officer positions by March 7 and having vote by the board on March 14 and term to serve until December.*

2<sup>nd</sup>: Michelle

Motion carried.

**Announcements and Upcoming Event:**

Dr. FranSha to give announcements during membership to stay on point.

**Adjournment:** 10:04am