



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2022**

**Commissioners Attending:** Andrea Allen, Chair; Cristy Sellers, Commissioner; Dr. Ken Knecht, Commissioner; Mary Franklin, Commissioner; Dr. Roddy Lochala, Commissioner; Jerri Clark, Commissioner; Nick Fuller, Commissioner, Jim Hudson, Commissioner

**Staff Attending:** Matt Gilmore, ADH; Zsanica Ervin, ADH - ATSC

**Guests:** Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-Mccoy, UAMS-COA; Emily Lane and Janet Wilson, UCA; Jimie Jarry and Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI; Este Frazier, Beatriz Mondragon, and Kenya Eddings; ADH - AMHC; Joy Gray, ADH - TCPC; Joe West, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General; Liz Gates and Mark Williams, COPH; Dr. Bala, ADH - Deputy Chief Medical Office; Mansour Mortazavi, Marian Evans, Cynthia Troutman and Earnette Sullivan, UAPB

**Minutes Recorder:** Zsanica Ervin, Administrative Specialist III

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to Order/Quorum/ Introduction of Attendees	Chair Andrea Allen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Zsanica Ervin called the roll for the Commission members. A quorum was established. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Guest Speaker Joe West	Chair Allen introduced Mr. Joe West from the Arkansas Attorney General's office for Leslie Rutledge. Mr. West stated he is the Assistant Attorney General and has been with the agency for several years now. He provided a handout relating to Commission Information, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Commissioner Conduct. Mr. West explained that the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission exists as part of the Executive Branch and the Arkansas Department of Health who can only exercise the powers given by the enabling statute. He went on to state that the Commission consists of nine members which are the following: The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Director of the Division of Higher Education, the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Secretary of the Department of Health, a healthcare professional selected by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; a healthcare professional selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a citizen selected by the Governor, a citizen selected by the Attorney General. He also added the appointed members can serve four-year terms, are limited to two consecutive terms, the Commission elects the chair from their own membership, and the election is held four times a year. Mr.

	<p>West stated all meetings should be public and follow the Freedom of Information Act. He added a meeting constitutes no quorum required, two or more commission members, and it includes committees and subcommittees with two or more commission members and no pre-meeting. Telephone conferences must allow the public to be able to attend, and the same notice rules apply. Social gatherings don't constitute a public meeting if discussion of government business is incidental and intermittent. Also emails that are information vs decisional. There should also be notice requirements for regular meetings that provide time, date, and location to anyone who asks. Special meetings must be provided two hours in advance. He added all public meetings are to be recorded and can be audio only on an audio video recording, must be kept for a minimum of one year from the date of the meeting, and must be in a format that can turned over in FOIA. He stated the FOIA rights allows the public to attend but not participate and there are exemptions for meetings in the executive session that covers personnel issues, but the Commission must announce the purpose, and must vote in public following the executive session order for action to be valid. No attorney-client privilege exists under FOIA, there are no private meetings and no private emails. Mr. West stated public record documents are kept by the agency that constitute a record of performance or lack of performance of official functions, these records must be disclosed unless exempt and includes texts and emails, from private accounts if stated business is being conducted. He added consequences of violating FOIA could result in civil lawsuits, criminal prosecution, increased visibility for agency, board or commission, and negative media attention. Mr. West stated members attendance is important, members appointed by Governor can be removed for unexcused absences. He added with quorum and voting, the Commission requires a majority vote of the members present, and a quorum can be lost if a member leaves. Members must abstain if a conflict of interest is present. The chair can engage in discussion, make motions, and vote on matters. Mr. West stated conflicts of interest prohibits members from participating in voting on influencing, or attempting to influence an official decision, members appointed to the Commission and the organizations they represent should make full disclosure of the members participation when applying for grants or contracts funded by the Commission and prohibits discussion or voting on any rule or regulation that benefit a member, members can't use their position to secure unwarranted privileges for themselves or others, members can't disclose confidential information acquired while on official duties or use confidential information for personal interests. Mr. West asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked him for his report and asked if there were any questions from those who were present as well as those who were on Zoom.</p>
<p>Review/Approval of November Minutes</p>	<p>Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the November 9, 2022, minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Jerri Clark. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission's November 9,2022 meeting minutes were approved.</p>
<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>Matt Gilmore began with the director's report by starting with the expenses. He stated nothing has changed with the expenses. He asked if there were any questions relating to the expenses. Mr. Gilmore then</p>

<p>Quarterly Report</p>	<p>discussed the income for the Commission. He stated the investment income for the month of October is 117,730.00 and the interest income is rising. He then asked if anyone had any questions about the investment income for the month of October. Mr. Gilmore stated that he presented to the Public Health Committee the report that was approved from the last meeting in September. He stated the Committee asked about performance, the funding, administrative costs, etc. He stated they provided information back to the members He went on to discuss the budget hearing which occurred in October. Mr. Gilmore stated the legislature is currently focused on fund balances and the Commission has a healthy fund balance of \$7 to \$8 million dollars. The legislature is discussing using this fund balance for health issues and needs across the state. He added tobacco settlement dollars have to be used for health focused needs and he would keep everyone informed as he gets more information. He stated the legislature would be dealing with the commission funds not the program funds, nor the annual dollars that they receive, and he doesn't believe the Commission will be involved on how these funds are used. He asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions for Matt Gilmore.</p> <p>Emily Lane stated she wanted to bring attention to the infographics, and she went on to say TPCP had a big milestone in that they had 10,000 enrollees since the start of the quitline. She stated since last quarter the numbers continue to climb. The quit rate is now around 36%. The programmers are now doing more outreach into the communities, and they are meeting their indicators for this quarter. She added the quarterly report for April-June will reflect more on the improvement in the programmer's outreach since some of the COVID restrictions have been lifted. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Dr. Knecht. The motion passed unanimously. The Jan-March 2022 quarterly report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Joy Gray (TCPC) stated they reached a milestone back in the spring of having 10,000 enrollees in BE Well Arkansas. She added they are currently on track this calendar year for the highest enrollees. They have passed the 2,200 mark for this year will most likely get 2,500 enrollees by the end of the year. Ms. Gray stated with their enrollees, they have a higher quit rate than any other call center around the nation, their rate is usually 33 to 36%. She stated other states use a large vendor and their quit rate runs from 28 to 29%. She stated their participates keep the same counselor throughout the entire program unlike other vendors. She stated they have new testimonials that she will send out soon, the testimonials are available in the CDC library, and they will continue to make testimonials. Ms. Gray stated the CDC's tips campaign that ran from April to October has ended and they are now more focused on their Be Well Baby ads. She stated they now have 150 women enrolled in their Be Well Baby program and about 25% of them have completed the prenatal counseling sessions which tend to drop off after having their baby. They are also working with a vendor to get the quit rates. She stated they are still working with their prevention and community program, and they are able to physically go back into the schools. She stated they have launched a new prevention</p>

	<p>program for children K-2. There is nothing like this program, as it focusses on vaping and it's a cartoon program that also has coloring books and activity books. This program has already been in thousands of schools, and they are the only state doing this program. She added this program is getting good response rates. She stated there will be a Tobacco Treatment Specialist training in February and anyone can attend. The training cost will be covered by ADH, and it is virtual. Joy Gray asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>Dr. Mansour Mortazavi (UAPB) stated they have three main offices that includes Dr. Troutman from the Graduate Addiction Studies Program and Dr. Evans from the Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office/ Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions. He stated they have a partnership as a part of the Minority Research Center program named CARS (Connect Arkansas Researcher Scholars). This new program will have a long-lasting affect in minority communities in Arkansas by developing workforce in minority health research education. He added the finance for this program comes from DHS and UAMS. He then highlighted some of the funding for the CAR program such as the cost breakdown for stipends, student scholars, research supplies, travel and summer lodging, new research faculty, and some other necessary needs (total- 269,000). He also included UAMS pledge amounts break down (total- \$150,000). Dr. Mansour stated that he is currently looking for someone to hire for the budget part of the program and he asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked him asked if anyone had any questions.</p>
	<p>Dr. Marian Evans (UAPB) began by stating she is the coordinator for the Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office and the Interim Director for the Minority Research Center on Tobacco &amp; Addictions. She stated they receive a portion of funding from the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act to fund their program which is located at UAPB. They have four programs: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office, Minority Research Center on Tobacco &amp; Addictions, Graduate Addiction Studies Program and CARS. They receive their funding through ADH's TPCP program. Dr. Evans stated MRC serves as a local, regional and nation resource providing best practices and key learnings for eliminating the use of tobacco and other addictive substances within minority communities. She highlighted some of the MRC indicators such as they distribute request for proposals to fund research studies focused on cessation among African American women, Hispanic women, and tobacco and opioid use among minority youth and young adults. Another indicator she highlighted is that they work with African American male college students to understand and compare knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and risk perceptions relating to tobacco use, implement an intervention on emerging tobacco products targeting minority students at 12 middle schools around the state, submit six open editorials to small town newspapers focusing on tobacco-related issues in rural communities in Arkansas. She stated MISRGO follows the Centers for Disease Control's Best Practices for a comprehensive tobacco control program. Their goals are preventing the initiation of tobacco usage among youth, promoting cessation among youth and adults, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke, identifying, and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use. Dr. Evans highlighted some of MISRGO</p>

indicators such as in the spring they are planning an annual event that supports the mission of the program and will report on funded and non-funded attendees. She added Daniel Ament, and 10 schools will be included in this event. They will provide and report technical assistance to property owners regarding reducing tobacco related disparities in Arkansas, and technical assistance to ASU Media Department, and revised smoke-free perimeters presentations. She stated MISRGO has a partnership with PAVE- Parents Against Vaping and E-cigs. They will have the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference. She stated the Sub-Grantee focus will be on vaping, menthol, alternatives to suspension and tobacco and mental health. Dr. Evans asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if anyone had any questions.

Amy Leigh Overton-Mccoy (UAMS-COA) begin by stating they were making progress with their web-based database. She added they have a partnership with UAMS-East to track data to generate outcomes on indicators and the indicators for ATSC more quickly. She stated they met all of their indicators last year during COVID. She stated in 2016 they started focusing on senior hunger and food insecurity, as President Biden took on this initiative at the White House. She stated they received a grant through the Administration for Community Living and the grant was for a half a million dollars. This grant will be used in southwest Arkansas, and they will create a new model for the state on different ways to reach homebound older adults who are dealing with loneliness, social isolation, and depression. Suicides have been on the rise since the pandemic, and they are working with the senior centers and Meals on Wheels to connect individuals with evidence-based curriculum. They are training them on how to have an effective conversation so that they can identify those at risk when they are delivering meals or at the senior center. She stated they are also working with faith base programs who serve in homes and connecting through technology. She stated the UAMS Digital Health grant will pay for much of this technology, and they also received a Chancellor Circle award which will pay for some of the needed software. She stated the Veterans Administration had asked for a proposal to help with addressing suicide in veterans. There were over 1300 proposals, and they were one of the 40 programs that were selected nationwide. In Arkansas, there are over 50% of veterans that aren't receiving benefits. She stated they received a USDA million-dollar grant which will be used in their delta centers. This grant will benefit programs. She added that their community programs numbers haven't regained since COVID, and older adults are still not ready to return into large groups. They are still offering hybrid, virtual, and in-person classes. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked did anyone have any questions and thanked her for her report.

Mary Franklin (TSMEP) stated during the previous quarter they served 8,973 pregnant women, seniors, hospitalize adults, and persons with developmental disabilities, which was an increase of 699 recipients from the previous quarter. She stated TSMEP also leveraged \$28.9 million in federal matching funds. She

asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.

Liz Gates (COPH) stated they received some grants which were given mostly to junior faculty, also newer and assistant professors. Dr. Clare Brown received a five-year grant for \$300,000 to study equity in modeling to predict rules in health care. Dr. Dina Jones also received a five-year grant for \$300,000 to study disparities in smoking cessation in African Americans and quitting menthol cigarettes. Dr. Nakita Lovelady received a two-year grant to study violence prevention in emergency rooms and departments. She added one of their doctoral students in their Health Promotion Prevention research program received a scholarship award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. The student receives tuition for up to five years and \$20,000 and a stipend every year. Mrs. Gates stated they recently had their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Governor's Mansion. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there are any questions.

Dr. Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated they are back in the schools with their health program. They are currently in all schools in Phillip County. She stated they are looking to work with some creative services to update their outdated videos. Dr. Hall stated their Good Food Rx program has nine patients and they are working hard to fulfill their goal of 25 participates. She stated in their clinic, 78% of their patients have their blood pressure under control and their blood pressures are 140/90, their diabetes is above the average of 73%, and 79% have a good A1C level. She stated they are offering virtual visits with the UAMS Pathology Clinic. She added the have received a lot of positive feedback and awards. Three of their UAMS nursing staff have received awards. Dr. Hall stated they will continue to do CPR and first aid classes; they have also developed a relationship with a local pharmacy program for students called Help Everyone Learn Possibilities of Health. They are doing CPR training for this program. She stated the fitness center nurses' numbers are up and they have done tobacco education cessation for 13 residents of the Christopher Home. The Christopher Home is for middle age challenged adults. She stated they are offering parenting classes, childcare, safety, and diabetes education to the east Arkansas correctional facility in West Memphis. She stated they completed a virtual camp for healthcare called Value Your Future in Health Care for high school students. She added they are working with the food pantry and mobile food pantry in the county. They have given out 150 food boxes and supplies. These supplies include toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant, etc. Dr. Becky Hall asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Kenya Eddings (MHI) began by stating due to COVID many of their screenings have been outside and some of their testing equipment is weather sensitive which has caused some malfunction while screening. She stated they have supplied health education and materials to almost 1300 attendees from all of

	<p>Arkansas counties for a total of 4,295 health screenings this quarter. Their mobile health unit has supplied 40 counties and had 409 participates. Mrs. Eddings stated they participated in the National Association of Social Workers of Arkansas annual conference, and they screened 158 of the 408 participates. She added they have seen an increase in their screenings, and they have already done 503 blood pressure this quarter, 2,264 screenings for the physical year which has double from last year. She stated they have continued to use educational opportunities in the community and have provided education to minorities through media outlets such as 816 tv commercials and 917 radio commercials. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.</p> <p>Dr. Bobby McGee (ABI) began by stating they had their ABI Annual Symposium; it was very exciting and the first one they have had in two years due to COVID. He stated they have completed their annual report and are now focusing on the next one. He went on to give an update about the agreement ABI has with the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and the Arkansas Insurance Department for the All-Payer Claims Database. ABI investigators have access to the database at no cost. He stated at their recent board meeting, they have decided to partnership with the ACHI and the Arkansas Insurance Department for another 5 years. Dr. McGee added that ABI gives \$150,000.00 dollars to help manage the database. The database is a good resource for research and there has been 49 approved proposals and 23 extra grants since their collaboration. Dr. McGee asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked him for his report.</p>
Election of Commission Officers	<p>Chair Allen stated that it was time to elect officers for the Commission for the upcoming year. She also stated that she has enjoyed serving and is willing to service again. Commissioner Dr. Knecht made the motion for Chair Andrea Allen to continue to serve as Chair. Commissioner Mary Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Andrea Allen was elected to continue to serve as chair. Chair Allen made to motion for Vice Chair Jim Hudson to continue to serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner Cristy Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Jim Hudson was elected to continue to serve as Vice Chair. Jerri Clark made the motion for Dr. Ken Knecht to continue to serve as Executive Committee Member. Commissioner Cristy Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Committee Member Dr. Ken Knecht was elected to continue to serve as Executive Committee Member.</p>
Meeting Adjournment	<p>Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion and Commissioner Mary Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.