



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
Feb 8, 2023**

**Commissioners Attending:** Andrea Allen, Chair; Cristy Sellers, Commissioner; Dr. Ken Knecht, Commissioner; Mary Franklin, Commissioner; Martha Hill, Commissioner; Nick Fuller, Commissioner, Jennifer Fowler, Commissioner, Ruthie Brown (for Commissioner Mary Franklin)

**Staff Attending:** Zsanica Ervin, ADH - ATSC

**Guests:** Becky Hall and Stephanie Loveless, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-Mccoy, UAMS-COA; Emily Lane, Rhonda Mcclellan and Janet Wilson, UCA; Jimie Jarry, ABI; Este Frazier, Beatriz Mondragon, and Kenya Eddings ADH - AMHC; Joy Gray, ADH - TCPC; Liz Gates and Mark Williams, COPH; Dr. Bala, ADH - Deputy Chief Medical Office; Masour Mortazavi, 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 10:06 a.m. Zsanica Ervin called the roll for the Commission members. A quorum was established. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of February Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the February 8, 2023, minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Nick Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission’s February 8, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
Director’s Report  Expense Approval  Quarterly Report	<p>Zsanica Ervin began with the director’s report by starting with the expenses. She stated this report is for January of this year and nothing has changed with the expenses. She stated the investment income for the month of January is \$683,726.91. The investment income is increasing. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions for Zsanica Ervin.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve expenses for the Commission. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Fowler. The motion passed unanimously. Expense for the Commission were approved.</p> <p>Emily Lane stated she wanted to bring attention to the infographics which can be found on pages 6and7. She went on to explain what is normally highlighted in the Quarterly, Annually and Biennially reports are</p>

	<p>infographics, a third page of testimonials to reflect on different things that the programs have accomplished during a particular quarter, and what has been done through educational services, research and economic impact to the new commissioners. She stated the numbers on the infographics are 40,000 plus encounters with Arkansans who are getting educational information through various events and programs. She also brought attention to the number of graduates and health professionals that have benefited. She added the programs are continuing to broaden their scope in the public health arena by focusing more on mental health. She stated the Minority Health Commission is taken on mental health and the Centers on Aging have support groups for caregivers of dementia patients and disease management. She added MISRGO, funded through the Tobacco Minority Program account recently had a conference focused on mental health, tobacco control and health disparities. She stated that they are focusing on things that haven't been traditional public health in Arkansas in the last few decades. She stated the programs are continuing to do what they do best by building a public health workforce and a high number of graduates this quarter. She went on to highlight the success of the Be Well Call Center by stating since last quarter they had a 36% quit rate which is the highest in the nation. She stated that they have had over 10,000 enrollees for the quitline. She stated that they are seeing some programs that are still effected by COVID, but programs have adapted and they continue to adapt. Emily Lane asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen also 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 Mary Franklin. The motion passed unanimously. The April-June 2022 quarterly report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (UAMS-COA) begin by stating COVID is currently still a challenge for them in getting older adults back into the programs. She stated that the face-to-face encounters are still lower than what they were previously before COVID because older adults are still slow to come back to programming. However, they are responding to Zoom, physical activity programs, support groups and one on one caregiving coaching. She stated that their numbers are not what they have been in the past and workforce is still being effective by COVID. She stated they are making great progress with obtaining grants and focusing on mental health with the telehealth, reaching their homebound older adults through the meals on wheels program and other community partners. She stated they are exploring outcomes, how they are impacting some specific health outcomes, and could their work be a model that they utilize throughout the state as well as potentially the nation. She added they are using a self-service I-Pad and they are really excited about working on this model with the Administration of Community Living who are also funding this project. She stated they are working with the VA and received a VA Mission Daybreak Awards. They are looking for ways to reach more rural older adults throughout the state. She stated they continue to focus on their physical activity programs for older adults as well as food insecurity and caregiving. She stated they have four presentations regarding the work that is happening in Arkansans at the end of March that will be presented to the American Society on Aging. She stated one is focusing on the Walk with Ease, which they</p>

are working with the Department of Health and the College of Physical Therapy in Northwest Arkansas. It will focus on how they quickly changed to offer their services during COVID and have taken an evidence-based program that was designed to be face to face and changed it to hybrid as well as a totally virtual. This was done to building in safety mechanisms but also will continue monitoring outcomes and the challenges they had through COVID. COA staff attended national conference on pain management where nonpharmacologic pain management strategies was discussed focused on implementing during an opiate crisis. evident She also discussed their evidence base program of drums alive and how they are seeing fall reductions with the program as they are looking at older adults They are also involved in the statewide Alzheimer's/dementia plan with their advisory council across the state for first responders but also Alzheimer's/dementia search and rescue curriculum will be presented soon. She stated they are working with a grant from USDA that they will be using in the delta where they have limited resources and the training will start in this area. 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 their program covers four groups. She stated they offer pregnant women benefits to women above 133% of the federal poverty level up to the limit of the category which is currently 209%. She added that the AR Seniors program is funded by the TSMP program. It covers seniors age 65 and older who are living in the community and 80% below the federal poverty level. She stated they also cover 500 slots in the developmental disability services community employment support waiver. The final benefit that they cover is a hospital benefit for adults aged 19-64 who are hospitalize. This benefit covers 24 days of hospitalization and TSMEP will now cover days beyond that. It will also help cover any days beyond 21. She stated this quarter they served 8,399 individuals within the four groups that they provide services. TSMEP also leveraged \$26.1 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 the COPH's Students of Academic Affairs have been busy meeting with various groups of people. She stated most recently the director of Student Life Cycle has been working with faculty, students and staff at UALR and talking about recruitment opportunities and programs that they can be a partner on for their undergrad and certificate programs. She stated the director of Admissions attended the Chancellor Leadership Corps Scholars forwarded festival for recruiting students, sharing information about public health careers and how they can better help those students learn about these opportunities, but also recruit them to their programs. She stated they are working on developing a partnership with U of A Fayetteville to support their undergraduate program in public health and to recruit their students for their doctoral program. She stated their MHA program went under the reaccreditation process with a site visit in November of last year, they received full reaccreditation with just a few minor comments that they will be able to fix. She went on to state they continue to have a mix of online and in person classes and that the

students are doing well with it. She added that their faculty will have a retreat on Friday. She stated that they have some new grants such as the Center for the Study of Obesity. She added the Center for the Study of Obesity has two new grants. They are the Impacted Universal School Meals on the Quality and Affordability of Food at Home and also the Little Rock Greens Food Initiative-partnership between the city of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District to study how green school yards can increase physical activity and improve children's experiences at school. It can also increase community involvement, after school activities, and lead to better support for students, teachers and staff of the schools. It is also a community led initiative. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there are any questions.

Dr. Becky Hall, Stephanie Loveless (UAMS East) Dr. Becky Hall stated this would be her last ATSC meeting because she was retiring and Stephanie Loveless will be taking over her position. Stephanie begun by stating some of their programs were slow to getting back to full capacity. She added in their fitness center they have seen increase since last quarter. They have had 332 encounters. She stated they have some programs in Lake Village in the area of fitness and nutrition. She stated they have a family medical clinic at UAMS where they have a telehealth training center room. She also stated they are utilizing telehealth for several different programs such as their kidney transplant. Patients are able to see specialists via telemedicine in their office. She stated they are also offering internship in their family clinic for college of nursing students, LPNs, and RNs. She stated one of the biggest projects that she wanted to highlight is their Good Food RX program which is their nutrition prescription program for family medical patients who are food insecure. They currently have 20 patients ready to start the program and they have a start date of March 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated they are working with the Arkansas Delta Regional Project and with the Cooperative Extension services to provide mobile food pantry. She stated they are working with Josh Harris and their Well Feed program. He will help secure the food through local farmers and his partnerships. She stated they are continuing their outreach programs such as CPR, and first aid training in the delta. She added they are always looking for new partnerships as well as other projects and programs. Stephanie Loveless asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Kenya Eddings (MHI) began by stating that their still moving forward despite many vacancies in their offices and they are continuing with their prevented screenings in the communities. She stated their Mobile Health Unit is still in the shop but she thinks they will be getting it out in the next couple of months. Due to not having the Mobile Health Unit, they haven't been able to do some of their screenings because it requires privacy such as HIV screenings. She stated they are still doing their regular screenings such as prostate screenings and colon cancer screenings by using kits. She added they are also continuing to do blood sugar, hypertension, blood pressure, and cholesterol screenings and provide health education to the communities that they serve in all 75 counties. She stated they continue to work with mental health issues

	<p>and they hosted a biennial summit last year that focused on mental health. They also have hosted Facebook live sessions with a commissioner who is a psychiatrist. She stated their media outreach continues to spread the word of the importance of getting annual screenings, reducing your risk for certain disease and conditions, spreading the word about stroke, engaging in tobacco cessation, and they have supported Be Well Arkansas. She stated they also have their Southern Ain't Fried Sunday which is their 21 days of healthy eating program that is designed to help address cardiovascular diseases risk such as diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol through using food as a medicine model. She stated they are still continuing with the Ask the Doctor series where they host a doctor on one of the urban radio stations once a month to answer and address important health related conditions that impact the community. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.</p> <p>Jimie Jarry (ABI) began by stating they are collecting data for their annual report and will be doing something a little different with this particular report. They will provide a detailed highlight of each of their five member institutions which will include photos and information about the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) to the Governor and legislators. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked her for the report.</p> <p>Joy Gray (TCPC) stated Be Well Arkansas is still doing well and has a higher quit rate than other call centers around the nation. She stated she hears from other states relating to their Bell Well Arkansas and Be Well Balby program model. She added they have a couple of new testimonials who are ADH staff members. She highlighted their new prevention program for children K- second grade and stated that the program focusses on vaping. Tt is a cartoon program that has coloring books and activity books. The program is going really well and they are currently working on episode three. She stated she has been doing webinars for Medicaid and Medicare providers to show them how the providers can ask, advise and refer individuals. She stated twice a year they provide Tobacco Treatment Specialist classes during February and October. She stated she will be on KARK this afternoon at 2:00 discussing their programs. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked her for the report.</p>
Meeting Adjournment	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.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.