

**Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2021**



Commissioners Attending: Chair Andrea Allen; Tom Chilton, Vice Chair; Nick Fuller, Commissioner; Cristy Sellers, ADH Designee for Renee Mallory; Jerri Clark, Commissioner, Ken Knecht, MD, Commissioner; Mary Franklin, Commissioner

Staff Attending: Matt Gilmore, ADH, Judy Carol Zorn, ATSC

Guests: ShaRhonda Love (MHI), Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Liz Gates, COPH; Emily Lane, Rhonda McClellan, Jacquie Rainey and Janet Wilson, UCA; Joy Gray, TPCP; Leslie Humphries and Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI; Joe West, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General and Charles Saunders, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General

Minutes Recorder: Judy Carol Zorn, Administrative Specialist III

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to Order/Quorum/ Introduction of Attendees	Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Chair Allen asked Matt Gilmore to call the roll for the Commission members. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of February Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Mary Franklin made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Nick Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission's February 10, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
Master Settlement Agreement Update	Charles Saunders, Assistant Attorney General, provided a brief update on the annual Master Settlement Agreement. He expects Arkansas will receive a little over \$58 million which is an increase over the last couple of year's payments. Last year it was \$52 million and before that it was about \$54 million. Normally they expect a downward trend in payments over time because the MSA is adjusted for the volume of

	<p>cigarettes the companies are shipping and / or selling. Then he asked if there were any questions about his comments.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if we were seeing an increase in tobacco uses or sales? She stated that the last meeting the question was asked and at that time it was not known.</p> <p>Charles Saunders stated that yes cigarette sales generally increased slightly for just about every major company.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if anyone else had any more questions or comments.</p>
<p>Director's Report Legislative Report</p>	<p>Matt Gilmore introduced Judy Zorn who took April Robinson's place. He stated that programs will be interacting with her in the future, and she will be interacting with UCA. He stated that Ms. Zorn is from the Insurance Department and had been there for quite a while in the Asset Section.</p> <p>Chair Allen stated that she was looking forward to meeting with her in person.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated the next meeting will be in person. Also, he emailed the financial reports. He briefly explained the current expenses and savings, but the Commission will start to see an expense with Ms. Zorn's salary. He stated that the Commission will be moving later this year to the Health Department. There will be some rent savings with the Commission being under the ADH. He said that expenses are right where they should be and there were savings in the past because April's salary was being paid by the Department of Health because she was doing some work for the ADH. That salary will now reflect Ms. Zorn as she is an employee of the Commission now. He then explained the treasury report. The investment income for January is \$49,000. He also stated that the Commission's appropriation bill has passed both chambers and is now an Act. Other ATSC program budget bills have passed as well.</p> <p>Chair Allen, asked if there were any questions?</p>
<p>July – September 2020 Quarterly Report</p>	<p>Chair Allen expressed her gratitude to UCA for their reports. She then asked if there were questions about the report?</p> <p>Emily Lane stated that the UCA evaluators had two indicators to request approval to change.</p> <p>Dr. Rainey stated that they are seeking permission to change the indicator for the diabetes program at UAMS East. They must track and maintain A1C levels and there is a need for a slight modification.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if there were any questions?</p> <p>Dr. Rainey stated that UAMS East will be serving about 50 patients and care givers which is an increase from what they are currently serving.</p> <p>The second indicator presented was for the TPCP program. UCA requested that the short-term indicator goal dates be changed from June 2021 to June 2022 as of July 1, 2021. This is a normal change and the request is made annually.</p> <p>Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion to approve the changes to the indicators. Commissioner Mary Franklin – Seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously</p>

	<p>Matt Gilmore asked if Emily Lane could provide a brief update on the evaluation and how things were going?</p> <p>Emily Lane stated that everything was going smoothly. The programs are communicating regularly Rhonda McClellan, with UCA, thanked everyone for their participation.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if there were any more questions?</p> <p>Vice Chair Tom Chilton made a motion to approve the quarterly report. Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The July – September 2020 quarterly report was approved</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Liz Gates, Assistant Dean of Planning / Policy with the UAMS College of Public Health, stated they are still working towards a finalist for the McMath Obesity Chair and the Director for the Centers for the Study of Obesity. She said they have received several grants and contracts since February for the Environmental and Occupational Health Department. Two of them are on lung cancer and one on prostate cancer, and another is part of the Center for Nutritional Supplements. It looks at what is in supplements, how they are regulated, whether they are regulated, and how they impact individuals and the environment. One of the grants is on cigarette smoking from the Department of Defense. It will study lung cancer and tobacco use prevention. They submitted a renewal for funding of the development of MPH in Maternal & Child Health and several on health disparities. They have also assisted with contact tracing, and the funding for the call center will end June 30th.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if there were any questions?</p> <p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI) – introduced Beatrice Mondragon from her staff and stated that she will be assisting with the reporting for ATSC funds used by MHI. She said they have recently been working on planning the 30th anniversary / biannual summit in October. They have also collected over 2,000 surveys on vaccine hesitancy. She also said that thanks to Dr. Lachala they were able to develop a partnership with Unity Health in Searcy to work on some vaccine clinics in White, Lonoke and Jackson, counties. They have also partnered with Blue Cross / Blue Shield on the Vaccinate the Natural State Initiative by working with pharmacies. There is a partnership with Wal-Mart by taking their mobile unit and parking on their lots. They are hoping to find a new nurse soon to provide more services. The Minority Health Commission scholarship did not receive many applications so it was reopened but will be posted until 04/21/21.</p> <p>Dr. Knecht asked for more information on the scholarship and the interest in it.</p> <p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI), stated that due to the pandemic they decided to re-announce this scholarship through social media, television, and radio. They received over 100 applications last year, but due to the pandemic this year they had received significantly less scholarships and were only able to award 14.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked if these scholarship opportunities were sent directly to the school counselors to share?</p> <p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI) stated that they are not sent to the school counselors. The scholarships are only available to individuals currently in a health-related profession and so students that are in high school may not have developed or decided on a degree or area of study or have not been accepted in a program yet.</p>

Chair Allen, asked if there were any questions?

Joy Gray (ADH-TPCP), stated that due to the pandemic last year that the BeWell Arkansas call center volume dropped but now is starting to increase. They have the TIPS campaign which the CDC runs through October. The call center enrollment was down to only 40 – 50 people per week but now up to 80 - 90 people per week. The TPCP is also working in the Delta region and looking at populations with high tobacco use. She also shared that BeWell Baby is another program for pregnant smokers where they can receive vouchers for diapers and wipes at clinics or they can go to the website: bewellarkansas.org, where they can enroll. They are also working with WIC clinics and engaging with breast feeding counselors. The program is budgeted for 125 participants a year and they hope to get that within the next year.

Chair Allen, asked if there were any questions?

Becky Hall, UAMS East (Helena), stated that they are available to assist in the Delta region with meeting space and partnering any way they can

Ms. Gray stated that UAMS East in Helena is on the list and they are doing the assessment part right now but will be contacting UAMS East soon to get more things going in that county.

Commissioner Mary Franklin gave the TS MEP update for the October-December activities for the Medicaid Expansion program. She stated that during that quarter they served 13,764 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalized adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. She stated it was an increase of 143 recipients over the previous quarter. During this quarter they were able to leverage 14.3 million federal matching Medicaid funds in addition to the ATSC funds for that quarter.

Chair Allen thanked Ms. Franklin for the report and asked if there were any questions? There were none.

Dr. Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA, stated they are focusing on building Face to Face Community Programming such as food insecurities for older adults. She stated in 2016, Arkansas was 50th and now 36th in food insecurities in the nation due to cost and lack of transportation. They have expanded the HEAT (Healthy Eating and Tasting) program for porch delivery of groceries and teaching older adults/ parents how to maximize shopping for food and how to prepare the food. They are focusing more on intergenerational adults and kids in the Backpack Program who are being raised by their grandparents. She also stated they are concentrating on statewide evaluations to provide feedback to expand funding. Also, they plan on going back to training for first responders to teach them how to interact with dementia patients and include their families. This will reduce triggers and wandering behaviors (elopement). They are expanding physical activity programs by reaching out to schools and doing intergenerational programs. The RNP (Registered Nurse Practitioners) will soon be doing house calls for older adults in the Delta which covers 5 counties. Dr. McCoy stated she will be calling on Ms. ShaRhonda Love to help with the COVID education.

Chair Allen asked if there were any questions? There were none.

Dr. Becky Hall, UAMS East; Regional Center stated their site is now a location for the new Arkansas Technology & Training and Rural Assessment for telehealth. This extends the hands-on learning / training

opportunities to help professional students, community leaders, patients, and consumers in the Arkansas Delta. The training will start in the fall of 2021 or August / September). They have been involved in COVID vaccination clinics in Helena and in Lake Village. In Helena, they gave out 234 doses, and in Lake Village, and gave 300 doses. The clinic has a new family physician, Dr. Amber Norris who will be seeing patients on Wednesdays. Dr. Hall also stated that they will be obtaining two more physicians to assist two-three days per week. They held the annual Gerald Glass Memorial Education Program virtually this year and this was a continuing education program for pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physicians, and health educators. Normally there are only 25 local participants of pharmacists and physicians, but this year they had over 100 participants. Ms. Hall stated that they still have small group fitness classes, yoga, silver sneakers and line dancing in Helena and in Lake Village. In Lake Village they provide Club Scrub for kids who want to go into health careers. This is done via zoom for 64 youths in McGee & Dermott. Also, in Lake Village, they are planning to have an innovative readiness training in June where the National Guard sets up a one to two-week field operations with free dental services, optometry, and medical care to anyone. In West Memphis, they are continuing with court mandated parenting over Zoom as well as nutritional education. They are currently working with Communities Unlimited and a representative from Well Fed to apply for funding for a food pharmacy focusing on diabetes. They are targeting 50 patients on a rolling basis for nine months. When they come into the clinic, they will receive a food prescription and education on what foods to purchase and how to prepare it. Also, they are working with UAMS Department of Cardiology on two grants that involve community health workers. One of the grants is using community health workers to go door to door and help citizens to get COVID-19 vaccinations and to practice healthy habits to prevent COVID-19. They are also continuing to work with UAMS Center for Rural Research on their diabetes education grant that is targeting families. The research study focus will provide information to see if diabetics are more compliant with their treatment plan if their families are receiving education simultaneously.

Chair Allen, asked if there were any other questions? There were none.

Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI, stated the ABI FY20 annual report was sent out to legislators during the session. He said that one key metric is the leverage factor for funding. They usually get \$10 to \$11 million per year, but even due to COVID they still had a good funding leverage for every dollar they received. For every dollar received, they leveraged \$4.31. This is an extra \$50 million in extramural funding. He stated that NIH has funded a program called National Resources colloquially called National Core Laboratories. There is one at Vanderbilt and there is also one at UAMS and Dr. Allen Tackett is the PI for this. NIH has awarded one of these to UAMS through Dr. Allen Tackett and the relationship he has established. Last month, they partnered with the Arkansas Research Alliance and Jerry Adams. They had a record attendance of over 250 attendees for a one-day conference.

Chair Allen asked if there were any questions? There were none.

Other Business	Chair Allen stated that the next meeting will be on July 1. She asked Matt Gilmore if they could plan to meet in person for the next meeting. Matt Gilmore stated that hopefully the COVID cases won't present any guidance changes and the Commission can meet in person.
Meeting Adjournment	Chair Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion and Vice Chair Tom Chilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11am.