



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021**

Commissioners Attending: Andrea Allen, Chair; Nick Fuller, Commissioner; Cristy Sellers, ADH Designee for Renee Mallory; Dr. Ken Knecht, Commissioner, Mary Franklin, Commissioner, Jim Hudson, Commissioner

Staff Attending: Matt Gilmore, ADH, Zsanica Ervin, ATSC

Guests: Becky Hall, William McCain, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy and Liz Gates UAMS-COA; Emily Lane, Rhonda McClellan, Jacquie Rainey, Janet Wilson, UCA, Joy Gray, TPCP; Leslie Humphries and Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI; Joe West, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General, Mark Williams, COPH; Este Frazier and Beatriz Mondragon, AMHC; Charles Saunders, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General

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 10:02 a.m. Matt Gilmore called the roll for the Commission members. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of April Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the July 14, 2021 minutes for the commission. Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Jim Hudson. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission’s July 14, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
Director’s Report Financial Report Treasury Report	Matt Gilmore stated that the Commission had hired Ms. Judy Zorn in the past to be the Administrative Specialist and that she had left in late August. Since then, he had hired Ms. Zsanica Ervin and she is on the call today. Zsanica Ervin introduced herself. Mr. Gilmore then went on to say she has been with the Commission for about a week and a half now. She is working closely with him and the Department of Health.

	<p>Matt Gilmore explained that the Commission is still moving along as far as the efforts and that there wasn't anything different or new to report since the last meeting. He began discussing the financial report and expenditure report. Matt Gilmore stated that the expenses are okay and well within the budget and appropriation levels. He stated that there weren't any changes. He also noted that there would be some savings due to Ms. Judy Zorn quitting and the down time between hiring Ms. Ervin.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated that the Treasury report was a couple of months old but still accurate. He explained that the investment income is pretty low and typical for what has been seen for the last few months. The investment income is at \$208.00 and very low, however; the Commission has a healthy fund balance of about 8 million dollars. He also reported that he presented the Biennial report that the Commission had approved at the last Commission meeting to the Public Health committee of the Legislature. He stated that it went fine but there were a few questions, nothing negative or concerning. The question was about the use of tobacco settlement dollars for other things within the state government. He explained that the programs rely heavily on these funds and don't get general revenue or other many other sources of funding. He mentioned that as of right now the Commission office location will stay where it is for the foreseeable future but will move to the ADH eventually. He stated that he would be happy to take any questions or provide any more information if needed. Chair Allen thanked Matt for the report and asked if there were any questions.</p>
<p>January- March 2021 Quarterly Report</p>	<p>Chair Allen stated that she thought it was a good quarterly report despite some of the challenges due to the pandemic. She asked if there were any questions or comments about the report. Matt Gilmore asked if anyone from UCA had any comments or anything they would like to say about the report. Emily Lane (UCA) replied, she didn't have anything in particular to say about this January-March report but later in the meeting, if she has a chance, she would like to discuss an upcoming qualitative report Chair Allen stated if there weren't any more questions, she would like to make a motion to approve the January- March 2021 Quarterly Report. Commissioner Mary Franklin made a motion and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The quarterly report was approved.</p>
<p>Indicator Updates</p>	<p>Janet Wilson-UCA (TPCP evaluator) reported that there have been some challenges in the pass with the Minority Research Center meeting indicator goals and that there are necessary changes needed to update some indicators. She mentioned the indicator change for face-to-face interventions with students and that this change was necessary because the MRC's focus is not on direct intervention at this time, and she proposed to delete those two indicators at this time. She stated that the remaining three indicators' changes are updating and modifications of the RFP indicator. She explained that the RFP Indicator has seen some success in the pass, but it was partial success, she also stated that this indicator supports three different research topics. The key change last year was there was no research support that dealt with Hispanic women tobacco usage. The change would be to update for this upcoming physical year to broaden the group to any minority group which could include Hispanics. Mrs. Wilson commented that she was sure that this would be supported but also to bring in an evaluation of the impact of Covid on this type of research.</p>

	<p>The other two are face to face meetings and opened editorials and the main shift here is to decrease the number that are expected from 6 to 3 in each one of them. She stated that they wanted to continue the activity but reduce the number. They wanted to continue with this indicator because there was some success in recent years, and they want to reset them lower to see if they can get some kind of success. Then in future years readdress the numbers and see if we can boost them back up again. She stated that she was opened for any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions. Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to approve the Indicator changes. Commissioner Mary Franklin made a motion to approve the changes and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The indicator changes were approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Joy Gray (TCPC) stated on November 5th they had the 3rd birthday for Be Well Arkansas, which is their call center that helps people stop smoking, and they are still the only state-run Tobacco Cessation call center in the nation. As of yesterday, they have enrolled 9,296 people into the program. She also stated they have hired two more new staff due to the call volume. They are expanding the program and have received interest from other states relating to how they did the model specifically and the way the program is actually working. Another one of their programs is Be Well Baby and they have a 10-call protocol call for pregnant women. The program allows them to have several vouchers for which they can earn. As of right now, there are 20 women enrolled in the program. They also just had their first graduate who has given birth and quit smoking. She stated that they were excited about it and they will keep going with this program, and they are promoting the program everywhere. She also mentioned they are in the final stages of developing a Cessation App which is aimed at kids 12-18 years old. The app will be able to be accessed on any smart phone and they are in the final stages of this program. They will start testing it soon. She stated they are also working on a prevention program for K-2 which does not exist at this time and they are having to create it due to prevention and cessation having to skewed down further. She explained there are a lot of things out there that they are having to create themselves because they don't exist. She stated they are excited to be working on the program and hopefully by the next meeting they will be able to show some demonstrations of these things. Chair Allen thanked her and stated it was a very good report. She then asked if there were any questions for Joy.</p> <p>Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated that she shared in the last recording that they were in the developmental stages of opening a Food Pharmacy and it still moving full speed ahead, they have named it Good Food RX. She explained that they have received funding for this program from the Arkansas Food Foundation for \$2,000, a UAMS Chancellor Circle grant for 24,000, and also written into the USDA Delta Health Care Service grant. They are also a part of the AR Drop Program and they have purchased them about 10,000 of refrigerated freezers, carts, signage and etc. as of today. She stated that she hopes they will open in January of 2022. She also reported that they are also working with Well Feed out of Little Rock and this program is headed up with Josh Harris. He will be purchasing the food which will be purchased from various food pantries. She mentioned they are working with Harding University nutritionist students who will be</p>

working this project and she was excited about this and hope in the next meeting she will have a report that they were open. She added that they are still offering Covid vaccinations, which are walk-ins that are available to anyone in the community, and they are doing Covid testing as well. They are offering Monoclonal Antibiotic Therapy, and they are the only clinic in the area providing this service. She stated they have expanded their virtual specialty clinic and are now offering Endocrinology, and Cardiology which will start in a couple of weeks for opioid addicted patient. Other virtual clinics are Allergy and Asthma as well as the HIV clinic. She explained they are participating in four research studies; one is the short and long-term impact of Covid-19, the pandemic of physical, psychological and social health of underrepresented minorities men and women. Another one focuses on diabetic education with the patient and a support person receiving diabetic education. This study's effectiveness will be measured by three months of glucose averages. The third study is a RO1 Food program study where there is home delivery of type two diabetes appropriate food boxes with evidence based educational material and recipes. The fourth is a movement study that works with individuals who has Parkinson's Disease. She stated they are still hosting fourth year medical students and offering the Mobile Mamo Van. They also offer Prostate Cancer screenings in Lake Village and Helena. She explained that they will be hosting the Blood Mobile in a couple of weeks. She added that they are back in the school during Kids for Health and continuing to go into the East Central Arkansas Community Correctional Facility where they have 45 women in enrolled in a child safety classes. They are also providing Educational Empowerment to them. Becky Hall asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Liz Gates (COPH) stated they were up for a re-accreditation from the Council on Education for Public health, and they will have a site visit in December. The site visitors review the colleges and verify that they are complying with the educational criteria. She also stated that they expect to be re-accredited, and the re-accreditation lasts for 7 years. She noted that they have received a million dollars from the USDA for Food Supply Safety Research focusing on antibiotic resistance in fresh vegetables going from farm to fork. They have also received funding from the National Institute of Minority Health Disparities in the amount of \$18 million dollars, which is a multiyear grant, to establish the Center for Research Health and Social Justice which will feed off work done before in the Arkansas Center for Health Disparity. This program started at the end of September. She added they brought on Cindy Lewis, who is the director of their office of Professional Development and Program Evaluation, she will be doing public health training and continue improvement, methods for employers, public health practitioners, community members, by offering a schedule of continuing education opportunities outreach and evaluations work either providing mentoring and guidance or doing the evaluation work itself through computation. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any question. Dr. Knecht wanted to know more about the Food Supply Safety program. She replied that the research team will be looking at specifically antibiotic resistance in fresh vegetables., They are also looking at the use of antibiotics in growing of vegetables and in the food place chain, what happens to them between getting harvested and getting to the grocery store, and then what

kind of impact the antibiotics will have, or resistance have on people who eat them and general public. She stated that she would be more than happy to get Dr. Knecht more information if he would like. Matt commented that if she had anything to share please feel free to and he would share it with the whole Commission. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there was anything else.

Dr. Bobby McGee (ABI) began by stating that their ABI annual report was underway, and he hopes by the next meeting he will have the report. He stated they had been looking forward to a major celebration for the 20th year symposium anniversary but had to cancel it due to Covid-19 He mentioned Dr. Brooks Gentry who was in the news and was awarded 14 million dollars for a Phase 2 study on an antibody drug that he and Dr. Mike Elwood developed to treat methamphetamine abuse, this is a first ever for methamphetamine. He added there are other major success with ABI investigators such as Brian Koss, a student who was doing a post-doctorate for the Cancer Institute and was awarded NIH Directors Transition Grant. There are only 13 of these grants given. He also stated this grant is for \$3 to \$4 million dollars over 5 years. He stated this was a first for Arkansas and quite an accomplishment. He highlighted that this year would cross the three quarter of a million dollars mark in leverage funds and they will be over 750 million in returned funds over the 20 years. He revealed that this will be Leslie Humphries last report because she is retiring, and Jan 31st would be her last day. She has been with UAMS for 20 years and the only person that has been associated with ABI. He stated he was happy for her but sadder for him. Chair Allen stated, she was happy for Leslie and she thanked Leslie for all of the work that she has done over the years and stated that she would be missed. Leslie commented, thank you very much. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions or comments for them. Emily from UCA then replied that she just wanted to congratulate Leslie on the retirement and thanked her for all her good quality communication over the years with the UCA team and for her to enjoy her retirement. Leslie Humphries thanked Emily. Chair Allen asked did anyone else have any question or comments.

Este Frazier (MHI) stated they hired a new coordinator. She came aboard at the end of May and are still in the process of hiring a new nurse. They have received CARES funding for mobile health units and also PPE. She noted they are still during print media and working with Fox 16 media, there has been more than 50,000 impressions that were recorded. She reported during this quarter they did 182 blood pressures screenings and 30 Cholesterol screenings that were provided to Arkansans by two sponsored outreach events. She stated that Southern Ain't Fried Sunday was now up and running with a new health specialist who has new ideas, new videos, and new ways of outreach. There are still not enough events, but they have registered quite a bit for Southern Ain't Fried Sunday. Also, for the Mobile Health Unit, they have purchased a platform for Covid-19 vaccine and testing. They have also been during regular screenings and prevention screening, such as blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, HIV and BMI. She explained that her team worked the southern part of the state because of the way the CARES funds were distributed and not many were getting vaccinated. She stated they had reached as many as they could. They have also been working in the north part of the state again with prevention screenings. Once Covid- 19 vaccine outreach

community begins again, they will start going back to the southern of part of Arkansas. Este Frazier asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked Este Frazier and then asked were there any questions. Dr. Knecht stated no, but he would like to thank her for being at the four front, getting back out and interacting with people and finding a way to do that as they work through this pandemic. Este Frazier replied, yes, it was a little difficult, but the CARES funding has facilitated for us to get the proper PPE and being able to work with the community health workers, which have been a help. She said it has been very successful and they are happy to be back out and seeing the community that needs these services. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Chair Allen asked if there was anyone from the Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program. Commissioner Mary Franklin replied, yes and begin explaining that the Tobacco Medicaid Expansion Program had four components. The four components include pregnant women, who would not have been eligible, before the Expansion was put in place, those pregnant women incomes are over 133% of the federal poverty level up to 200%. The second group are seniors 65 and up who are up to 80% of the federal poverty level. This coverage provides them with full range of Medicaid services. The third component is an expansion on the hospitalization for adults between 19 to 64. It reduces out-of-pocket co-pay for adults illegible for Medicaid who would have to pay on the first day of hospitalization and reduces their expense. The final group is a program with The Division of Developmental Disability Services. This is for individuals in the community. The Employment Support Waiver and the Tobacco Settlement Expansion covers the cost of 500 slots. They are able to serve additional people because of the funding. She added for the quarter they are reporting on currently, they were able to serve 12,727 individuals within the four groups, which is an increase from the 444 participants over the previous quarter. She stated with Tobacco Settlement funds they were able to leverage an additional \$16.5 million in federal Medicaid matching funds which pay medical expense for these individuals. Chair Allen thanked her and stated if there are no questions then we can move on to the Center on Aging.

Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (UAMS-COA) provided an update and stated over the last quarter they had over 10,000 encounters, which was a little down, but they are getting back out in person. They are all wearing mask and staying 6 feet and 12 feet apart with their physical activity program. She mentioned that the numbers are much smaller, but they are excited to be back. She explained that this year's focus is still on fall prevention, care giving and dementia, nonpharmacologic interventions of managing appropriate pain with older adults, and incorporating our physical activity into all of these areas. She reported they are also focusing on food insecurity and that the UAMS Center on Aging is very fortunate to be a part of the USDA grants. The Food insecurity program was established in 2015 and is for older adults. She pointed out that they are moving hard to move the needle. She stated that in previous reports such as in 2016, Arkansas was 50th in the nation and they are now 39th in the nation. They will be focusing on small groups and program outcomes and evaluations. She explained they were excited about measuring older adults with the process as well as the self-surveys. She mentioned they were seeing 48% reduction in Drums Alive. She

	<p>also stated they are focusing on comparing Tai chi data with the Drums Alive to see if there is any benefit of one over another. They are continuing to work with the Arkansas Department of Health with the Walk with Ease Program and received permission from the CDC prior to Covid. This program meets 3 times a week for 1 hour and they are exploring a hybrid model where they can meet when they can or online. They will also evaluate safety for older adults and put new guidelines in place if they are going to participate through Zoom, as well as if there is a total group that just needs online. She reported they are in the process of comparing data from the evidence-based program in reducing pain and helping older adults be as active as their age. The modality data is showing positive outcome with the evidence base program by delivering different modalities. She stated about 40% of older adults in rural areas don't have internet capabilities. They have been working with the College of Public Health with some of their students, and one of their students is currently evaluating their family care giver dementia workshop. The student is looking at the financial impact that this program could be saving on the State by teaching families how to care for their love ones with dementia, how to communicate with their health care provider. They are also tracking the basic skills in dealing with disrupted behaviors and trying to track ER visits, and hospitals re-admissions. She stated she is super excited about the study. She reported they have also been working with some faculty in the College of Public Health and they are helping set up some different ways they could better measure the financial impact that these programs have and or when they are having these positive outcomes in programming, how much money the State is saving by their programs that are improving health outcomes. She explained that they just started working with the State's Alzheimer's Dementia Disease Community Advisory Committee. The UAMS Institution on Aging and Centers on Aging are participating so that they can help set in structure a road map so that everyone will know how to access services as well as education for health care providers and students. This will improve the health and outcomes of older adults and families that are impacted with Dementia in the State. She added that she was happy to entertain any questions. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions for Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy.</p>
<p>Election of Commission Officers</p>	<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. Cristy Sellers, ADH Designee for Renee Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Andrea Allen was elected to continue to serve as chair.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>Chair Andera Allen asked if there was something else to discuss. Matt stated that Emily Lane wanted to make a statement. Emily stated that she wanted to remind the programs about the email she had recently sent out to them. They are doing a qualitative research report since it was the 20th Anniversary. Chair Allen reminded everyone about the upcoming the commission meeting dates and asked if anyone had any questions about the dates. There was no objection to the proposed dates.</p>

Meeting Adjournment	Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mary Franklin made a motion and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
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The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.