



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2022**

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

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

**Guests:** Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Emily Lane, UCA; Jimie Jarry and Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI; Este Frazier, Beatriz Mondragon, and Kenya Eddings; AMHC; Joy Gray, TCPC; Joe West, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General; Liz Gates, COPH

**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.
Review/Approval of July Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the July 13, 2022, minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Mary Franklin. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission’s July 13,2022 meeting minutes were approved.
Director’s Report  UCA Contract	Matt Gilmore began with the financial report and stated that the report was for the fiscal year that just ended. He stated that expenses are normal and that there haven’t been any major expenses for the Commission over this last fiscal year. He also stated that the Commission will eventually move to Markham which would then eliminate the rent amount that is currently shown on the financial report. He stated that he doesn’t have any concerns or any issues with the budget. He added if anyone had any questions or comments to please let him know. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions on Zoom. Matt Gilmore then went on to discuss the treasury report, he stated the income is better for this month at about \$63,000, and for this year it is still under \$100,000 for the whole year. He also stated that this is not good, but it has picked up some and there is a fund balance therefore he did not have any major concerns. He stated that he has spoken with the Treasurer’s office, and they are watching this closely and looking for other avenues. Chair asked if there were any questions for Matt Gilmore.

<p>Biennial Funding Recommendation</p>	<p>Next Matt Gilmore discussed the UCA Contract. He stated the contract was renewed for two years and became active in July, there was a question when it was presented before the Legislature Review Committee, regarding how the money was being spent, indicators, and was it a good use of funds. Matt Gilmore stated he discussed the Biennial Report and the Quarterly Reports with the Review Committee. He stated the Committee seemed satisfied and thinks the main concerns may have been for the public to see the effects of smoking and making sure the money was being used appropriately. There were no other questions. Matt Gilmore went on to state that he planned on presenting the Biennial Report at the next Public Health Committee meeting which will be in September due to the special session. They will not be meeting in August. He also added as far as legislative actions there is nothing of concern that he was aware of on funding or reports and no negative feedback. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions. Matt Gilmore next discussed the Biennial Funding recommendation and briefly explained this is done every two years before a general session of a legislature. He stated the Commission is required to submit a recommendation letter to the Governor stating the Commission believe that the programs are performing as they should and meeting their indicators. He then explained this is done by submitting a letter and the Biennial report to the Legislature and Governor. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Dr. Lochala. The recommendation was approved.</p>
<p>2020- 2021 Biennial Evaluation Report</p>	<p>Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the Biennial Evaluation Report. Emily Lane (UCA) stated about 70% of the indicators were met and COVID made a huge impact on these programs especially the Minority Health Commission, TPCP, and some of the others that focus on outreach. Emily Lane stated if you look at the last Annual Report and this Biennial Report you can see how the programs adjusted, offered new avenues to engaged with the community, and also came up with new innovative things that they will continue to use now. Emily Lane than went on to state that she thinks those things should be remembered and translated to the Legislature on how those programs have adapted, adjusted, and have become more resilient due to COVID. Emily Lane went on to highlight some of the main points in the Biennial Report. She stated in the Qualitative Report they were trying to reflect on the last 20 years of tobacco funds in the state. She mentioned that in the legislative meeting there were questions and suggestions about hearing directly from the programs and people on the ground actually doing the work. She stated they tried to use the voices from program leaders. Emily Lane then stated they reflected on what some of the major accomplishments have been over the 20 years. She also stated they included a</p>

	<p>discussion on how they have moved the needle in the state, and the data used was mostly CDC, some was from national and state agencies. In the end, she stated there is a brief discussion on policy. The American Lung Association put out a report on 20 years of Tobacco Control in Arkansas where the state received a grade. The state of Arkansas received on “F”. She stated this grade was related to tobacco taxes and funding. Emily Lane went on to state that there is a great need for additional policy the American Lung Association recommends. She is hoping that the legislature will see this. She explained that they are trying to show how they move the needle, how policy can help boost these great effects that are already happening so that they can continue to see health improvement. Emily Lane asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for the report asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Biennial Report. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion and Commissioner Mary Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The 2020- 2021 Biennial Report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Dr. Bobby McGee (ABI) began by discussing the ABI Annual Report, and he stated that he was very excited about the report. He then stated that the qualitative report that Emily Lane discussed was over the top and that he is very pleased with the report. He briefly discussed measures UAMS is taking to mitigate COVID-19. Dr. McGee explained that due to COVID within the last two years they haven’t been able to have their annual symposium, but it is set to happen this fall on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. He added the commissioners and programs are more than welcome to attend, it will be held in Fayetteville. He stated the CSI camp has been going on for about a year and it involves one of their 18-year ABI investigators from Arkansas State University, Maureen Dolan, who created the CSI camp. He stated in her camp, she worked with a group of seven students who majored in Biology, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical Engineering, that competed against other schools to develop an experiment to go up to the Space Shuttle, they chose two schools to move forward, Stanford and Arkansas State University. Dr. McGee asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked him for his report.</p> <p>Amy Leigh Overton-Mccoy (UAMS-COA) begin by stating this past quarter they had over 26,000 encounters and they are excited about it since COVID rates are still high, especially in older adults. She also stated they are doing about 2000 hours, either one on one in the community, caregiving hours or community encounters. She added for the entire year they did close to 50,000 encounters, around 8,000 hours and close to 1500 programs. Amy Leigh Overton-Mccoy stated they also hit every county in the state. She explained that in the Biennial Report it showed that they were still able to meet all of their indicators expect for one. It was their funding matching dollar for dollar. She stated they lost one of their major grants for</p>

caregiving, the Schmieding Foundation Home Caregiving grant. She stated because of COVID they weren't able to do a lot of the Schmieding Homecare giving, they weren't allowed to go into the long-term care facilities to continue the CNA program training. She also stated they are having to rebirth that program with the federal mandated vaccinations process. She added that this has been somewhat of a challenge, and they want to get the workforce back to where it needs to be in Arkansas. She then went on to state they are looking at re-vamping the program and doing more in homecare by providing services where it doesn't require them to be in long term care facilities while working more with home health and personal care aides. She added they have been talking with DHS and some home health respite type programs to see where they can better fit the needs to serve the state. She stated access to healthy foods is one of their indicators for the upcoming year and that she will be attending the White House Conference in September to look at food insecurity since Arkansas is now 39<sup>th</sup> in nation for senior hunger. She stated they will continue to focus on increasing physical activity across the state for older adults as well as mental wellbeing. She stated they will continue to focus on dementia but also social isolation. She stated social isolation has become a problem since COVID for older adults. She also added in recent research it predicted that COVID would force older adults to stop going to programs that they have just started and/or quit going to senior centers. She stated they recently created a road map with the Digital Health Institute and AAA, and they are trying to create ways to incorporate education on senior hunger, depression, and suicide. She stated they know food insecurity has a high correlation of depression and suicide among older adults and is often mis-diagnosed. She stated they are training Meals on Wheels volunteers and employees on how to identify, have conversations, make referrals and resources when communicating with older adults. She stated they are finding funds for I-Pads with cellular service versus broadband connectivity, so that they can make the connection with Arkansas Connect Now. She stated they are doing this so that they can offer free counseling services within the community that they hope would help address the issue, and also free educational services, other support services, and other communities' allocation. She stated they are focusing on first responders having the skill sets and the knowledge to interact appropriately with those impacted with dementia and they are currently training fire frighteners, police officers, volunteer firefighters, paramedics, and the Arkansas National Guard. She stated they are a part of a grant that is focusing on the delta area with the USDA. This grant is for training first responders in the delta area along with the community, nursing students and other workforce in the area. She stated they are co-creating a virtual reality service, and they are starting with search and rescue. This virtual reality service allows individuals to practice strategies in a safe environment, know what it is going to take, know how to practice these skills, and know how well they can do it before it becomes a crisis. She added once it's offered in the delta, they will be able to offer it statewide. She asked if anyone have 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 8,274 pregnant women, seniors, hospitalize adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. This is a 487 recipient decrease over the previous quarter. She stated TSMEP also leveraged \$18.3 million in federal matching funds. She explained that there was a decrease in two areas - pregnant women and hospitalizations. She stated during the public health emergency they are closing Medicaid cases for very few reasons. Some of the reasons they might close them are related to the client moving from the state, client request, or a deceased or incarcerated client. She also stated with the tobacco settlement dollars there is less movement because they are closing less cases. Mrs. Franklin stated the decrease in hospitalization isn't because they haven't served as many people. She stated tobacco settlement funding covers part of the first day of co-pay for Medicaid recipients, it covers 12% of that normal 22% co-pay of that first day of hospitalization for Medicaid recipients and they are not currently charging their clients for that first day co-pay. She added they are not charging tobacco settlement. 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 their best news is the re-accreditation by the Counsel of Education for another seven years. She stated the Master of Health Administration (MHA) was up for accreditation and their site visit is in November. She added they had 67 graduates at a recent graduation. She stated faculty member, En Huang received a patent for his development of lipopeptide. Lipopeptide has a big impact on antibiotic resistance. She stated if anyone would like more information about lipopeptide she would be more than happy to get that information for them. She stated there were some other faculty members who received rewards as well. Austin Porter, an assistant professor received the Governors Health Policy award from AMHC. Pebbles Fagan a professor and head of the Centers for the Study of Tobacco received the President's Award, Professor Nickolas Zaller and Brooke Montgomery received ROI award from NIH Research Project Grant Program to address structure racism and income with African American men who has recently been incarcerated or who may have or may not have been incarcerated. She stated 24% of their Arkansas students are from rural counties and they are steadily working on getting the percentage to go up by reaching out to different rural areas. She ended by stating Marie Walker, director of admissions has retired. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there are any questions.

Dr. Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated their Good Food RX program has been running for over a year. This program helps patients with diabetes, hypertension or other medical conditions to improve by eating healthy. Dr. Hall stated the participants will receive a prescription and will also see a health educator that will help them select appropriate foods, educational material, and receive cooking classes. She added the Good Food RX program is in their final stages with IRB (Institutional Review Boards) approval, and they hope they will be open by the fall. Dr. Hall stated their health coaches have been active this quarter with patients from their clinic and several others in town. She stated the city of Marianna is also referring to their clinic for nutrition counseling, smoking cessation and diabetes education. She stated the medical clinic is

doing well and has been in the black for four years. She stated their MASH Camp that is held during the summer for children that are interested in health careers was held in West Memphis and Dumas. The camp required the children to be vaccinated, however a lot of the children didn't want to be vaccinated which led to smaller and shorter camps. She added they have exciting news about a former MASH student who started the MASH program in kindergarten. The former MASH student was accepted in medical school this year at UAMS. She stated their exercise classes were continuing and has had a huge uptake in participation. Dr. Hall stated they are doing a partnership with the National League of Cities for a new project. The National League of Cities awarded 13 sites across the county to participate in their One Nation One Project Initiative. They will use art to improve health and will be coupling the two for a program presentation to improve the health of our community. She stated this program is sponsored by the director of Star Wars and the presentation will be next summer. She stated their Mobile Food Pantry is partnering with USDA to distribute dental hygiene kits into the community and their Healthy Smiles Initiative finished strong this year with providing dental and personal hygiene supplies to 1700 youth in the county. She stated they offered parenting class, car seat safety and diabetes education in the correctional facility in West Memphis. They also installed 11 car seats and educated parents on the correct installation of car seats. Dr. Becky Hall asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Joy Gray (TCPC) stated they recently had an event to celebrate having 10,000 enrollees in Be Well Arkansas. Be Well Arkansas has been in operation since 2018 and it is the first and only state operated cessation call center in the country. There are currently over 11,000 enrollees. She stated they have 90 women in the Be Well Baby program for pregnant smokers. They have a ten-call protocol instead of the standard four call protocol. She stated the women receive vouchers for diapers and wipes, and they can enroll themselves or go to their local WIC office. She stated they will need proof of pregnancy. She added they are looking for ways to make enrollment easier, faster, and to increase their enrollment and they will be doing more advertising for red counties with higher pregnancy and smoking rates. She stated they are still working on their Cessation App, and she hopes it will be up and running before school starts. The app can be used on an Apple or Android phone. She stated the app is different from anything else that is out there because it not lesson based like the other apps. This app is basically a quit book in an app format. She stated they are working on a youth prevention program for K-12. She stated Arkansas was featured in the National Conference on Tobacco Health in New Orleans. She stated they used their 30 and 15 second generic spots testimonial videos. These videos can be found in the CDC library and any state in the country can now see them or use them. She stated she had multiple Zoom meetings and meetings with people from around the country that wanted to talk to her about their program. She added that some states are interested in doing their own call center in the near future. She ended by stating they have recently remodeled the call center area and if anyone would like to take a tour after the meeting, she would be more

	<p>than happy to show them. Joy Gray asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>Beatrice Mondragon (MHI) began by stating their mobile health unit has covered 40 counties, has done 2,852 screenings, referred 32 people to primary care providers, or Mobile Clinic and any other services that they need. She added they follow-up with their clients on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> of the month after their initial visit, and they don't just refer them and leave them on their own. She stated sponsorships provided 1,494 screenings. She stated Southern Ain't Fried Sunday had 39 participants and has impacted 10 counties of the state. She stated their equipment loan program impacted three counties and completed 95 screenings. She explained they had some challenges because of COVID, and they haven't been seeing people on the mobile health unit but hope to transition back on to the unit soon to service communities. She stated the mobile health unit is currently going through repairs and it is taken longer than they expected due to parts being on back order. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.</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.