

**Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2020**



**Commissioners Attending:** Dr. John Henderson, Chair; Tom Chilton, Vice Chair; Andrea Allen, Commission Executive Committee Member; Nick Fuller, Commissioner; Dr. Ken Knecht, Commissioner; Renee Mallory, Commissioner; Jerri Clark, Commissioner

**Staff Attending:** April Robinson, Administrative Specialist

**Guests:** ShaRhonda Love, MHI; Stephanie Loveless, UAMS East; Charles Saunders, Assistant Attorney General; Mark Williams, COPH; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Liz Gates, COPH; Emily Lane, UCA; Joy Gray, TPCP; Leslie Humphries, ABI; Ruthie Brown, TS-MEP; Denise Demers, UCA; Betty Hubbard, UCA; Janet Wilson, UCA; Jacquie Rainey, UCA; Julie Chavis, Assistant Attorney General; Cristy Sellers, ADH; Matt Gilmore, ADH

**Minutes Recorder:** April Robinson

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to Order/Quorum/ Introduction of Attendees	Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 10 am. Chair Henderson asked April Robinson to call the roll for the Commission members. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of February Minutes	Chair Henderson asked for a motion to approve the February minutes. Commissioner Renee Mallory made a motion to approve and Commissioner Ken Knecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The February meeting minutes were approved.
Director's Report	Chair Henderson asked Denise Demers to go over the indicator changes for MHI. They decided to make two overall changes. They moved the second short-term indicator to a long-term objective because it is a catch all for the short-term indicators. Also, it is the most robust and shows the programs progress each year. They changed the language to quote "raise" the awareness and clarify the way the indicator is being measured. To move all the long-term indicators to the short-term objectives. They are more directly related to the objective as written. They have prioritized health programs and appropriate screenings. Each short-term indicator will have a slight wording modification because increasing each indicators awareness by 1% annually is an unsustainable goal. There is fluctuation in funding and resources each year. It

is more reasonable to set a goal to maintain a robust number of health screenings and educational encounters. They chose the 10% number because the other programs are doing the same thing.

Chair Henderson stated he was confused about the within 10%. Should it read the goal should be within 90%.

Denise Demers responded it will be between 90% and 110%.

Tom Chilton said he understands what she meant, but you could read it either way.

Jacque Rainey said you may want to insert between a 10% variation.

Chair Henderson said it would make it clearer.

Tom Chilton stated you are changing the long-term ones to be within that 10% variance and the long-term is still to increase the total number of screens and services required.

Emily Lane stated there was no number or specific metric term. It had the blanket word increase and it was unsustainable. Since the funds fluctuate, it made more sense to raise awareness than to increase awareness. We wanted to make sure they have attainable goals.

Chair Henderson asked if there were any other questions about the MHI indicators.

Chair Henderson asked Janet Wilson to speak on the TPCP indicator changes. All the changes allow them to reset the goals to be at the end of the fiscal year 2021. For TPCP, three of the key changes are an increase in the number of educational presentations being made to the public and policy makers. This coming fiscal year there will be a focus of youth in high risk counties where they have the lowest health. The Be Well Call Center will focus on those who quit instead of the calls received. The bulk of the changes are with UAPB. For the Graduate Addiction Studies Program (GASP) they moved away from counting the number of students they have to the effectiveness of their program through an alumnus survey this fiscal year. For Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office (MISRGO) is more effectively look at the technical assistance they provide for the stakeholders to help them reduce tobacco related disparities. Instead of having three separate indicators doing the same thing, they are going to have one indicator. For the Minority Research Center (MRC), they will focus on minority students in middle school as well as African American male college students. They are dropping the measures for the town hall meetings and newspaper editorials because those were originally tied in with the creation of the casino in Jefferson County.

Chair Henderson asked for TPCP's first indicator, should they add implementing smoke free policies as another point of education.

Janet Wilson asked Joy is they were good with adding that.

Joy Gray responded they are happy to engage with communities if they ask them first because they have to be careful not to start the conversation around policy.

Janet Wilson said she will add to the indicator providing information on implementing smoke free policies.

Chair Henderson agreed that will work.

Tom Chilton stated he liked the change with the second indicator to decrease the goal to make it closer to where they are.

Chair Henderson asked if they need to add keeping quarterly reports and the number enrolled on the Be Well indicator. Janet Wilson asked if Chair Henderson wanted a count of how many people are calling and enrolling. Chair Henderson responded yes. Janet Wilson asked Joy Gray if they could do that. Joy Gray responded it was very doable. Janet Wilson stated she will add to the proposed indicator how many people are calling and enrolling at the same time. Andrea Allen stated she had the same question and appreciate Chair Henderson bringing it up. Chair Henderson stated he is concerned they will no longer have the Baby Be Well Program indicator as for right now when getting pregnant women to stop smoking has not been successful. Janet Wilson stated right now the program is not in place and running. They have no data to report. She asked Joy if there was an indication of when it would be up and running. Joy Gray stated it has been canceled because of the pandemic. They hope to get it up and running by June or July. Janet Wilson asked if Chair Henderson would prefer to leave the existing indicator and talk quarterly about the stage of the program. Chair Henderson stated he would be more comfortable with maintaining the indicator where it is until the new vendor is on board. Janet Wilson stated to continue to get your quarterly reports about where the program is. Chair Henderson responded yes. Emily Lane asked Janet if they will need to change the year or make it more general and not have a specific date timeline. Janet Wilson stated let's do by June 2021, so it matches with the proper short-term goal date. Right now, it says to select a vendor to implement the Be Well Baby Program. It sounds like the vendor has been selected. Joy Gray responded yes. Janet Wilson stated how about we say, provide quarterly updates on the progress of the Be Well Baby Program. Joy Gray stated yes, we can do that. Janet Wilson stated it will change, but now it will reflect quarterly updates and next year they will have some information about what the goals will be. Janet thanked Emily. Chair Henderson stated he understands dropping the three existing indicators for GASP, with the proposed indicator is there a way to measure the effectiveness of this indicator. Can we quantitate anything there? Janet Wilson to see what the outcome of it is. Chair Henderson stated it just says we are going to develop the survey, but not about how we are going to use it. Emily Lane asked if they could have a number for a response rate they might hope to get. Trying to get information from alumni is difficult. Janet Wilson stated she does not know if they will do this in the fall or next spring and it will impact the changes they make during the fiscal year.

Jacquie Rainey stated you might just leave it as is. At each quarter you could report how it is going in terms of the process of formulated questions and pilot testing. By the end of it you would have a fully developed survey and let people know what is happening with the process of survey development.

Janet Wilson stated she like that and it would take some time to get it developed. She will add a statement at the end of the indicator about quarterly reports will be provided discussing the progress on the survey.

Chair Henderson asked do they want to leave anything in there about the size of the program or how many people are enrolled.

Janet Wilson stated they will need to make this indicator a new one of quarterly reports on where they are this fiscal year. Next year they will want to see the changes they made. Then take the three indicators and make a quarterly report of incoming and graduating students plus the stipends they receive. Keep this information and give a status report of their enrollment.

Chair Henderson stated that would be good.

Janet Wilson stated instead of three indicators, it would be an indicator that shows the status of the students for the academic year. Once the alumni survey has been administered, they will look at the outcome.

Chair Henderson stated the last indicator for GASP sounds vague. Instead of saying assessing interest, maybe something about the number of programs or students enrolled. Need something more specific.

Janet Wilson stated to be clearer, GASP faculty will identify programs interested in initiating tobacco prevention curriculum for juvenile justice. So, rather than assessing the interest, they are identifying the programs. Then this allows them to step forward into how they can work with those programs.

Chair Henderson stated he thinks that will be good.

Chair Henderson read MISRGO's first indicator and asked if they trying to quantitate improvement or will this be a report.

Janet Wilson responded in the past neither of the three indicators had a number or goal to work with. They gave an account in their quarterly reports. They don't have a goal number they have worked with in the past.

Chair Henderson read MRC's third indicator and asked why is it focused only on large cigars and not make it a an indicator for tobacco products.

Janet Wilson stated she could not answer why there is not a broader focus. She will ask them why that particular focus.

Chair Henderson stated they should broaden it to tobacco use.

Janet Wilson stated she would change it.

Chair Henderson stated he had a question about how the last indicator for MRC relates to just casinos.

Janet Wilson responded their open editorials did not always just deal with casinos. That is how they had used it quite a bit. They requested those indicators be dropped.

Chair Henderson stated he didn't know how tie in tobacco industry advertising in minority communities to casinos or having open editorials about the evils of smoking and how it's related to casinos. Why would it not be good to have those efforts. Can someone explain this to me.

Janet Wilson asked if Joy remembered anything else about that.  
Joy Gray stated she doesn't have any recollection and they are their own entity. She knows they do not want to do anything casino related because they are a partner with them now. She thinks they can probably still do things to talk about the dangers of smoking without relating it to casinos. She doesn't know their rationale for wanting to delete the indicator.

Chair Henderson asked if they received funding from us.  
Joy Gray responded yes.

Chair Henderson stated still having town hall meetings about tobacco advertising and open editorials in the newspaper about tobacco problems are not bad things to do.

Janet Wilson asked if Chair Henderson wanted her to follow up with them to see if they have any plans to do these things over the next fiscal year. She will follow up with the Commission.

Andrea Allen stated if Janet follows up, we would not be voting today.

Janet Wilson asked if they could approve the others and leave this one out.  
Chair Henderson stated they could approve the others.

Chair Henderson asked if there were any more questions about TPCP indicators.

Chair Henderson asked Betty Hubbard to speak about the indicator changes for ABI.  
Betty Hubbard stated they have three indicator changes. The existing indicator be eliminated because the remaining indicators for this objective provide insight into the overall programs goal. ABI's indicators have not been changed since the program's inception. As the program has progressed there have been some changes in the focus and the measure in the outcome of the program.

Chair Henderson asked if anyone has any questions about the indicator changes for ABI.  
Andrea Allen asked if they would no longer measure the number of startup enterprises at all.  
Betty Hubbard responded that is correct. The program primarily focusses on obtaining funding and then conducting research. It was felt the ability to count starting enterprises and partnerships was no longer applicable.

Emily Lane stated the term being used, icing on the cake, sometimes business startups can be generated from the research that is being done, but it is not the goal of the program. If this happens, they can be reported on in other parts of the Evaluation Report.

Chair Henderson asked if there were any other questions about the ABI indicators.

Chair Henderson asked for a motion to approve all indicators except the MISRGO indicator they are going to follow up on. Commissioner Ken Knecht made a motion and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The indicators were approved.

Chair Henderson discussed the treasury and financial reports for February and March. The expenses continue to be

	<p>below budget. The stock market has caused a drop in funding for the Tobacco Pool.  Chair Henderson asked if Charles Saunders had any comments about the treasury report.  Charles Saunders stated no, but he can tell us how much the MSA payment will be this year.  Chair Henderson asked how much.  Charles Saunders responded \$53 million if every pays.  Chair Henderson stated so it has not dropped much.  Charles Saunders stated it dropped quite a bit because the volume of cigarette sales dropped. There was a 7% overall drop.  Chair Henderson asked how much the payment was last year.  Charles Saunders said it was \$55 last year.  Chair Henderson asked if there were other questions or comments about the treasury report.</p>
<p>July-September 2019  Quarterly Report</p>	<p>Chair Henderson presented the quarterly report. Chair Henderson stated it is quite thorough. The number of indicators met on the last page is at 95%. It is important to note a lot of TPCP’s indicators are in progress and being revised.  Chair Henderson asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the quarterly report.  Chair Henderson asked for a motion to approve the quarterly report. Commissioner Tom Chilton made a motion and Commissioner Andrea Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The quarterly report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI) stated they have had to reschedule everything due to the pandemic. Their 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Summit has been rescheduled with a projected date of October 15<sup>th</sup> for the reception and October 16<sup>th</sup> for the Summit. They are still finalizing dates with venues and once finalized the new dates will be sent out. For their Minority Health Workforce Diversity Scholarships, they were able to provide 14 full time scholarships this spring semester and 18 scholarships for the fall semester. Camp ICAN is on hold because their community partners are not sure what the summer will look like. As it gets closer to the time, they will decide which cities will hold the camps. They are planning to open their sponsorships applications on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. That is usually for activities from July to December, but they are going to put a note as it relates to the pandemic if someone wants to schedule them later in the year, they will honor any rewards throughout the fiscal year.  Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Love for her report.</p> <p>Mark Williams (COPH) stated because of the pandemic they have asked by UAMS and Department of Health to assist with several activities related to contact tracing and surveying the Arkansas population. They are doing an employee assessment of those who have been sent home because they have screened positive for Covid-19. They are calling them periodically and asking them to respond to a series of questions. Then those questions are put into a dashboard and reviewed by the infectious disease physicians. This lets them decide if the employee may return to work. They are also calling individuals who have screened positive for Covid-19. This is for persons who have shown up for mobile triaging. They call them with at least three days after screening positive to see if they need to see a physician, if they are following quarantine practices, and if they have tested positive. They are doing contact tracing for people who have</p>

screened positive at UAMS. That is to determine whether the people they have been in contact with for more than 15 minutes at a time in the past two weeks are likely to screen positive. Eventually with the Supply Chain survey is to bring homeless shelters in the Little Rock area and further out to see if they have adequate supplies to handle requests in the future. They are about to begin a Pulse Poll. This means they will be sampling random Arkansans every two weeks to assess their health, food, and financial security. Eventually this will become a cohort study in which they will follow up a random sample of individuals who respond to the Pulse Poll for up to a year. This will allow them to assess how people in rural areas versus urban areas are handling the pandemic and the aftermath of the pandemic. This also involves a 65-phone call center for the state of Arkansas.

Chair Henderson stated that sounds good and asked if there were any questions and thanked Dean Williams for his report.

Leslie Humphries (ABI) stated they have had a slowdown. Many researchers can work from home. UAMS has cancelled their summer student program. She will be checking with different campuses about their summer student program. Dr. Mei Ho has recently decided to use the remainder of her ABI funds to fund any Covid related research. They had about 26 grant submissions to come in. She is anxious to see if ABI can help with Covid research. Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Humphries for her report.

Joy Gray (TPCP) stated they had to halt some approvals for the Evaluation report because of the pandemic. Be Well has been promoted during the press conferences. They just sent some Be Well cards over to the UAMS system. Be Well Baby is still on hold and as soon as traveling can begin, they will get that up and running. They have seen an increase in online enrollment. This speeds up the counseling process. The TIPS campaign should roll out next week. This will increase their call volume.

Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Gray for her report.

Stephanie Loveless (UAMS-East) stated some of their programs have come to a complete halt. Their non-essential outreach staff was sent home March 20<sup>th</sup>. Since then they have been concentrating on the citywide Covid screenings. They are trying to get the word out about the screenings. Their first screening was about 120 screening and 30 tested from that event. The next one is this Friday. They have worked with their local agency and bio-tech to secure some hand sanitizer for their home health agencies. Their work has been in prevention efforts for Covid-19. They held their Day in Life events in three different locations. Over 30 students attended each site. They worked with UAMS and COPH for their FRESH project. They were the speakers for their Go Red Coffee and Conversations held at their local library in Helena. They partnered with the local Delta Sorority for Go Red for an event called Delta Moves for Heart Awareness in February. Over 40 women attended. The clinic is still functioning. They saw 1,000 patient visits and 64 days of clinic in the last quarter. The staff is utilizing tele-medicine for newly diagnosed HIV patients. They had a health education intern student. The outreach staff is doing a great job at staying in touch with patients.

	<p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Loveless for her report.</p> <p>Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (COA) stated they have been trying to use time intentionally. They are reaching out to the community with different technology. They have had several Facebook live sessions. They are continuing to work in several of their programs. They are moving extremely fast to get Walk with Ease ready for community. They just received the funds to start a new center in the Delta. They are being very strategic in moving ahead in this process. They are working with other clinics to help older adults see their doctors through tela-health.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Overton-McCoy for her report.</p> <p>Ruthie Brown (TS-MEP) stated they provided expanded access to health benefits and services to 4,916 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalized adults, and persons with developmental disabilities during this quarter. This is an increase of 63 recipients over the previous quarter. The program leveraged \$8.8 million in federal Medicaid Matching Funds from October to December 2019.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Brown for her report.</p> <p>Chair Henderson complimented everyone on adapting to the pandemic.</p>
Other Business	<p>Chair Henderson asked if any had any new business.</p> <p>Chair Henderson announced the upcoming meeting dates July 8<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated he appreciates all of the programs. April is doing a great job too. It's a weird time, but people are coming together to get things done. The fiscal session starts today at noon. The Tobacco Settlement Commission Appropriation Bill is a stand alone and he expects no problems. Some of the other programs funded by tobacco dollars have appropriation bills too. We will try to watch them and get with April if we have any problems. He appreciates the Commission approving the report and we will get it turned in. He appreciates the Commissioners and the Programs.</p> <p>Chair Henderson thanked Matt for his comments.</p>
Meeting Adjournment	<p>Chair Henderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tom Chilton made a motion and Commissioner Andrea Allen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am