

**Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2020**



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

**Staff Attending:** April Robinson, Public Health Section Chief I

**Guests:** ShaRhonda Love, MHI; Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Liz Gates, COPH; Emily Lane, UCA; Joy Gray, TPCP; Leslie Humphries, ABI; Matt Gilmore, ADH; Kassidy Rankin, Governor’s Office; Kristy Hayes, TS-MEP; Bobby McGehee, ABI

**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 July 8 <sup>th</sup> minutes. Commissioner Andrea Allen made a motion to approve with grammatical corrections and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The July meeting minutes were approved.
Director’s Report	Chair Henderson discussed the financial report. The expenses continue to go down. We are well below budget. April has moved to a position under ADH (Arkansas Department of Health). Her salary for the last two months has not come out of the Commission’s budget. That has reduced the expenses as well. Chair Henderson asked Matt Gilmore if the ADH will charge April’s salary back to the Commission. Matt Gilmore stated maybe doing a once a year withdrawal from the Commission. April’s duties also involve working with several other boards and commissions whom have no staff. Most of her time will be comprised of those duties. If

	<p>ADH does charge the Commission for anything, it will be very minimal. It will be based on the amount of work and which board or commission is requiring the work. The Commission will continue to save money in that area.</p> <p>Chair Henderson stated right. He said one of the major continuing expenses is the rental of the office on Main Street. Eventually the office will be closed and the operations will be moved to ADH.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated that is correct. ADH is moving some of the boards and commissions into ADH owned spaces to save them expenses. The lease for the Commission expires in June of next year. They are gradually transitioning the different boards and commissions into ADH space.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if the date is indefinite.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore replied yes sir.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if anyone had any questions about the expenses.</p> <p>Chair Henderson discussed the treasury report. Due to the changes in the stock market, our investment income is down considerably.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if anyone had any questions about the treasury report.</p> <p>Chair Henderson discussed the results of the Arkansas Legislative Audit for the Commission. There were no findings. We passed the audit with flying colors. We thank April for those results.</p>
<p>January-March 2020 Quarterly Report</p>	<p>Chair Henderson stated the report is excellent. He read a part of the summary of the report that gives us an overlook of the report. Indicators have been revised for the Minority Research Center (MRC) and the Graduate Addictions Study Program (GASP). It is expected at the end of the fiscal year to see a better report of these indicators to show they are improving with the revisions.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if anyone had any questions about the report.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked for a motion to approve the January-March 2020 Quarterly Report.</p> <p>Commissioner Tom Chilton made a motion to approve and Commissioner Andrea Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The January-March 2020 Quarterly Report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI) stated they hosted their Biennial Minority Health Summit on October 16th and broadcasted by AETN. Over 300 people registered for the summit. Their keynote speaker was Judge Glenda Hatchett. They received great feedback from the summit. MHI has been able to participate and provide support for Cares Proposals for the Northwest Arkansas Council to provide testing, contact tracing, and resources for their minority population. They received Cares Funding to support their mobile health unit as well as the mobile health unit at ASU (Arkansas State University) through NYIT (New York Institute of Technology). Ms. Love stated they are currently scheduling activities for Covid testing during November and December targeting the Delta region and southern counties. Their annual legislative report has been finalized. A copy will be mailed to each of the Commissioners and programs. They partnered with 113 organizations in 66 of the 75 counties. MHI provided over 16,000 screenings and 18,000 health education encounters. They will be releasing their Minority Health Scholarship this month. They were able to fund 13 scholarships last year and hope to fund more this year. Ms. Love stated they currently have their January - June</p>

sponsorship application on their website. The deadline is November 15th. The next commission meeting is January 24th.

Commissioner Knecht asked if the scholarships they give out are for students pursuing careers in healthcare broadly. Ms. Love replied yes.

Commissioner Knecht asked, do you know the different representatives? Is it primarily nurses, lab techs, APRN's (Advanced Practiced Registered Nurse)?

Ms. Love responded they produce an annual report and they have a legislative mandate to look at health related professions within the state. Specifically looking at the diversity, gender, age, and race. The report is currently on their website. They are currently working to update it for the past year. It looks at fields of dentistry, clinical practitioners, physicians, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and many other fields of health professions.

Chair Henderson stated your scholarship supports just about every aspect of health profession.

Ms. Love responded correct.

Commissioner Knecht responded great. Thank you very much.

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

Joy Gray (TPCP) stated any presentations have been moved to Zoom and Microsoft Teams. They have worked on shifting everything they do to virtual. Schools have still been requesting information. TPCP is creating literature around Covid-19 and smoking. If you are a smoker, Covid-19 is worse. They are making sure their messaging reflects the message of ADH with social distancing. TIPS campaign just ended. It was not aggressive in the beginning, but has gotten more aggressive. They enrolled 50 to 65 people a week. During the TIPS campaign it was around 90 people per week. Their evaluation document for data for their quit rates is still going through the approval process. TPCP is taking insurance patients now. Individuals are served regardless of their insurance status. They are looking to do some targeted work over the next year focusing on the red counties and some of the minorities in the communities of those counties as part of their CDC grant.

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

Liz Gates (COPH) stated since July they have hired four faculty members. They have two faculty members coming to Epidemiology in the spring. They have submitted grants on a multiple of things from opioids to Covid testing. They have a community network driven Covid-19 testing among vulnerable populations in the U.S. For their current projects, they have a tobacco cessation treatment project with All Payer Claims Database to look at the utilization and prescription patterns for Medicaid enrollees. The latest one is the Disparities and Immune response on Covid-19 in Arkansas. That is their Zero Prevalence Study where they make random calls to ask individuals if they can take a blood sample. Then it is tested to determine if the person has Covid-19 antibodies. They are testing to see prevalence in Arkansas. A new Modeling Predictions report comes out this afternoon pertaining to where Covid-19 is going long-term or short-term. The information will be located on their website around 3pm every two weeks. In that report, they

have started talking about their Pulse Poll. It is a random digit dial telephone poll assessing Arkansans views on the pandemic. It is intended to capture a random sample of adults in Arkansas. The results are weighted on age versus gender. As of two weeks ago, they have had 7,700 responses. Ms. Gates thinks they are aiming to reach over 10,000, but that may have changed recently. All of their courses are fully online this semester. Some courses require community engagement and the faculty are finding ways to help the students through community partners. Chair Henderson asked are you all doing Covid testing on the vulnerable population. Ms. Gates responded yes, with some of the projects Covid testing involved. They have a contracted organization that goes out to do the testing. They are working with other departments at UAMS to determine where testing should be done or if it is being done in those populations. Chair Henderson asked what is the purpose of the phone survey? Ms. Gates responded the purpose of the survey is to assess Arkansans views on the pandemic. They ask questions to see what that person is facing in their town, like access to medications or physicians or food, versus someone else in another town. It goes beyond that, but they want to get a perspective from different areas of Arkansas. Chair Henderson asked if there were any more questions and thanked Ms. Gates for her report.

Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (COA) stated in spite of the pandemic, they have been able to reach 34,460 older adults in the past quarter. They have found out these older adults are interested in learning more about technology. They have acquired funding to continue to be able to host technology based classes for older adults. They are offering some in person programs, but it is more geared toward their para-professionals. They have officially opened their Delta Center on Aging with the partnership of the UAMS East regional program. This helps to increase Geriatrics expertise in that rural setting. Services should start in the next month. They will have one staff member, a part-time nurse practitioner, with secured money from the King Foundation. COA is doing a qualitative study of all COA programs across the state to measure impact of Covid. They are partnering with COPH (College of Public Health) to do an evaluation of an outcome of a pilot program they have created, called Success. It focuses on one on one caregiving coaching across the state to increase resources for caregivers across the state. They have some pilot data they are working on with COPH to see if their program really reduces the burden and stress. They have secured additional funding to make sure caregivers have the Lending Library. COA has some drive thru test locations set up at their sites. Dr. Angie Norman is still a champion with long-term care facilities. They are working with different colleges to make sure students are able to obtain their geriatric content.

Chair Henderson stated it sounds like you all have a lot going on despite the limitations we all have to work under and that is very good.

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

Bobby McGehee (ABI) stated they had to cancel their annual Fall Symposium. They are working on their annual report. ABI leveraged \$4.31 for every tobacco dollar received. The investigators generated \$49.47 million dollars last

year. Their leveraged amount is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the last decade and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest since their initial year in 2002. Next year will be their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are two and half years into the five year agreement with the True State collaboration with the Arkansas State of Improvement and the Arkansas Insurance Department for the All Payers Claims Database. Right now they have over 30 active projects. They now have four manuscripts and 17 extramural grants have been awarded because of this agreement. They have 15 ABI investigators who have specifically generated a lot of projects focused on Covid. They will be highlighted in the annual report. One investigator, Dr. Alan Tackett, a professor in Biochemistry, has received an \$11 million dollar grant to establish a proteome core for the entire country. It will be long-term supported by NIH (National Institutes of Health).  
Chair Henderson stated it's really exciting to hear about Dr. Tackett and his accomplishments.  
Dr. McGehee responded yes, we are very excited for Alan.  
Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Dr. McGehee for his report.

Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated they have moved to the same EMR (electronic medical records) system as UAMS. They saw 152 patients last month. This is down due to the Epic Implementation Team requested they decrease our patient load for two weeks. They have expanded their hours at the clinic. They are now open from 7am to 5pm. They are providing rapid Covid-19 testing. As part of the Covid-19 initiative, UAMS has been providing food for staff and patients that may have Covid. They have several sacks of food at their clinic to distribute to patients who might need it. They are also working with Cooperative Extension service to provide a mobile food pantry. The county is donating a trailer and a driver. Fresh produce will be delivered through this pantry and periodically other supplies from UAMS. They were just awarded a partial million dollar grant for digital health training from the United States Department of Agriculture. They will have a training site at the clinic. Their Families Diabetes Self-Management Education Among Diverse Populations Grant is underway. This grant will be studying the effectiveness of providing family education to the diabetics rather than one on one education. This spring they will host an Arkansas State University health education major. The student will do her preceptorship training with them. In collaboration with a local junior college they have tested 130 individuals for Covid. They have started using Zoom for a lot of their programs. They had about 2,300 encounters at their fitness center from July to September. They are trying to decide whether to close the fitness center with the recent increase in Covid cases.  
Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Ms. Hall for her report.

Kristy Hayes (TS-MEP) stated for the quarter of April-June, provided expanded access to healthcare benefits and service for 12,894 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalized adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. Via the Pregnant Women Expansion program, hospital benefit coverage, Arkansas seniors, and also the community and employment supports waiver. This is a decrease of 1,090 recipients over the previous quarter. The Medicaid Expansion Program also leveraged \$13.6 million in federal Medicaid matching from April to June 2020. This also has a significant impact on health costs and health outcomes for the state. The Pregnant Women's Expansion program, it

	<p>individually served 1,460 pregnant women with incomes at 133% to 200% of the federal poverty level. This is an increase of 23 individuals from the previous quarter. The hospital benefit coverage provided inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to 5,819 adults, age 19 to 64, which is a decrease from the previous quarter. DHS (Department of Human Services) has been working to resolve some reporting issues for this population and believe the numbers for this quarter will more accurately reflect the number of individuals who recovered under this hospital benefit group. The Arkansas Seniors program provided Medicaid coverage to 5,179 seniors during this quarter. This is a decrease of 488 recipients from the previous quarter. A total of 436 individuals received services in the tobacco settlement funded community and employment support waiver program operated by Division of Developmental Disability Services during this quarter.</p> <p>Chair Henderson stated it is certainly an important program to the overall Tobacco Settlement programs to extend these services to people.</p> <p>Kristy Hayes responded yes it is because we provide a lot more coverage with this Tobacco Settlement program. Chair Henderson asked if there were any question and thanked Ms. Hayes for her report.</p> <p>Chair Henderson made comments about Covid-19 in White County. They have 20 to 30 cases a day. They have had three deaths in the last 24 hours. They have 25 people in the hospital now.</p> <p>Commissioner Mallory stated they are seeing the numbers go up exponentially. They have no seen a break in numbers in the last two weekends. They are working with hospitals to make sure they stay informed in the usage of beds in ICU (Intensive Care Unit) as well as regular beds. The numbers keep going up and they are doing their best with the contact tracing and the case investigations. There have been issues with getting contact information and getting people to answer the phone. They are also actively working on the vaccine plan now in Arkansas.</p> <p>Chair Henderson responded very well.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions and thanked Commissioner Mallory for the Covid update.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked Ms. Rankin from the Governor’s office if she had any comments.</p> <p>Ms. Rankin responded thank you for all the hard you all have put in this year. She knows it has been difficult adapting. They are very appreciative for the work that is done.</p> <p>Chair Henderson thanked Ms. Rankin for being on the call for the meeting today.</p>
Other Business	<p>Chair Henderson asked if any had any new business.</p> <p>Chair Henderson announced the proposed upcoming meeting dates for 2021 are February 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and November 10<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Chair Henderson stated at the last meeting he was going to resign at the end of this year. He stated it has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Commission. He thinks it is very important work. He will be available to whomever his successor is to assist them in any way he can. He is thankful for the opportunity to serve.</p>

Election of Commission Officers	<p>Chair Henderson nominated Commissioner Andrea Allen as Chair, Commissioner Tom Chilton as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Ken Knecht as the Executive Committee Member.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any other nominations or comments about the officers.</p> <p>Commissioner Allen responded she is happy to serve in that capacity if elected. She is sorry to see Chair Henderson go. His level of expertise has left some big shoes to fill. He will certainly be missed and thank you for all your service to the Commission.</p> <p>Chair Henderson responded thank you. He asked if there were any other nominations.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked Commissioner Knecht and Commissioner Chilton if they will serve in those positions.</p> <p>Commissioner Knecht and Commissioner Chilton responded yes, they would be happy to serve.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked for a motion to approve the nominated officers. Commissioner Renee Mallory made a motion and Commissioner Nick Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The nomination of the officers were approved.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated working with Chair Henderson has been a pleasure. He was very supportive of him while he was the Director of the Commission. He has been supportive of issues throughout the years. He has been very supportive of the transformation. He appreciates Chair Henderson’s dedication and caring for the mission of Commission and the things it does in the programs. He said Chair Henderson sees the importance and thanked him for the dedication. The Commissions owe you a lot and is grateful.</p> <p>Chair Henderson responded thank you Matt. He thinks the work of the Commission is vitally important. We are fortunate to have these funds to use to approve the health of Arkansans. It seems like a lot of money. We are getting approximately \$55 million dollars a year right now. Remember to keep that in prospective. The estimated total cost of Medicaid and Medicare and the effects of smoking in Arkansas is over \$700 million dollars. Anything we can do to reduce smoking and move these programs forward is going to be vital to improving the health of Arkansans.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore responded he appreciates his work and commitment to it. He stated that the Chair hung in there an extra year, he cares about this, the state and about the citizens. Thank you for hanging in there and working with us.</p> <p>Chair Henderson responded thank you.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there was any other business.</p> <p>Emily Lane stated she had a quick reminder for the program directors. Their Qualitative Project this year is related to Covid. They know programs are making a lot of changes. They have asked the directors to submit to them answers to four questions so they can collect some qualitative data. They know the indicators are not in response to what is going on with Covid. It will be seen in the April-June Quarterly report that some of the indicators are not being met because of Covid. The next few reports will reflect the same thing in 2021. Their goal is to paint a comprehensive picture for the Commission and legislature to understand although some indicators will not be met, there are still a lot of important things happening. We want to make sure legislature knows that. It can be highlighted whenever Matt or whomever presents to legislature. Just wanted to remind the programs your July-September data are due next week.</p>
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	<p>Along with your regular data you turn in to your evaluators, go ahead and turn in the answers to those four qualitative questions. Then there will be another round of this in the October-December quarter. They will incorporate all of that into the annual report. They want to see it ark from April through the end of the year on how you have changed and are adapting to innovative change. It has become vital to have a comprehensive report to show what the programs are doing.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there were any questions for Emily.</p> <p>Chair Henderson thanked Emily. He stated they appreciate the fantastic job UCA continues to do in evaluating the programs. The quality of the reports are always excellent, especially the emphasis on promoting the Culture of Health. It has been an important change in that document.</p> <p>Emily Lane responded we thank you and thank you Chair Henderson for your services. It has been wonderful working with you.</p> <p>Chair Henderson responded thank you.</p> <p>Chair Henderson asked if there was any other business.</p>
Meeting Adjournment	<p>Chair Henderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Andrea Allen made a motion and Commissioner Tom Chilton seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am