



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023**

Commissioners Attending: Andrea Allen, Chair; Cristy Sellers, Commissioner; Mary Franklin, Commissioner; Martha Hill, Commissioner; Nick Fuller, Commissioner, Jennifer Fowler, Commissioner

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

Guests: Becky Hall and Stephanie Loveless, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy and Mark Herbst, UAMS-COA; Emily Lane, Rhonda McClellan, Jacquie Rainey, and Janet Wilson, UCA; Este Frazier and Kenya Eddings, ADH - AMHC; Joy Gray, ADH - TCPC; Mark Williams, COPH; Dr. Bala Simon, ADH - Deputy Chief Medical Office; Masour Mortazavi, UAPB; Charles Saunders, Attorney General's Office

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 10:03 a.m. Zsanica Ervin called the roll for the Commission. A quorum was established. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of April Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the April 12, 2023, minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Martha Hill made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Nick Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission's April 12, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
Director's Report Indicator Update Quarterly Report	Matt Gilmore began with the financial report. He stated things were good with the financial report and he went on to explain the treasury report for February 2023. He stated that the Commission is within the budget. Mr. Gilmore went on to explain the Treasury Report. The Commission ask Mr. Gilmore to explain the auunal budget and various appropriations. He added professional fees and services is an appropriated amount for evaluations with UCA. This amount is over 14,000.00 per month and is within the budget. The contract with UCA was renewed for two years during last year's renewal period and will not be renewed again until next year in June. However, a new PO will need to be created for the upcoming year. He added the Treasury report has many different lines and some don't relate to the Commission. Some are matching funds to pay off bonds for UAMS and ASU for buildings. The program pool is funding that the programs draw from throughout the year. DFA provides the appropriation and funding. The Commission survives off the interest. Investment income is currently gaining income each month. Interest from the program pool is

about 108,000.00 and is at a good amount. During COVID, stocks and investments were low but now they are back on track. He added the Commission's fund balance isn't part of the budget or the current appropriation, it is excess funding. The funding is about \$8 million and an Act was passed that requires boards and commission to keep a three-year average. The Arkansas Healthy Century Trust Fund went away two - three years ago and is now a reserve account for the state. The Debit Service Fund is a bond issue. He asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions for Matt Gilmore.

Janet Wilson (UCA) stated she had a memo with two requests, the first one happens every year and it is a short-term indicator that is based on the physical year. She added on July 1st they update their goal dates to the next physical year. The second indicator is a proposed indicator change for the Graduate Addictions Study Program at UAPB. She stated one of their indicators was to create and administer an alumni survey to analyze the results and make programmatic decisions based on the results. She stated they are requesting for the indicator to be deleted as a result of the indicator goal already being met. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the indicator updates. Commissioner Mary Franklin made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed unanimously. The indicator updates were approved.

Emily Lane with UCA stated she wanted to bring attention to the infographics which can be found on pages 6 and 7. She went on to discuss some program's accomplishments. She began with ABI. She stated their fiscal year evaluation was reported in July/September quarterly report and they met all their goals. They have over hundred million in leverage funds. ABI received \$8.20 per leveraged dollar with tobacco settlement dollars which is their highest return on investment. In their research publications they have over 425 research publications and many are in collaboration with other ABI institutes and other institutes across the country. Her next program she discussed was COPH. She stated COPH is focusing more on health equity in public health and they are working on a lot of interesting projects related to health equity. Dr. Dina Jones was awarded a KO1 grant in the amount of \$730,000.00 and was the first to receive this award for COPH. Her research is based on Studying Disparities and Tobacco Cessation within the African American Population. COPH will administer "Barber Shop Talks" in effort to decrease and prevent alcohol use and abuse by African American men in Arkansas. This project will run for four years and will be available in 60 shops across the state. Next, she highlighted AMHC. She stated in this quarter AMHC continues to be about partnerships. They are partnering with dozens of organizations across the state. Southern Ain't Fried Sunday is partnering with different organizations to implement Lets Make Southern Cooking Healthier. Every year they partner with different organizations. This year they will partner with Better Community Development Inc. in an event called Recovery Jam. This event is to celebrate, support sobriety, and support the people who have worked hard to make success happen. The event is free, has helpful educational

	<p>material, and there is entertainment. Emily then discussed TPCP. She stated TPCP Coral's Reef animated program is the first like it in the state. This animated program is for K-2nd grade and can be seen at bewellarkansas.org. Located on the website is youth education about Coral's Reef episode 1 and free pintables. Episode 2 will be available in the next couple of months. Also, the Be Well call center currently has over 1,000 people enrolled in their Tobacco Cessation program. Next, she discussed TS-MEP. TS-MEP is serving thousands of people across the state in 69 counties. They have millions of dollars in leveraged funding and their Developmental Disabilities Community Employment Service waiver has over 500 slots for the past quarter. TS-MEP will obtain some testimonies from their Blue Umbrella store which they do every year. She then went on to highlight UAMS -COA. UAMS -COA are developing parentships outside of health, education and veterans administrations. They currently partner with 50 different organizations as well as with UAMS - East to serve the delta region. They have been awarded \$100,000.00 from the VA to help create a national model for suicide reduction among older veterans. The last program she highlighted was UAMS East. UAMS East Family Medical Center had two nurses to win an award last quarter. Kayla Mallard won the Leaders Under 40 award and Angela Ward won 100 Best Nurses in Arkansas award. The Family Medical Center is filling a huge gap and need in the delta area. They are focusing on food insecurity and the mobile food pantry. Emily Lane and Chair Allen asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Cristy Sellers. The motion passed unanimously. The July - Sept. 2022 quarterly report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Kenya Eddings (MHI) began by stating that they are continuing their outreach activities around the state in all 75 counties. She added they are continuing their work with the Southern Ain't Fried Sunday healthy eating cookbook, meal plans, and programs. She added they have partnered with a couple of community organizations to work with pilot programs and projects. Through these outcomes, they are working on developing programming activities to continue this progress. She stated Southern Ain't Fried Sunday helps to reduce cardiovascular disease around the state. She stated they are continuing their tobacco cessation outreach through social media, radio programs, as well as with their Ask the Doctor program. She stated their Ask the Doctor program is broadcasted once a month on an urban radio station the 3rd Tuesday of each month. She added their fall program will focus on tobacco cessation for two hours and they are looking to expand the programming. She stated they talked to three additional radio stations around the state and they are hoping to finalize the process by the end of this fiscal year in order to put the effort in place for the next fiscal year. She stated they are still currently short staffed and are in the middle of the hiring process to bring in additional staff. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.</p>

Dr. Mark Williams (COPH) began by stating they are in the process of completing their strategic plan. He added they are completing focus groups and collecting qualitative data from faculty, staff and students. Dr. Williams stated they are continuing to collect input from some of their stakeholders, collaborators and they have also hired two new faculty members. He stated Joseph H Bates, a professor/chair in Academic Public Health received funding of about one million dollars which will provide an important academic focus for Arkansas in a collaboration between physicians and public health facilitators. He then went on to state they have received their second K01 awardee, Dr. Claire Brown. Dr. Brown's focus is on Health Disparities and Addressing Minority Issues in Private Insurance. He stated the K01 is a prestigious award from the National Institution on Health and to receive a second award of this kind is a real milestone. Dr. Williams stated in the future they have plans to have all junior faculty in their college to apply for this award. He stated in their May ceremony they awarded 17 scholarships to students in their Academic Public Health Program. He stated in their collaboration project between the College of Public Health and UAPB Biology Club they assisted people who were affected by the earthquake in Turkey. This project started as a student funded initiative by a member of their Center for Birth Defects. They raised money they sent directly to families affected by the earthquake and the funds received were used for infants and toddlers. He added Camille Hart, MPH, one of their research program directors, organized an event called Mardi Bras. Mardi Bras is a fund-raising party to help address period poverty in Arkansas. This is the lack of access to menstruation products and education among people who are in poverty in Arkansas. The intent is to shine a light on the economic issues faced by some girls and women who can't afford to buy these products or who use the products longer than what they should be used as a result of potential long term physical and mental health consequences. He stated the donations raised for the Mardi Bras were given to the More Chances Period organization. This is a Little Rock based non-profit that provides free feminine hygiene products to women in Arkansas, especially girls in middle school, high school, and college. He stated this is an example of how research education and service in the college goes hand and hand to foster public health in Arkansas. He asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked him and asked if there were any questions.

Stephanie Loveless (UAMS East) stated their food insecurity research project has begun. She stated they are working with UAMS Family Medical Center patients who have been identified as food insecure and who also have major chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. She stated they are partnering with Well Feed to provide healthy nutritious food to those participants. She added they currently have twenty-four participants enrolled in their food insecurity program which is a good number for the delta area. She also stated in their educational portion of their food insecurity program they are looking to add nutrition literacy teaching lessons. Participants have to attend a session in order to go to the market to secure a box for the month. These sessions are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month. She stated their biometrics will be taken again to see if things have changed by providing healthy nutritious foods and improved health related outcomes as an overall. Biometrics will be taken three, six, nine and 12 months.

She stated they are partnering with a mobile food trailer in their county. In the delta area, they will take a mobile trailer into communities such as Phillips County and will deliver food boxes. She added in February they delivered over 3,000 pounds of food. They will be providing free health screenings, dental hygiene, and personal hygiene supplies. She stated they are excited to see programming again and there was a 22% increase in programs this past year. She stated they are still offering CPR classes, screenings and work site wellness as well as cooking classes. She stated their pre-professional recruiters are back doing Programs Alive. Additionally, the match program recruiting is working with Arkansas World Health with their mobile van, hands on activities, and careers. She stated their Family Medical Clinic patients encounters increased over 5% for the 2022 year and their Patient Center Medical Home met three utilization measures. They will receive \$3.00 for members per month increase. Stephanie Loveless asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

ABI's update was presented by Chair Allen due to ABI staff unable to attend the meeting. Chair Allen began by stating that the ABI annual report is moving along nicely and it would be completed, and distributed within the next few weeks. She went on to state ABI has renewed their collaboration between Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI), and the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID). Chair Allen added ABI investigators will have continued access to the APCD database for five more years. She stated in six years ABI will have combined over 250 users of the ACPD, over 50 approved projects, received 20 extramural funded awards for ACPD user investigators and over 25 publications from those projects. Chair Allen stated ABI is in the process of working together to discuss how to create solutions, hardware, administrative processes that may allow investigators to utilize the valuable resources more efficiently. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions.

Joy Gray (TCPC) started by stating their cessation program is still moving along. She added the CDC's Tips Campaign is currently featuring former smokers and will run from March through October. She stated their call volume is up, and Arkansas is a targeted state because of their high smoking rate. The Arkansas rate is 21.5% and the national rate is 14%. She added the Tips commercials will be displayed now until October and can be seen on social media, local tv, and streaming services. Joy Gray stated the Be Well Arkansas five-year anniversary will be on November 5th and that they are the only state operated quit line in the nation. She stated they are still thriving with their Coral's Reef animated program which began at the beginning of the school year. She added they are currently working on episode III's final points of production. She stated they are focusing on children in kindergarten - second grade age groups to make sure the message is on point, understandable and re-watchable. Joy Gray stated the program must be educational as well as entertaining. She stated they are also working on another episode which will be a short episode explaining aerosols. She added they are working on a book using the same Coral's Reef animated programming about handwashing which will be ready next school year. She stated they are still

doing their spring conference appearances and if anyone is looking for a speaker, they will be available. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked her for the report.

Mary Franklin (TSMEP) stated for the previous quarter of October through December they provided TSMEP services for 8,804 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalized adults, and persons with disabilities. She stated TSMEP also leveraged \$27.3 million in federal matching funds, and there was an increase of 405 recipients from the previous quarter. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.

Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (UAMS-COA) began by stating their last quarter was exciting. She stated they presented their poster presentation at the American Society on Aging. She added the American Society on Aging only selects 20% of submitted applications to present for their conferences and all four of their presentations were selected. She stated COVID forced them to move to new modalities in some of their programs such as Walk with Ease program with the Arkansas Department of Health. This is an evidence-based self-management program for individuals with Arthritis to help them increase physical activity as a way to managing their arthritis. She also stated during COVID this program could be accessed through virtual means and hybrid. She stated during this time they were also working on managing data collection and how to deliver it safely to older adults in Arkansas. She stated they were selected to co-present with Hawaii on how Hawaii did a different evidence-based program during COVID and collected data. She stated older adults are still reluctant to be in large groups therefore their face-to-face numbers are still not where they were pre-COVID. She stated currently they have left their hybrid concept option open for older adults and they are making sure their protocols are safe. She stated they are using different strategies with the opiate crisis such as offering non-pharmacological intervention among older adults. She stated they are trying to meet the needs of the communities where they are by offering Tai-Chi face to face and virtually. Tai-Chi measures and reduces pain. It is offered several times a week. She stated that they are still training members of law enforcement and first responders in their dementia training. She added a bill was passed which requires dementia training for all new first responders and law enforcement officers. She stated they have trained over 300 individuals and it is impacting how they effect and interact individuals with dementia. They have received an USDA grant with other entities through UAMS with the Institute of Digital Health and Intervention and UAMS East by co-creating a new virtual reality experience. The virtual reality experience will allow first responders and law enforcement to see if they have learned the content, are they interacting appropriately with someone with dementia, are they following everything they have learned with communication skills, as well as strategies to implement search and rescue appropriately in a safe environment, and able to rescue vs recover someone who has eloped with dementia. She added they are

Meeting Adjournment	currently in the process of creating this program. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked did anyone have any questions and thanked her for her report. Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Martha Hill made a motion and Commissioner Cristy Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
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The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.