

**Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021**



Commissioners Attending: Andrea Allen, Chair; Tom Chilton, Vice Chair; Nick Fuller, Commissioner; Dr. Roddy Lochala Commissioner; Renee Mallory, Commissioner; Jerri Clark, Commissioner

Staff Attending: Matt Gilmore, ADH

Guests: ShaRhonda Love, MHI; Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Mark Williams, COPH; Emily Lane and Rhonda McClellan, UCA; Joy Gray, TPCP; Leslie Humphries, ABI; Joe West, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General; Sec. Nate Todd, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Bala. ADH; Ruthie Brown, TS-MEP;

Minutes Recorder: Matt Gilmore

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to Order/Quorum/ Introduction of Attendees	Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 10am. Chair Allen asked Matt Gilmore to call the roll for the Commission members. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Motion to Approve Expenses	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve annual expenses for the Commission. Vice-Chair Chilton made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission's expenses were approved.
Review/Approval of February Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the November 10 th minutes. Commissioner Fuller made a motion to approve and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The November meeting minutes were approved.
COVID-19 Report	Chair Allen asked Dr. Bala to provide a quick overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Arkansas. Dr. Bala spoke to some of the challenges that smokers have with contracting COVID-19. He also addressed the dangers with vaping and youth that experience COVID-19. As to the overall pandemic in Arkansas, the numbers are going down and efforts made by the people of Arkansas are working.

Director's Report Legislative Report	<p>Matt Gilmore discussed the financial report. The expenses continue to go down. Interest income for the Commission is very small and expenses are well below budget. The ADH plans to fill the Commission's Administrative Specialist III position.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore also stated that the UCA Evaluation contract was ending in July and they would like the Commission to renew it. Chair Allen asked for a motion to allow Matt Gilmore to renew the contract with UCA. Vice-Chair Chilton made a motion and Commissioner Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission approved Matt Gilmore renewing the UCA contact.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore provided a brief summary of the current legislative session.</p>
April-June 2020 Quarterly Report	<p>Chair Allen introduced the April-June 2020 quarterly report and thanked UCA for their efforts. Matt Gilmore made comments about the work of the programs and COVID-19 has provided challenges, but the programs have made good efforts and have had to pivot. He stated that the Legislature seemed to understand and he presented the last report in December. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the April-June 2020 Quarterly Report.</p> <p>Commissioner Fuller made a motion to approve and Vice-Chair Chilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The April-June 2020 Quarterly Report was approved.</p>
ATSC Program Updates	<p>Ruthie Brown with the Arkansas Department Human Services provided the Tobacco Settlement – Medicaid Expansion Program report (TS-MEP) for July -Sept. The program served 13,621 individuals across all populations for this quarter and this a 720 increase over this same quarter from 2019. TS-MEP was able to leverage 14.3 million dollars in federal dollars for July -Sept 2020.</p> <p>ShaRhonda Love (MHI) stated that COVID-19 has impacted their programs again this quarter. They will be hosting their Health Summit in October again this year. They will be honoring past directors and celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Commission during the Summit. The Commission has also worked to secure CARES funds to assist several organizations to help with PPE, contact tracing, and testing among minority groups. They have worked with taskforces to assist with mobile health units and partnered with several organizations to conduct media campaigns. They have served 50 counties, provided over 30,000 COVID-19 tests, conducted more than 50,000 education encounters, assisted 44 families with funeral expenses, had over 5,000,000 social media impressions, and also received an extension for their portion of CARES funding. Their mobile health unit has also been helping with testing, health education, and promoting vaccine usage. They advertised their health careers scholarship and will be helping 14 students this year. They have also filled their grants coordinator position internally and this person will be assisting with the mobile health units and ATSC reporting. Their next AMHC meeting will be April 14th.</p> <p>Chair Allen thanked Ms. Love and stated that it was a very good report. She also stated that she hoped the next Summit would be able to be held in person.</p>

Dr. Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated that they will be announcing a new partnership with COA. She also stated that they will have their MASH camps and it will be virtual but hope to have it in person next year. They are also having Hands on Healthcare classes across the region for high school students, hosting CPR classes for various groups and many other programs. The current count is 450 patients in the clinics and they will also be having a physician in the clinic one-two days per week. This will be advertised along with their three nurse practitioners. They will be partnering with UAMS Cardiology and doing it by telemedicine. It will be a pilot program like their other virtual programs. The Healthy Eating classes continue and as well as the court mandated parenting classes. The Lake Village Center just completed a large flu clinic, and a car seat baby shower. The Fitness Center is slowly getting back to normal but following all safety precautions. Two staff are involved in tobacco cessation training and offering classes in the clinic. They are also working on a food pharmacy in the UAMS East facility, and this a project through the Hunger alliance and Arkansas Food Bank. They have also conducted COVID-19 testing events and will be hosting a vaccine clinic very soon. Their diabetes grant is going well, and they are having good numbers of individual participating. They will also be offering a pharmacist CE class in memory of Dr. Hall's father. It is open to pharmacist around the state and registration is now available.

Chair Allen stated that she like the idea of the food pharmacy and that it was innovative. Dr. Hall stated that it will help get people to eat the right foods with their medications.

Dr. Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (COA) said the COAs have been busy trying to expand their programs during the pandemic. Dr. Hall and herself has been looking to secure funding for the new COA at UAMS East in the area due to the disparities in the delta. It will be in UAMS East and be at a lower cost due to sharing space with this facility. This will be focused on dementia care and staff will also be helping with training first responders that interact with dementia patients in the community. COA staff are also working with LTC staff on training regarding falls, medications, physical training, and caregiver support. They have also been working with food insecurity and Arkansas has moved forward in this area. One project has allowed them to work with restaurants and teach residents, but also caregivers. This is done by Zoom. They are also delivering meals in this same program. They will be working with the COPH on health outcomes and evaluation services. Caregiving is also a priority and they want people to stay in their homes. They have a pilot program that is training caregivers with one-on-one coaching. Technology has also expanded, and older adults are using it more to engage in virtual classes but also learn basic computer skills. Technology has allowed them to assist their students with training, but also provide basic instruction in work-related skills. The COA is also looking for ways to expand through the pandemic and it has brought challenges but also provided opportunities.

Chair Allen praised the COA and asked about the training for caregivers and was it available to anyone? Amy stated that it was and that their centers offered it. They are seeking to add funds to allow people to access Wi-Fi. They also have a lending library where they can assist as well. Each center has different capabilities and specialties. Chair Allen asked if anyone had questions for the COA?

Dr. Mark Williams (COPH) stated they have been busy with many projects. They continue to publish the COVID-19 pandemic report for the state with data from ADH and try to provide projections for all to review as to what might be happening. State government looks at it closely, as well as health care leadership around the state. COPH leadership is also looking at the finalist for the McMath Obesity Chair and the Center for the Obesity Studies. They have many qualified individuals. They have six new grants and contracts, and two are focused on nicotine in youth. Several others are looking at data sharing, testing of viruses, and also testing and spread with COVID-19 in prisons. Lastly, Dr. Joe Bates has worked on a film regarding COPH and its history related to politics and public health. They plan to share it with the Commission to view. Also, the COPH is hosting seminars and webinars related to general health awareness. Dr. Williams stated he would take any questions. Chair Allen stated she would like to view the film regarding the COPH. Dr. Williams said he would share, and Matt stated that he would share as soon as he received it.

Joy Gray (TPCP) provided a brief summary since last meeting. The program has compiled a panel card showing the effects of COVID-19 with tobacco usage and provided it at testing and vaccine clinics. Many programs are doing virtual programs in the schools. Zoom and other programs are being purchased to do this. BeWell Baby is starting soon, and it will be by phone due to COVID-19. They can still call in, get counseling, use a nicotine test, and then they then can receive a voucher for diapers, wipes, etc. if they are tobacco free for a specific time frame. All partners and ADH Local Health Units will be assisting. It may have a small start, but it will grow. Other surrounding state use it now. They are also starting to get into substance abuse and mental health centers around the state. They will show them how to incorporate cessation into their current programs. BeWell is still enrolling at normal rates. All call centers are down and TPCP's rates are down slightly as well, but the CDC's TIPs campaign will start soon. It usually enrolls more individuals into cessation efforts as it starts up on March 1st. TPCP's main priority has been to stress the risk of COVID-19 with smoking.

Chair Allen asked if there was data that showed smoking and tobacco rates had increased with the stress of the pandemic? She said that alcohol usage was up.

Joy stated that there were some that had called but decided that they did not want to quit due to the stress and quitting was a not an option at this time. Dr. Bala stated that the numbers will be out later this year, but some data did show alcohol use was up.

Chair Allen asked if anyone had questions. Matt asked if the TIPs campaign was administered by the CDC. Joy said it was and they did not have control over it or the timing.

Leslie Humphries (ABI) stated that there were 15 COVID research reports currently ongoing. ASU is working on rapid testing using chest x-rays with artificial intelligence. There is also a project with bats, and other animals, and how viruses transfer to humans. ACH is researching if COVID-19 can transmit though breastmilk. One other project is focused on improving rapid tests. UA Division of Agriculture is looking at spread in restaurants among customers, tables, menus, and other items that individuals often touch.

	Chair Allen asked if there were questions for ABI?
Other Business	Chair Allen stated that the next meeting would be on April 14 th and it would be by conference call. In July they hope to meet in person.
Meeting Adjournment	Chair Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Chilton made the motion and Commissioner Fuller seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23am.