



Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 24, 2025
TIME: 10:00 am
FACILITATOR: Melvin Stamps

Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via sign-in sheet.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April meeting were approved. Jan Hillegas suggested that the Q&A sections of the minutes be more detailed on what was asked and answered.

Guest Speaker

No guest speaker.

CoC Match Requirements

Melvin Stamps explained that, for the 25% match, documentation must be clear, verifiable records and reflect activities that are allowable, allocatable, reasonable, and necessary. Match cannot be paid by another HUD grant unless allowed. In-kind or cash commitments are allowed for match. Match must be for eligible activities and in service of the grant matched to it, be audit ready for at least three years after the grant closeout date, and equal 25% of the grant amount less leasing costs. Members were encouraged to visit the HUD Exchange website for more information.

Reports from Standing Committees

Reports from the committees were emailed prior to the meeting.

Community Engagement — Jan Hillegas commented on her recent attendance at Empowered to Achieve Mississippi. She shared the sentiments of exhibitors at the event and her concerns regarding there not being many people experiencing homelessness present. Suggestions noted included having dedicated tables for people to complete applications, hosting the event on a Saturday, and advertising more so there would be more attendees. Melvin Stamps explained that Empowered to Achieve Mississippi was a partnership, homeless service providers were asked to provide transportation for clients, and the event was advertised by Central MS CoC in the entire 5-county service area. Michelle Shelton noted that the event was shared online, on billboards, and on the local news channel. She expressed that the event was not specifically targeted at the homeless population but all Mississippians who needed help. Melvin Stamps noted that printed copies of the Community Engagement report were available in addition to the emailed report. He provided an overview of the report.

Data & HMIS/PIT Count subcommittee — Chantel Maye announced that the upcoming meeting would be held virtually on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 1 PM.



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Approval of Revision of CoC Bylaws

Melvin Stamps noted that the revised bylaws were approved during the April membership meeting. Mr. Stamps reminded members of the changes and emphasized that PIT Count participation is required for all members to be in good standing. A letter of good standing will not be provided if all requirements aren't met for good standing.

House Bills 1197 & 1203

Melvin Stamps noted that house bills 1197 and 1203 went into effect on July 1, 2025. He provided an overview of the bills. He explained that municipalities have 6 months to opt out of enforcement of the bills. Mr. Stamps informed the membership that he has spoken to Mayor Horhn and the mayor intends to opt out, however, no official steps have been taken to opt out.

Statewide Community Resource Event & Employment Expo

This agenda item was covered during the Reports from Standing Committees.

Established MOUs for FY24 CoC Grants

Melvin Stamps shared that the FY2024 Planning Grant (Grant ID: MS0158L4G002400) is \$171,916 with \$42,980 as the match requirement. Identified match which includes board member in-kind contributions, office space at MS Housing Partnership, and meeting spaces at 4 locations amount to \$43,021. It was confirmed that volunteer hours can still be tracked as back up for contracted match. Any members interested in utilizing the electronic hour tracking form can contact Michelle Shelton.

Funding Opportunities

Melvin Stamps informed the membership that the FY2024 CoC Competition was supposed to be for 2 years, however, with federal budget cuts, HUD has published notice of a new upcoming FY2025 CoC Competition. The Competition will focus on programs that emphasize increasing earned income, transitional housing, and treatment in conjunction with housing options. Currently funded projects will be evaluated to ensure compliance.

Site Monitoring of CoC-Funded Agencies

Melvin Stamps noted that monitoring visits were initially planned for August, however, due to scheduling conflicts, the visits were rescheduled to September. He explained that monitoring visits determine if reallocation of funds is needed or if technical assistance is needed to improve or become compliant. A notice of the monitoring visit will be sent in August to the agencies to be monitored in September.

World Homeless Day 2025

Melvin Stamps informed the membership that World Homeless Day will be held on October 10, 2025

and shared an overview of the day's purpose. Stewpot Community Services will be holding a large event at the Opportunity Center. Agencies interested in being exhibitors should visit stewpot.org.



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HMIS Admin / Data Analyst Report

Mary Elbert informed the membership that the PIT Count report has been submitted to HUD, however, the information provided regarding the report during the meeting is unofficial as HUD has not yet approved the submission. Mrs. Elbert provided the following information regarding the Housing Inventory Count (HIC):

2025	2024
14 organizations reported data	14 organizations reported data
35 projects included	28 projects included
757 total beds	664 total beds
600 PIT Count beds	498 PIT Count beds
79% utilization rate	75% utilization rate

Mrs. Elbert provided the following information regarding the sheltered and unsheltered PIT Count:

2025	2024
211 individuals in Emergency Shelter	93 individuals in Emergency Shelter
60 individuals in Transitional Housing	67 individuals in Transitional Housing
271 total in shelter	160 total in shelter
119 unsheltered individuals	113 unsheltered individuals
390 individuals total in PIT Count	273 individuals total in PIT Count

She informed the membership that, for the period of April 1 - June 30, 2025, 60 projects were reporting in HMIS, 3,264 clients were served, and 90 end users were utilizing the system. New end user training takes place on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. August dates are the 7th and 23rd. To attend new user training, a person must register at least two business days prior to the upcoming training. If a person fails to register in time, they must attend the next available training. Members were told to contact Jennifer Fairley regarding questions on their data quality reports. If any end users need training, Mrs. Mary Elbert should be contacted. Mrs. Elbert reminded members that data quality reports can be accessed at any time by the agency. The membership was reminded of the importance of entering accurate and timely move-in dates. It was noted that if no move-in date is entered into HMIS, then HUD does not consider them as housed. The HMIS Administrator reminded everyone that Housing Inventory information can be updated at any time to ensure an agency's utilization rate stays in compliance. Agencies were urged to merge duplicate clients. Mrs. Elbert reminded members that multi-factor authentication was coming soon, so all end users must have a unique email address associated with their



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HMIS account. The HMIS Administrator answered questions from attendees which included: Q: What counties does the CoC serve? A: Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, and Warren; Q: When/how will the report be sent out? A: A detailed report will be sent out after the meeting. The official PIT Count report will be posted to the CoC website once available.

Coordinated Entry Report

This item was tabled.

Director of Planning Report

Melvin Stamps shared his report with the topic, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop!" The PD shared the potential impact of budget cuts which would include ending permanent supportive housing and the CoC being dismantled. He noted that any changes would have to be decided on by Congress. He emphasized the importance of homeless services and shared potential challenges faced by programs due to budget cuts, such as longer times spent unsheltered, less outreach, fewer clients served, staff layoffs/larger case loads, and decreased impact in heavily populated or rural areas. Mr. Stamps also noted that a first-come, first-serve approach could mean those with a higher need miss out on vital services. He emphasized that we, as a community, are not trying to manage homelessness, we are trying to end it. Strategies, such as, diversifying funding, strengthening partnerships, improving data quality, and compassionate solutions, would help the CoC as a whole to end homelessness. He encouraged members to advocate for more funding locally. Mr. Stamps emphasized the need for all members to work together to maintain and improve community-wide efforts. Mr. Stamps noted that all CoCs in Mississippi have submitted letters to the local government and that he hopes to have a letter signed by all members to send in as well. Members were informed that they could go to the National Alliance to End Homelessness' website to sign a petition or submit their feedback. The PD informed the membership that the Performance and Evaluation Committee would be completing site visits in September. Steven Pickett volunteered to participate.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was emailed prior to the meeting.

Open Forum/Announcements

Chantel Maye thanked Allen, Kelvin, and Fred for their participation and support of the special VA outreach efforts. In response to Jan Hillegas' question regarding the letter sent about the house bill, Melvin Stamps confirmed that no response had been received.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be held on the third Thursday in October.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.