



Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 16, 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 July meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker

Nicholas (Nick) Spradley, Shower Power — Nick Spradley shared some of the ways Shower Power is assisting those experiencing homelessness, such as case management, securing documents, meals on Fridays, and providing clothes, wheelchairs, or any other items they need. Shower Power is focused on building relationships, even if there isn't currently a desire to be housed. Shower Power has been able to assist domestic violence survivors with hotel assistance and to connect those with addictions to rehabs. Nick Spradley shared his background which re-entry after incarceration, sobriety, and case management. He has served as the Director at Shower Power for a couple of months. Shower Power is looking to improve relationships with local organizations, so they can better coordinate services. Mr. Spradley answered questions from members: Q: How is Shower Power funded? A: Private donations. Their workers are able to assist with whatever they think the person needs along as they provide progress reports. Shower Power has also had people sponsor specific persons experiencing homelessness. Q: Does Shower Power provide housing assistance? A: They have provided temporary assistance, then refer to other organizations for rental assistance. Q: What system does Shower Power use to document their work? Q: Currently, they use QuickBooks, though they are interested in utilizing HMIS. They serve 160-190 people each week. Q: Where is Shower Power located? A: 836 S Commerce St, Jackson, MS 39201. They are there every Friday and the last Sunday of each month for a church service. Q: Will Shower Power assist those with medical issues? A: Yes. Q: Does Shower Power provide transportation? A: No, they are unable to provide rides with their current insurance. Nick Spradley can be reached at 769-610-6296.

Reports from Standing Committees

PIT Count subcommittee — Chantel Maye informed the membership that the committee is currently working to update the training for the 2026 PIT Count.

Community Engagement — A printed report was provided at the meeting, but Melvin Stamps did share some highlights from the report. The committee has been working with local government officials. A community needs assessment is being conducted to identify and address service gaps. Individuals were surveyed during the World Homeless Day event which the committee will be meeting about soon. The committee is looking to expand engagement in rural areas, enhance data collection, and develop new



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partnerships in 2026. The next Community Resource Event will be held at the Vicksburg City Auditorium on 10/22/2025 from 10 am - 1 pm.

Funding Opportunities

Melvin Stamps shared challenges and emphasized the need for more funding. He shared some of the funding opportunities the CoC has recently applied for:

- 1) TrueCare Community Champions Grant — Could be awarded up to \$10,000 of unrestricted funds. Application completed July 1st. Still awaiting results.
- 2) CoC Builds — Voice of Calvary Ministries was selected by the CoC to apply for this funding opportunity. If awarded, 30 single-family homes will be constructed. Application was submitted on September 12th and is under review.
- 3) Navigate Gives Back — Could be awarded \$100,000; Application submitted September 29th; Application focused on Warren County families with children to provide hotel assistance, case management, and more.

Melvin Stamps answered questions from the members: Q: How many homeless youth were identified in Warren County? A: 25 youth in K-12. Q: What would the TrueCare grant be used for? A: Landlord incentives and 1st month's rent.

Site Monitoring of CoC-Funded Agencies

Melvin Stamps explained that site monitoring for CoC-funded agencies was completed on 9/10/2025 which included reviewing a checklist which included reviewing administration and grant compliance, financial records, coordinated entry, HMIS, case management, and performance. Mr. Stamps emphasized that the purpose of monitoring is to provide guidance and technical assistance through a supportive approach. Agencies which needed corrective action plans on findings were given a deadline of 10/24/2025.

Approval of HMIS Intake Questions (COJ)

Melvin Stamps explained that John Horhn, when he was a senator (now mayor of the City of Jackson), became interested in the influx of individuals coming to Jackson to seek homeless services. The Central MS CoC began tracking where individuals originated when encountered within the Central MS CoC service area. Mr. Stamps informed the membership that Mayor Horhn is requesting that the CoC ask additional questions during intake to determine why a person came to Jackson, if they would be willing to return to where they came from if there are resources for them, and why they wish to stay in Jackson. The plan would be to coordinate transportation for those to return home to access local resources in their home county. These efforts are vital to see a reduction in homelessness every year and to ensure local people are being served as funding runs out too quickly each year.

CoC Website Updates

Melvin Stamps explained that an online presence is vital to show our work. Michelle Shelton informed the membership that a new statistics page with annual PIT Count data and events page have been added to our website. Mrs. Shelton showed the new pages on the screens. Questions were answered from



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members: Q: Are event statistics shown on the new statistics page? A: No, members may email suggestions for the website for consideration.

Vacant CoC Positions

Melvin Stamps informed the members that the CoC is interviewing for 2 positions: case manager (full-time) and outreach worker (part-time). These positions need to be filled as soon as possible. Interested parties should apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). If you would like more information, please contact Melvin Stamps at 601-969-1895.

City of Jackson Unhoused Taskforce

Melvin Stamps explained that the purpose of the City of Jackson (COJ) Unhoused Taskforce is to improve homeless services and address concerns. Melvin Stamps explained that he has met with Nic Lott, the COJ Director of Communications and Constituent Services. The COJ needs to make sure that everyone feels safe while the needs of the unhoused are addressed. Melvin Stamps explained that he provided Nic Lott with a list of recommendations for taskforce members, and hopefully the member list will be finalized within a couple of weeks. Steven Pickett noted that the CoC needs more than \$2.5 million to address needs which is why the CoC needs more money at the state level.

HMIS Admin / Data Analyst Report

The report was emailed prior to the meeting and physical copies were available at the meeting.

Coordinated Entry Report

The report was emailed prior to the meeting and physical copies were available at the meeting.

Director of Planning Report

Melvin Stamps informed the members that, during the 3rd quarter of 2025, there was an overall reduction of 4%, 92% of clients retained housing, and a 15% increase in Coordinated Entry referrals. Partnerships were strengthened with the City of Jackson and Mississippi Home Corporation. Various trainings were hosted, such as trauma-informed training, data quality clinic, and HMIS training. PIT Count information sessions will be held in preparation for the 2026 PIT Count. So far, 45 individuals have registered to volunteer from the JSU Community Day. Maps for hotspots are being refined. The CoC hopes to work with Bean Path to use a drone to search wooded areas for encampments. The FY2025 CoC Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be announced next month. The State has expressed an interest in increasing housing tax credit properties. Members can email Melvin Stamps at mstamps@centralmscoc.org if they have any questions.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was emailed prior to the meeting and physical copies were available at the meeting.



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Open Forum/Announcements

Melvin Stamps informed the members that the grant agreement for the FY2024 Planning grant has been signed and is good for a year. HUD may decide that the 2nd year of funding which was previously awarded will no longer be awarded. He emphasized the need for everyone to work towards keeping the CoC funding. Mr. Stamps noted that there have been discussions to switch funding to formula through the state. All members were asked to consider what more they could do as it takes a group of like minded individuals to make a change. Steven Pickett expressed that the CoC wants to expand CoC services, so we need to have a plan for what we want to do. Jan Hillegas invited individuals to attend the No Kings Event at the State Capitol on Saturday at 12 pm to express their thoughts. Shiquetta Flowers introduced herself and shared information about Lily of the Valley which provides shared housing for up to 10 individuals in Copiah County serving Central Mississippians. She passed out flyers to those who were present. She explained that rent ranges from \$725-\$800/month based on if they help out around the house or attend events. It was noted that HUD-VASH vouchers can only be issued within 5 miles of the VA medical center or within the City of Jackson, as a requirement set by HUD housing authority.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be held on December 11, 2025 and will include the annual CoC board elections and an appreciation luncheon.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.