



**ADH – Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2022**

**Commissioners Attending:** Andrea Allen, Chair; Nick Fuller, Commissioner; Cristy Sellers, ADH Designee for Renee Mallory; Dr. Ken Knecht, Commissioner; Jerri Clark, Commissioner; Ruthie Brown, ADH Designee for Mary Franklin

**Staff Attending:** Matt Gilmore, ADH; Zsanica Ervin, ATSC

**Guests:** Becky Hall, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy, UAMS-COA; Mark Williams, COPH; Emily Lane, Jacquie Rainey and Rhonda McClellan, UCA; Jimie Jarry and Dr. Bobby McGee, ABI; Este Frazier, Beatriz Mondragon, and Kenya Eddings; AMHC; Dr. Bala, Deputy Chief Medical Officer; Ruthie Brown, TS-MEP; Beccy Secrest, TCPC; Joe West and Charles Saunders, Assistant Arkansas Attorney General

**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 10:05 a.m. Zsanica Ervin called the roll for the Commission members. A quorum was established. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their organizational affiliation.
Review/Approval of November Minutes	Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the February 9, 2021, minutes for the Commission. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Commissioner Nick Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission's February 9, 2021, meeting minutes were approved.
Guest Speaker Dr. Bala	Chair Allen introduced Dr. Bala the Deputy Chief Medical Officer/state Chronic Disease Director. Dr. Bala stated he is apart of a study by CDC and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors on long Covid/long Haulers. He provided a brief power point slide presentation about the effects of long Covid/long Haulers to everyone. While using the slides Dr. Bala pointed out as of March there are 80.4 million cases and 985 k deaths relating to Covid. He stated that Arkansas is 1% of the population therefore there are 200,000 cases in Arkansas. He also highlighted that their may be 23 million long Covid cases in the United States. As stated in the slides he went on to define long Covid, the ongoing symptomatic Covid-19 and the post Covid-19 syndrome. Next, Dr. Bala stated people with pre-existing health conditions, older people, overweight individuals, and women are more likely to get long Covid. He also stated the consequences of long Covid can affect an individual's health and work and it can also affect them social and economically.

	<p>Dr. Bala stated that President Biden Administrative has pledge about 1.2 billion in funds for national research plan for long Covid. He stated here in Arkansas they are currently surveying and doing a follow up study with about 4,000 adults across the nation that has long Covid. He added they are both currently in the beginning stages. Dr. Bala asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked him and asked if anyone had any questions.</p>
<p>Director's Report UCA Contract</p>	<p>Matt Gilmore began with the Financial Report. He stated that he didn't see any concerns with the Financial Report. He noted the report shows the Commission being well under budget. Matt Gilmore stated that there are some saving and currently going through the budget process with the Department of Health for the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Mr. Gilmore then went on to discuss the Treasury report, he stated the current report was for the month of March and the investment income was not much for the Commission at this time. He added the income for March was about \$200.00 which isn't good, however the Commission does have a good fund balance which could be used if needed. He stated that he has spoken with the Treasurer's office, and they are watching this closely and looking for other avenues. He added he wasn't worried at this time but will watch this closely.</p> <p>Matt Gilmore stated Zsanica is working with the Procurement staff with the Department of Health to get the UCA contract renewed, we will keep the amount the same and will like to renew for two-years instead of the annual period. He stated a motion will be needed from the Commission. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the UCA contract renewal for two-years. Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion and Commissioner Cristy Seller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The UCA contract renewal for two- year was approved.</p> <p>He stated that we hadn't been to the Legislature since the last report, therefore he had nothing to report relating to the Legislature.</p>
<p>July – Sept. 2021 Quarterly Report</p>	<p>Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions about the Quarterly Report. She also stated she noticed better performance this quarter than the last two quarters. Again, Chair Allen asked if there were any questions. Emily Lane stated that she would like to reiterate what Chair Allen stated about better performance this quarter.</p> <p>Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the July – Sept. 2021 Quarterly Report. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion and Commissioner Jerri Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The July – Sept. 2021 Quarterly Report was approved.</p>
<p>ATSC Program Updates</p>	<p>Beatrice Mondragon (MHI) began by describing some of there challenges due to Covid. She stated Covid precautions have prevented us from seeing participates inside the Mental Health Unit. She also stated our machines are weather sensitive therefore sometimes when we are providing screenings, we are unable to follow through with the screening, but we are moving toward seeing actual participates in our actual Mental Health Unit. She stated we have focused our educational information topics on social media, and several</p>

media outlets such as, our commercials and radio ads. She also added that we have continued the “Ask the Doctor Radio”, segments through live Facebook events where individuals throughout the state could ask questions and received answers through the comfort of their own homes on different health topics. Mrs. Mondragon stated we have ordered more than 11,100 Twitter impressions, 33,694 Facebook impressions, 400 radio commercials, 300,162 streaming impressions and all of our indicators and activities are on track. She stated we have proved 1,149 blood pressure screenings, over 2,900 Arkansas where directly educated by the Mobile Health Unit program. She added we have had 239 commercials ran through Central and Northwest Arkansas that focused on Tobacco and Physical Activity topics. She stated we hope we can reach more this year.

She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mark Williams (COPH) stated they have been fairly busy for the last quarter. He went on to say they will be having their first in-person graduation since 2019. Several students this semester is doing their Capstone Project with the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and the UAMS Center on Aging. The college has also added three new staff members and there are still some open positions as well. He added he was happy to announce that Dr. Pebbles Fagan received President’s Award from the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco. Kay Steward has received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Health. The grant is to train community health workers to support improving Covid vaccinations in the state. He stated they are currently under-going a commission on the accreditation of Health Care Management Education and Master of Health Administration programs; site visit will be this fall in 2022. He added they will restart their Strategic Planning efforts in fall of 2022, this was delayed due to Covid. Mr. Williams asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if there are any questions for Mr. Williams and then thanked him for his report.

Dr. Becky Hall (UAMS East) stated she is proud to say things are picking up. They are finally able to get programs into the schools and in house educational sessions. She went on to give an update about their Good Food RX program. She stated the program is our food pharmacy and we have hired a full-time coordinator who will be leading this program. She stated we are in the process of completing IRB (Institutional Review Boards) requirements with UAMS and we are working with several partners including Well Feed and an RD (registered dietitian) to create recipes for our program. She added we have hired an independent consultant who will be helping us with the evaluation of the project. She stated the location and space is already set up; we are just waiting on final IRB approval. She stated on Monday night we were award an additional 2,000 dollars from the Arkansas Community Foundation for work on this project. She stated she hopes by next meeting she will be able to report they are up and going. She stated our family medical center continues to increase in our patient’s volume, we are getting new patients every day, and we are able to do telehealth now for several of our health programs. She stated we had a Teddy Bear Clinic where our pediatric patients brought in a stuff animal or a doll and the stuff animal or doll received an

examination, and we had a party for both. She stated we have hired a new health educator/ coach to help in our community outreach. She stated our Fitness Center was closed on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> and was reopened in February; we are seeing a steady increase in the number of members returning. She stated our preprofessional recruiter and staff will be hosting a MASH camp this summer for the first time in a couple of years in Helena, West Memphis, and in Lake Village. She stated the recruiters will also be hosting a **finder's future** in health care for 10-12 grade students. She added our West Memphis office is now going back to in person parenting classes, diabetes education and child safety classes, into the Arkansas Community Correction Facility. She stated the health educator in West Memphis is during diabetes education, nutrition classes, at one of the fitness centers located there. She stated we are completing our Kids for Health program; this is where we go into the schools for K-12 graders to teach them a health education lesson every week and those are finishing up for the year. She stated we provide CPR and AED training for two high schools, 75 middle and high school students learned CPR choking and the use of the AED. She stated we also provided first aid training to 10 head start employees and CPR for 6 Arkansas virtual academy teachers, basic life support to 7 health care workers. She stated they are continuing partnership with the Mobile Food distribution, and they have delivered 130 Hygiene Kits to community members and to little communities in their county. She stated our Smoking cessation Class has 2 trained certified staff and patients are receiving healthful tips and motivation, nicotine patches and gum at no cost. She added this last quarter we had 4 patients to participate and 2 have completed the program and has stop smoking, 1 drop out, 1 is still in the program. She added in their Lake Village office the local RN runs the AR Safe program at Chico Memorial, they have provided 2 kits to 4 local pharmacies to educate their community on signs and symptoms of stroke in collaboration with our UAMS AR Safe Program. She also stated UAMS East, and Lake Village hosted a virtual Baby Shower for 31 participates. They held a workshop wellness program for 60 employees at the Chico Memorial Center and this was made possible by the Arkansas Minority Health Commission. Dr. Becky Hall asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Bobby McGee (ABI) stated he was excited about having their first commencement and that he was also excited because Dean Williams will get to participate. He stated that they have just got back their first draft from their annual report and that it looks really nice as well as they are putting their final touches on it. He added that he hopes that everyone will have a copy by the next commission meeting. Dr. McGee stated that it is their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it has been 2 years since they have had their annual symposium, he hopes they will be able to have it this fall. He also stated they will do a formal celebration, and everyone is invited. He stated he had just interviewed to formal Governors Huckabee, Beebe as well as Shane Broadway and Dr. Joe Thompson. He stated they had a really good interview however it was more a discussion. The interview wasn't focus on ABI and it will be in our annual report. He also stated the interview was more about trying to preserve the story from the people who were really participating in how we all got started. He stated he will be turning it into a small independent report. He stated this year we are highlighting a lot of

our new investigators and in spite of Covid we had many successes throughout this period. One of our successes is we had the highest ever return rate on leverage factors. He stated for every dollar we received last year we generated \$6.20 in extra funding. He added we have recruited throughout all 5 institutions over 30 new investigators. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked did anyone else have any question or comments.

Beccy Secrest (TCPC) stated during the month of march Be Well Arkansas had 10,000 callers enrolled in the Tobacco Cessation program. She stated they had a small celebration for their TCPC call center staff which also allowed their leadership team to see their newly remodeled area for the call center. She added she wanted to invite the commission to tour the Be Well Arkansas call center. She stated we had a Tobacco Treatment Special training this quarter in February, 40 attended and during the month of March we had a Dementia training where 15 participates from the UCA interdisciplinary clinic who attended. She added if anyone would like to know what the Tobacco Treatment Special training or Dementia training are she would be glad to answer any question. She stated our Project Prevent program is a statewide youth program and they continue to expand their chapters throughout Arkansas, currently there are over 70 active chapters in the state. She stated for the remainder of this year and the next fiscal year the project prevent coordinator will focus effects on smaller schools to help establish a chapter within that area. Our communities' sub-grantees are getting back into the places they were not able to go before Covid restrictions. She stated that they go into the schools and provide education for youth, teacher and staff about Tobacco Prevention and the Harms of Tobacco and Nicotine use as well as E-cigarettes. She then stated the Be Well Baby Program had a soft lounge in January 2021, we had to move to a Virtual tele-help format instead of in person due to the Covid restrictions. She stated In April of 2021 we had an official lounge of the program and we have been operating for almost a full year now and we are excited to take that one-year data and do some analysis on it, in the areas of where we had acceptance and challenges. She stated for the Be Well Baby program referrals for March 2021- February 2022 there were 182 referrals and 61 enrolled into the program. She stated she hoped everyone got the link to view newest Be Well testimonials. Dr. Bala added that Be Well Arkansas call center had a press release that showed about 10,000 members enrolled and we are the only Tobacco Cessation call center in the nation that has it in house of the Department of Health. He also stated that he hopes that they could get with Mr. Gilmore to arrange a tour to view the call center. Beccy Secrest and Matt Gilmore than discussed possibly scheduling a tour of the call center during the next Commission meeting. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.

Ruthie Brown (TSMEP) stated TSMEP provide expanded access to help benefits and services for 8,761 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalized adults and persons with developmental disabilities during this quarter via the pregnant women expansion program, hospital benefit coverage, AR Seniors, and community and employment support wavier. She stated this is a decrease of 16,652 recipients over the previous quarter. She stated TSMEP also Leverage 16.6 million dollars in Federal Medicaid Matching funds

from October through December 2021 which also has significant impact on health care cost and health outcomes for the state of Arkansas. Chair thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions. Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (UAMS-COA) begin by stating last quarter was slow for us due to the raise of Covid which made us have to go back to virtual. She stated we only had about 8,000 encounters across the state last quarter which is down for us. She stated we are focusing on program evaluations and for the past 2 years we have been trying to create a comprehensive data base that we could share between us and UAMS East. She stated we are in the process of beta testing this large data base that should be going live July 1 and this will be essential as we try to secure additional funding for the future. She stated we have been very active in trying to secure additional funding on topics in our health priority to address our indicators that is set for us by the ATSC. She stated that we have recently received additional funding to address Food and Security, and senior hunger in rural Arkansas. a part of the food pharmacy with Dr. Becky Hall and focusing in the area of Lake Village and Chicot County, working with older adults to address that Food and Security, healthy ways, cost effective ways with reinforce allocation from their communities. She stated we have been doing a lot of remodifications of recipes to address certain chronic disease such as diabetes, congestive heart failure with appropriate educational material for that generation and appropriate health literacy. We have also secured some additional funding to expand our care giving dementia effort. We continue to work with the first responders, and the search and rescue to teach them how to appropriately interact with those living with Dementia. She added last week we did a kick-off in the Delta in Helena, and we feel that it was a success. She stated if you ever wanted to know what it was like to have Dementia, they have an embodied lab which is a virtual reality experience of Dementia. She stated other outcomes I would like to share is we have focused on physical activities across the state. She added we have focused on evidence based physical activity programs. With Tai Chi we always get a positive respond, outcomes for our older adults who has been participating in Tai Chi across the state we have seen a 53% reduction in their pain that they have self-reported, after 30 to 45 days of initiating we are continuing to track them.

also report they are being more activated and interacting with family and participating in physical activity in their homes without coming to classes. She stated Drums Alive has been a great evidence base program and is a fun activity for older adults, during our virtual day we did a leaning library for older adults in order for them to pick up equipment to take home so that they could participate by zoom. She stated we were able to see a great reduction in the time it has taken them to get up out of a chair and go 12 feet and turn around and sit down which is an evidence-based tool that we able to access their stability, and movement. She then stated we have seen a seen about 14% reduction in these numbers which is showing that they are becoming more stable and having less fails. She added they are also self- reporting a 10% reduction in self reports of fails. She stated they are excited and will continued to evaluate these programs. She stated on April 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a large Senior Expo in Jonesboro and there will be some modifications due to Covid she stated our theme this year will be "The Drive-in Movie" and we offer the experience and the resources

	for seniors in that community through a drive-in movie experience. Dr. Overton-Mccoy asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked where will the Senior Expo be held in Jonesboro? Dr. Overton-Mccoy replied at Nettleton Baptist Church by the fair grounds from 10-2. Chair Allen then asked if anyone had any questions and thanked Dr. Overton-Mccoy for her report.
Meeting Adjournment	Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nick Fuller made a motion and Commissioner Cristy Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.