



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

Commissioners Attending:

Andrea Allen, Chair; Cristy Sellers, Commissioner; Rosa Page for Mary Franklin, Commissioner; Martha Hill, Commissioner; Nick Fuller, Commissioner, Jennifer Fowler, Commissioner

Staff Attending:

Matt Gilmore & Zsanica Ervin, ADH - ATSC

Guests:

Stephanie Loveless, UAMS East; Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy and Mark Herbst, UAMS-COA; Emily Lane, Rhonda McClellan, Jacquie Rainey, and Janet Wilson, UCA; Jimmie Jarry, ABI; Este Frazier and Kenya Eddings, ADH - AMHC; Joy Gray, ADH - TCPC; Liz Gates, 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 10:10 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 Cristy Sellers 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.
Guest Speaker Charles Saunders	Chair Allen introduced Mr. Charles Saunders from the Arkansas Attorney General's Office. Mr. Saunders stated the MSA came out of litigation in the 90's. There are some large as well as smaller companies involved in the MSA. Every three years they are required to get together for a sit-down meeting with other government agencies. PWC (Price Water Cooper) every year does the calculations which is a way to get lost information from various sources. Arkansas is called AA based on a calculated payment amount. There's no mechanism to change this. The companies owe about nine billion dollars each year and over time the base payment goes away. Mr. Saunders asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked him and asked if anyone had any questions.
Director's Report	Matt Gilmore began by stating that the last quarterly report was presented to the legislature. He stated he received a few questions. Some of the questions were focused on tobacco prevention efforts for children, there was also some positive feedback as well as comments. Matt Gilmore then explained the Commission's financial report. He stated the information in the report is from last month which is the end of

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this fiscal year and well within the budget. He then discussed the month-by-month expenses that includes rent, employee benefits, and matching funds, mileage for travel, and the two-year evaluation contract. The operations account is the Commission's appropriations and budget. He stated it's around \$300,000 a year. He also provided an overview of the Arkansas Healthy Century Trust Fund that has \$100 million dollars that was set aside for the original first annual payment as an emergency account for bond ratings, and safety net for the state. The Tobacco Program Pool is where the payments are deposited. The programs draw their portion of funds from this annual. This may also include some of the fund balances as well. The Tobacco Debt Service Fund is the fund for the buildings that were built with MSA funds. He then explained the interest and stated Commission gained \$233,000 in interest for June. He asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if there were any questions for Matt Gilmore.

Emily Lane with UCA began by stating she wanted to bring attention to the infographics which can be found on pages 7 and 8. She stated for the year 2022 there were many improvements due to some of the programs starting back up. There were improvements in educational outreach, youth education, 400 more health professionals educated, more degrees awarded through the College of Public Health and also the Graduate Addiction Studies Program, 5,000 more health screenings, more callers to Be Well Arkansas, more research presentations, seven patents awarded for ABI, \$55,000,000 additional dollars leveraged, and Medicaid Expansion had \$30 million dollars. One of the big targets for different research projects for programming was the opioid crisis and targeting opioid abuse. Ms. Lane then gave a few additional highlights on the programs. She stated ABI leveraged \$83.5 million which was \$16 million more than 2021, and this was their highest leveraged amount ever. The annual fall symposium was held in person for the first time in a couple of years. Eighty-one percent of the research projects were collaborations from different ABI institutions. There was an increase in the number of full-time employees supported this last year. COPH had an increase in the number of graduates as well as the number reported of graduates that will be staying in Arkansas. There was a 13% increase and seven million dollars in leveraged funds. They are also focusing on health outcomes and social determinants of health. MHI saw an increase in health screenings of which they saw 4,000 more, additional in person events, usage of the mobile health unit, and it is traveling more miles across the state. She stated their summit's focus was on mental health and it was a great event. They have also increased their social media reach. TPCP saw an increase in the number of the individuals enrolled, their quit rate is 36% and the highest in the nation, around 1,250 people who have enrolled in the program have quit tobacco, and there has been an increase in youth engagement. TPCP's Coral Reef program for kindergarten through second grade is the only program like it in the nation. Their Be Well Baby program had an increase in the number of new mothers enrolling. TS-MEP served over 34,000 people which was increase in the number of seniors and adults with developmental disabilities. She then spoke about the \$100 million in federal matching funds leveraged compared to \$74 million last year, and TS-MEP claims numbers increased. The Blue Umbrella store has been around since 2019 and this program

	employs intellectual or developmental disabilities individuals. One of the original goals of the program is job training for this population. However, COVID-19 pushed it back. This last year they were able to start the program with a couple of new employees in job training. UAMS-COH had an increase in the number of educational encounters where more than 1,000 healthcare professionals and students were educated. They are focusing on food insecurity, opioid abuse, mental health, suicide prevention. They also saw an increase in the amount of leverage funds by almost a million and half more than this last year compared to the year before. UAMS-East increased in a number of programs due to the return of in person programming, more education, participation in free health profession programs, health screenings, and exercise encounters. The UAMS East campus in West Memphis is now offering tobacco treatment specialist training. The family medical center at UAMS East in Helena is now offering clinical practice for LPNs and RNs from Philips Community College. Emily Lane and Chair Allen asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen asked for a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Cristy Sellers made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Nick Fuller. The motion passed unanimously. The 2022 Annual report was approved.
ATSC Program Updates	Liz Gates (COPH) began by stating they have a lot going on. She stated their faculty member, Dr. Stewart retired this year and she was part of their strategic planning committee for the college. They hired some new faculty members such as three in their Environmental Health Science Department. They hired a new faculty member in epidemiology, who has expertise in chronic disease, nutrition and in rural health and healthcare operations management who will be working in their Center for Obesity, their Birth Defects Center on Excellence, and in their Health Policy and Management Department. This new faculty member will provide expertise in rural health and healthcare operations management by working in their masters and health administration programs as well as some of their more corporate partners in reaching out to rural hospitals, rural health organizations, and educating their students while finding partnerships for students in the colleges in a variety of health care administration organizations. She stated they had two faculty members who received esteemed awards from an organization called Academy Health which champions health services research and health policy through transferring of information across different disciplines. This award is incredibly important and well regarded in the areas of health policy, research, health systems, and services research. She stated Dr. Clare Brown, who is an assistant professor and an alumni, received the Alice S. Hersch Emerging Leader award for high quality and quantity of work, the importance of her research and contradictions, and also her contribution to health policy. Also, Dr. Kelsey, a recent junior faculty member received the outstanding dissertation award for her dissertation. She stated Dr. Joseph Bates co-authored a book on the history of tuberculosis in Arkansas. She stated this time of year is when they are notified for national grants however they haven't received a lot of awards yet. They were awarded some internal grants from the Rockefeller Cancer Institute and the Translational Research Institute. One award was in pregnancy, relating to remote patient monitoring. It looks at specific areas of the delta and how remote monitoring can aid in the pregnancy outcomes and how it can work depending on the area that

people live in. The other award is employment disparities among rural cancer survivors. They have submitted several applications for some smaller grants such as two for a multi-year multi-million-dollar center much like the Arkansas Center for Health Disparities. This will be a five-year multi-million-dollar grant where they re-apply for it every five years. They will know in the late summer or the fall if they are approved for the grants. She stated they had a large graduating class this year of 74 graduates across all programs. Their Center for the Study of Obesity is involved in a program with the Little Rock School District that is called Advancing Health Equity through Little Rock Community Schools. The idea is to build community schools, but ensure there's plenty of green space and figure out how students and families in the community use those green spaces to facilitate better health. They hope to facilitate a reduction in obesity and how it fits into the schools and into the city as well. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Stephanie Loveless (UAMS East) began by stating they were awarded a UAMS mobile van that they are very excited about. They have had several community meetings relating to community service needs. They are currently waiting on a few waivers before beginning their new project. She stated south Helena doesn't have any help at this point and they are looking at providing services for them. She stated they are excited about their partnership with the mobile van, which they used recently with the water situation in Helena. The residents were without water and their team used the mobile van to distribute water to some of the housing authorities, some residents, and some of the senior centers. She stated she would like to highlight a couple of their projects such as their Good Food RX research project. This project uses food as medicine. They currently have 23 clients enrolled for this two-year study and they have a monthly session which includes an education that teach enrollees about their specific disease. Once they complete this session, they will receive their monthly food distribution. They are offering about 40 to 50 pounds of food per month for the enrollees and are collecting biometrics for this project. She added they are at their three-month biometrics and at this time don't have any results but are hoping to see some good behavior and health changes from this project. She stated they would be writing a grant to secure some funding for some of their projects. They are also continuing their other outreach programs as well as their CPR training and AIDs training. Stephanie Loveless asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any questions.

Jimie Jarry (ABI) begun by stating they recently had two large grant renewals. Dr. Charles O'Brien, who works in the Biology Department, renewed a five-year program. The 8th annual symposium is set for October 4th and will be hosted at UAMS. She also mentioned that they get to keep their chairman of the board for a couple more years. Jimie Jarry asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions.

Joy Gray (TCPC) begin by stating they are still in the middle of their CDC Tips Campaign which will continue until October. Also, they are seeing an increase in their call volume during this time. The Tips Campaign commercials can be seen on social media, local tv, and streaming services. She stated they will be promoting Be Well across the state so if anyone is having an event and is looking for a guest speaker that is anything tobacco related that they would be available. She stated they are in the process of refreshing Be Well Arkansas as this November will be their fifth anniversary. They will be redesigning all of their posters, cards, all items that they used in the past and will be using some of the same people in the ads on their updated posters. She stated the second episode of Coral's Reef will be out during the school year. They will do some focus groups on it with a child psychologist that specializes in tobacco use of parents and how it impacts children. This will also help them build an evidence-based program. This episode is a little longer and focuses on the control element of vaping. She added they reached about 13,000 students this last year and hope to reach even more with episode two. She emphasized that they are still the only state operated quit line in the nation. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked if anyone had any questions and thanked her for the report.

Rosa Page for Commissioner Mary Franklin (TSMEP) begin by stating she was the Medicaid Policy Program Administrator at DHS. She stated their Medicaid Expansion Programs provided expanded access to health benefits and services for 9,054 eligible pregnant women, seniors, hospitalize adults, and persons with disabilities this quarter by way of the Pregnant Woman Expansion Program, the Hospital Benefit Coverage, AR Seniors and the Community and Employment Support Waiver. They saw an increase of 250 recipients over the previous quarter. Also, TSMEP leveraged \$27 million in federal matching funds from January through March 2023. She stated for the quarter the Pregnant Women Expansion Program served 710 pregnant women with incomes from 133 to 200% of the state's federal poverty limit. This was a decrease of a 149 individuals from the previous quarter. The Hospital Benefit Coverage provided inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to 653 adults aged 19-64. This was an increase of 17 individuals from the previous quarter. She stated eligible Arkansans are no longer required to pay a co-pay for their first day of hospitalization. As a result, this has caused a significant decrease in the TSMEP claims related to hospitalization for adults in that same age group. She stated in their senior program they expanded Medicaid coverage to 7,191 seniors during this quarter. This is an increase of 378 recipients from the previous quarter. Recipients that are below 80% of the federal poverty limit automatically qualify for senior coverage, benefits, or services that are not covered by Medicare that are available through this program. There is a total of 500 individuals who receive services in the tobacco settlement funded Community and Employment Support Waiver Program and all 500 wavier slots that were funded have been allocated during 2022. Chair Allen thanked her for her report and asked if there were any questions.

Amy Leigh Overton-McCoy (UAMS-COA) begin by stating they have been focusing on food insecurity. She stated in 2016 they were 50th in the nation in senior hunger and now they are 28th in senior hunger for Arkansas. They have been collaborating with UAMS East while working with older adults across the state. Also, this past year they have received funds from Administration of Community Living or ACL. She stated they are using cell phones to continue to monitor and also work with iPads as a new model for home delivered meals. They are using nursing students and their own staff to ask older adults if they are at risk of food insecurity as well as depression for suicide. She stated Arkansas is one of the highest states of social isolation and suicide among older adults. There's a high correlation of older adults being food insecure and risk of suicide. She stated food is often the base of older adult chronic conditions. Also, they are training their nurse practitioner students with geriatric and psychiatric nurse practitioners how to use telehealth and trying to get a roadmap with telehealth across the state. They are just about through their first year of funding from ACL and have two more years of funding from them, therefore they are working on this project to see if it is a potential model for the nation. As mentioned earlier, ACL is a federal funded program where DHS receives the funding for senior citizens. This is also federally funded through the Older Americans Act, which funds senior centers. ACL sponsors grants and the iPads are a part of one of those grants. They proposed to ACL that they would find innovative ways to reach older homebound adults but ACL stated it had to be Meals on Wheels. She stated they worked with the Area Agency on Aging, who is responsible for the Meals on Wheels, and their Digital Health Institute while using Webex, which is a secure line. They don't have calls with broadband but they are using iPads with a cellular service and the grant is paying for the cellular service, using multiple services to leverage it all out. The iPads belong to UAMS and they are lending them out to users, but they may keep using them as long as they are benefiting from the program. She stated her staff calls and trains using Webex through an iPad. She also added the iPad is locked and it is basic. The participants don't have to have an email, any technology or training, and no phone number, but can still call out on their iPad. The iPad is connected to Arkansas Connect Now which is a service that was developed during COVID. If they were in a crisis they could connect for free to a counselor for assistance. Also, with this iPad they will be able to attend exercise classes, cooking, and caregiving classes even if they are in another state. She stated the Meals on Wheels drivers will teach the participants how to turn the iPad on and charge it. The iPad will contain written directions on a second to fifth grade level. She added there are some other things that the iPad does contain such as their Facebook information, the Center on Aging website, a calendar, as well as the Webex connection in order for them to call out, and Arkansas Connect Now. She stated they also got a Mission Daybreak award from the VA and they will be trying some different technology pieces. They are using a veteran nurse navigator to work with some veterans that is called the Christine's Companion. She asked if anyone had any questions. Chair Allen asked did anyone have any questions and thanked her for her report.

Kenya Eddings (AMHC/MHI) began by stating that since COVID limitations are gone they have been able to get back out into the communities and if anyone is in need of their assistances or services, please give them a call. As they close the fiscal year, they have visited all 75 counties at least once and they were able to accomplish this before the end of the fiscal year. Also, their mobile health unit continues to be very popular and is on the road frequently, on average three days a week. She stated they continue to work on cardiovascular disease reduction through their Southern Ain't Fried Sunday cookbook and meal program which is very popular. As a result, they are getting ready to do some research on developing a new cookbook. They are working with UA Cooperative Extension Service to create the new cookbook. They have had a couple of meetings and hope to get this new cookbook going within the next couple of months. The Southern Ain't Fried cookbook is almost 20 years old and it's time for an update as individual dietary habits have change as well as eating habits. They want to incorporate some new recipes while hanging onto some of those traditional ones that are already in the cookbook. She stated they are continuing their work with the Stroke Taskforce and have received a number of blood pressure cuffs. They are piloting a program through the local health unit so that when they are out screening individuals who have high and uncontrolled blood pressure, they will be able to give them a blood pressure cup. She stated individuals will be able to monitor their own levels. However, the Commission will follow up and collect some data in conjunction with the Stroke Taskforce from those individuals. They hope to expand this pilot after a couple of months. She stated they are screening for diabetes and cholesterol, which are some of the main factors that go into cardiovascular disease, therefore they are heavy on the education component as well as the screening. She stated that they continue to run their tobacco commercials on television in English and Spanish and they are looking at a number of ways to expand their outreach efforts. One of their outreach efforts that has been successful for them is their "Ask the Doctor" radio show which is broadcast on the third Tuesday of each month on Power 92, an urban radio station. They have also partnered with the Arkansas Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association (AMDPA) who provides a doctor for their "Ask the Doctor" radio show each month for two hours. Each month a specific topic is emphasized and this month the topic is mental health and its impact on communities of color, however the phone lines are open for any and all questions relating to mental or general health. They are looking to expand this program. She added they will be expanding to northeast Arkansas, with Helena – West Helena and will have a doctor on for 30 minutes. They are continuing their partnership with Dr. Sheldon Riklon in northwest Arkansas with the Marshallese community who provides his radio show on the Marshallese news radio station. Also, staff is working to expand their agreement with a Spanish speaking station called La Zeta Radio. At this time, they are still working out the details and the date availability. She stated they are addressing food insecurity as well as access to healthy food. They have received a request to help other cities and municipalities to address food insecurity. They are also partnering with some public and private organizations that are hosting the first inaugural food desert task force and summit which will be some time later this year. She stated that they are excited about their partnership with UAMS to do cook-a-longs, which are meant to help reduce

	cardiovascular disease. She added while participating in the cook-a-longs they will be using their Southern Ain't Fried cookbooks. The way the cook-a-long works is they have partnered with a UAMS dietitian, it is virtual, individuals must sign up for the Zoom meeting, there's a questionnaire which include questions about food insecurity, and then there will be a drawing for 20 families to participate. The selected 20 will receive everything needed to prepare the meal that has been selected for this particular cook-a-long. Also, the virtual meal is prepared in the UAMS kitchen with the Southern Ain't Fried director and the UAMS dietitian. She added they are hoping to expand this program to other parts of the state. She asked if there were any questions. Chair Allen thanked her and asked if there were any other questions or comments.
Meeting Adjournment	Chair Andrea Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cristy Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 a.m.