

ARORP Advisory Board- COPE Recommendation

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Via Email

Board members

Danny Ormand – Judge, Lafayette County | **Tom Barron** – Attorney, Bear State Law | **Dr. John Kirtley**- Pharm.D., FAPhA ,Executive Director Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy| **Jerry Jones** – Chief Legal and Ethics Officer and Executive Vice President, LiveRamp | **Cindy Smith** , Strong-Huttig School Board President | **Gloria Gordon** – Grant Writer, Researcher | **Deborah Motley-Bledsoe** – LPC, LADC, AAC, CS, Formal Substance Abuse Treatment Director | **John Wilkerson** – General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League | **Colin Jorgensen** – Litigation Attorney, Association of Arkansas Counties | **Dr. Virginia Stanick** – Retired Project Director, The State Opioid Response Project | **Tim Helder**, Sheriff Washington County | **Danny Bradley** – Retired Police Chief, North Little Rock Police Department |

An email was sent to ARORP Advisory Board Members on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, to recommend the ARORP Grantee: ARORP 23-023 Safe Haven:

On Tue, May 26, 2026 at 12:41 PM Tenesha Barnes <tbarnes@arorp.org> wrote:

Hello Advisory Board Members—

The ARORP Team conducted the annual evaluation for ARORP23-023 (Safe Haven) on May 14, 2026. During the evaluation, Safe Haven disclosed that the respite beds funded through opioid settlement dollars were not utilized at full capacity. Safe Haven explained that the initial bed request was based on projected need during the application process; however, client placements are occurring more rapidly than anticipated, often within the same day, resulting in lower ongoing bed occupancy.

Because the respite beds were purchased with settlement funds, ARORP identified this as a compliance concern related to the utilization of funded services. Safe Haven acknowledged the concern and submitted a preliminary plan to address the underutilized beds.

The ARORP Executive Team requested the following corrective actions:

- Submission of a formal written plan addressing the unused respite beds (see attached);
- Updated annotated milestones reflecting the partial completion of bed utilization goals (completed).

Safe Haven has since submitted updated milestones in REDCap and provided revised documentation to the ARORP team for review. Safe Haven indicated the revisions were completed in accordance with ARORP guidance.

Additionally, Safe Haven submitted a formal proposal requesting permission to repurpose twenty (20) of the funded respite beds for the development of the proposed Safe Haven Women’s Leadership Academy while maintaining two (2) respite beds at the Community Crisis Center.

Safe Haven further indicated that the proposed repurposing request remains aligned with opioid abatement goals and would support long-term recovery, relapse prevention, and recovery housing services for women impacted by substance use disorder.

The Executive Team will continue reviewing the repurposing request, monitoring compliance and utilization trends, and will provide recommendations to the Board for consideration regarding the proposed modification to the original project scope.

At this time, I will also need your vote of:

- “YES – Recommend”
- “NO – Not Recommend”

If voting “NO,” please provide the reason for your recommendation.

Please submit your vote no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026. If not submit by due date, we will process as recommend.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Tenesha Barnes

Deputy Director

Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership

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“ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT!”



Recommendations:

Colin Jorgenson, Deborah Motley- Bledsoe, Gloria Gordon, Danny Ormand, Cindy Smith, Tim Helder, Danny Bradley, John Kirtley, Dr. Virginia Stanick, Jerry Jones (John Wilkerson, - did not receive a recommendation, Tom Barron- recused)

Executive Team: Chris Villines, Mark Hayse, Kirk Lane, Tenesha Barnes