

# Washtenaw County Community Action Board

## Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

### **Members Present:**

1. Comm. Justin Hodge,
2. Cherisa Allen,
3. Danyelle Reynolds,
4. Juanita House,
5. Shoshana DeMaria,
6. Jo Ann McCollum,
7. Linh Song
8. Jimmie Wilson
9. Mark McBride,
10. Elizabeth Janovic
11. Mary Phillips-Smith,
12. Rhonda Weathers,
13. Alyshia Dyer

### **Members Absent:**

1. Comm. Ricky Jefferson,

**Staff Present:** Teresa Gillotti, Caitlin Nagler, Morghan Williams,

**Staff Absent:** none

### **Guest:**

#### I. **Call to Order**

- Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

#### II. **Welcome and Introductions**

- Roll call of CAB board members
- New members have joined, Linh Song, Alyshia Dyer, and Jimmie Wilson
- Linh Song, has lived in Ann Arbor for many years; excited to join the CAB; first time council member for City of Ann Arbor
- Jimmie Wilson, born and raised in Ypsi Township, a Township Trustee
- Alyshia Dyer, attending U of M Ford School and School of Social Work

#### III. **Public Comments**

- Lamar Weir, from Congresswoman Dingell's office

#### IV. **New Member Swearing-In**

- New terms: Mary, Rhonda, Juanita, Linh Song, Jimmie Wilson, Alyshia Dyer

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### V. Approval of Meeting Agenda

- A motion was made by Justin to approve the Agenda.
- Motion supported by Shoshana. Motion carried.

### VI. Approval of November 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Juanita, supported by Cherisa.
- Motion carried to approve meeting minutes.

### VII. Officer Elections

- Danyelle nominated for Chair by Shoshana
  - Roll call vote:
    1. Linh, yes
    2. Shoshana, yes
    3. Elisabeth, yes
    4. Rhonda, yes
    5. Jimmie, yes
    6. Cherisa, yes
    7. Juanita, yes
    8. Mark, yes
    9. Mary, yes
    10. Justin, yes
    11. Jo Ann, yes
    12. Alyshia, yes
    13. Danyelle, yes
  - Danyelle accepts
  - Danyelle is new Chair
- Shoshana nominated Juanita as Vice Chair
- Juanita declined
- Juanita nominated Rhonda
- Shoshana moved to nominate Rhonda as Vice Chair; second by Danyelle
  - Roll call vote:
    1. Linh, yes
    2. Shoshana, yes
    3. Elisabeth, yes
    4. Rhonda, yes
    5. Jimmie, yes
    6. Justin, yes
    7. Cherisa, yes
    8. Juanita, yes
    9. Mark, yes
    10. Mary, yes
    11. Jo Ann, yes
    12. Danyelle, yes
    13. Alyshia, yes

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- Rhonda accepts, and is new Vice Chair

### VIII. Vaccine Discussion

- Presentation by Morghan
- County Vaccine Plan
  - Vaccine is safe and effective; no cost
  - Stages of development of vaccine; vaccine was piloted with adults only
  - Need to build herd immunity; overall, benefits outweigh risks
  - WCHD vaccine distribution plan
    - Priority groups starting with: healthcare workers, frontline workers, elderly individuals; housing shelter staff
  - JoAnn question: not getting vaccine with 28 day period, not getting 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine, is that a big problem?
    - We'll follow up on that
    - Morghan noted, some people aren't showing up for 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine appointment
  - Mary asked, some people in that age group can't schedule yet, why is that?
    - Morghan response, not everyone can be scheduled immediately, but if you're in that priority group, it should happen very soon
  - Rhonda asked about people living in homeless shelters, when they can get the vaccine?
    - Morghan will follow up
  - Linh question, some confusion in Asian American community, grandparents not sure when they are allowed to see grandchildren again, in between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose? Is there any messaging around that?
    - Morghan said there is some protection a couple weeks after first dose, and more protection after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose; not sure of percentage effectiveness though
    - Also, there is no guarantee of eliminating risk of getting COVID
    - Linh mentioned, make sure people know you could also be asymptomatic carrier even after you get vaccine
  - Justin noted, not sure yet how effective vaccine is against new variants
  - Danyelle noted, it would be helpful to have information that we can disseminate to community; some info from the WCHD
  - Linh mentioned, her parents have gone through pandemics before, and they noted how good it is that we already have progress, and a vaccine this early on

### IX. Updates on CSBG programs

- Morghan presenting on OCED programs
- These programs supported by CSBG funds
  - FGP program; grandparents receive GrandPads, tablets, to keep in touch with students while remote; Sandy Bower coordinates FGP program
  - SNP program; served 1332 unduplicated seniors, 11% increase in meals provided over previous year
    - Home delivered meals program did not miss a single meal delivered during pandemic
  - Barrier Busters program: housing requests have increased significantly, all requests increased during pandemic

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- Weatherization program: weatherized 32 homes this past year, made more energy efficient
- Housing Rehab program, installing ramps for houses
- Jo Ann question, how much did GrandPads tablets cost?
  - Morghan said, not sure, we didn't pay for them out of CSBG
- Jo Ann question about Barrier Busters, for utility funding, available for Ypsilanti area
  - Morghan said, from Treasury Department, \$20 million in CERA funds allocated to Washtenaw, some of that will be for utility assistance
- Juanita asked, how do people apply for Rehab program
  - Teresa said, we can send out a flyer about this; Yvonne is intake person, people to call her, see if eligible
- Justin asked about timeline for this \$20 million funding CERA program
  - Morghan said, our internal timeline is to start up March 1; SOS (Rhonda) offered to be first shelter to start up program
- Justin and Jimmie asked, how do we direct people needing assistance?
  - Morghan said, still direct people to Barrier Busters for utility assistance; to HAWC for housing assistance
- Juanita question, does the assistance include first months rent and security deposit?
  - Morghan said, good question, there's another fund that can help with move-in costs, also through HAWC
- Rhonda said, we've seen increased need throughout pandemic; number of homeless families has started to increase; happy to see that people are starting to reach out for help with a variety of needs, utility, housing, food requests, all going up; important that people call for help when they do have need; much more effective to catch problems upstream, that's why these new funds are so important
- Cherisa asked about a family she knows, receiving food assistance; needs housing assistance and legal help
  - Should reach out to HAWC

### X. **Overview of Community Action Agencies and CSBG**

- Morghan mentioned this might take some time, maybe move to next meeting?
- Jimmie moved to table this agenda item until next meeting, Linh seconded
- Roll call:
  1. Linh, yes
  2. Shoshana, yes
  3. Elisabeth, yes
  4. Rhonda, yes
  5. Jimmie, yes
  6. Justin, yes
  7. Cherisa, yes
  8. Juanita, yes
  9. Mark, yes
  10. Mary, yes
  11. Jo Ann, yes
  12. Danyelle, yes

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13. Alyshia, yes

### XI. **SWOT activity**

- This is moved to next meeting, with previous agenda item

### XII. **Board: New Business**

- Nothing at this time

### XIII. **CAB Member Discussion**

- Linh mentioned, Mayors for Guaranteed Income, seems like a good movement, wondering if some Washtenaw County mayors can join in, get involved; she wants to talk to Mayor Taylor about this; overall interested in seeing if a countywide mayor effort can join in this
  - Justin said, can our Township Supervisors join in, or is it just mayors?
    - Good question, need to see about this?
  - Juanita wants to know, how do we push this forward and start a pilot?
  - Justin will follow up
- Juanita question, when we outlined priorities before, one of them was mental health, what have we done on this?
  - Justin said, one thing we did was prioritize mental health in our CARES CSBG RFP process; we funded one of the agencies in the category of mental health
  - Teresa mentioned CMH millage, how they're using that funding, we should follow that info
- Justin said, he's been working with Community Family Life Center on mental health issues; received grant for mental health related activities in Sugarbrook
  - Justin looking for a licensed social worker to help run this program, provide support online to Ypsi area youth
- Teresa update on Summer Works youth employment program, starting to recruit; can be more remote now, we'll send more info out to CAB; the new forms just went live
- Justin discussed rat situation in Sugarbrook as well as West Willow; make sure people dispose of trash correctly
  - Juanita said, need to figure out how to get rid of rats for good; that happened before in southside Ypsilanti
- Justin said, working with Journey of Faith, grant funding for kits with hygiene and cleaning products, distributing those kits; especially for seniors

### XIV. **BOC Representative Report**

- Justin to discuss BOC priorities
- Commissioners went around at their meeting to state what their priorities are
- Justin's priorities he stated
  - Vaccine distribution
  - Financial Empowerment Center
    - Navigator system, for financial center
    - Help people develop wealth and assets

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- Children's Savings Accounts program; this was started, this conversation started before pandemic; Justin still sees as important
- Predatory lending
- Gault Village shopping center, blighted area, Ypsi Township is dealing with legal issues around this property; Justin wants County to get involved
- Juanita question about predatory lending and corner stores
  - Justin, the state would have to eliminate that issue
- JoAnn, what can County do to help Ypsi Township with Gault Village issue?
  - Justin said, Township or County could purchase the land and develop it

XV. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

XVI. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.