

**WASHTENAW URBAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**Location: Virtual Meeting using Zoom**

**Members in Attendance:**

Supervisor Diane O’Connell (Ann Arbor Township); Councilperson Elizabeth Nelson (City of Ann Arbor); Joe Meyers (Director of Economic Development, City of Ypsilanti); Supervisor Ken Schwartz (Superior Township); Mike Greene (Assistant City Manager, City of Saline); Trustee Sandie Schulze (Sylvan Township); Supervisor Will Hathaway (Scio Township).

Joined late/Not present for Roll Call: Michelle Aniol (City of Dexter) joined around 2:15pm; Jessica West (Pittsfield Township) joined around 3:20pm. Michael Radzik (Office of Community Standards Director, Ypsilanti Township) joined around 2:15pm but tech issues made it impossible for him to be seen on screen or to announce his presence.

**Communities Absent:** Augusta Township; Bridgewater Township; Dexter Township; Lima Township; Manchester Township; Northfield Township; Salem Township; Saline Township; Webster Township; York Township.

**Facilitator:** Commissioner Sue Shink

**OCED Staff Present:** Sharde Crutchfield; Tara Cohen; Teresa Gillotti

**Guests:** Amy Krieg and Chris Brown (Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley); County Health Officer Jimena Loveluck (Washtenaw County Health Department); Lamar Weir (Office of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell); Brandyn Walker & Wendy Carty-Saxon (Avalon Housing).

Meeting called to order: 2:08 PM

Pursuant to [MCL 15.263 Sec.3](#), Chair Shink took roll call during which each member stated their name and physical location (I.e. City or Township, Washtenaw County, State of Michigan).

**I. Public Comment**

- Chris Brown of Habitat for Humanity stated that his organization has serious concerns about some of OCED’s proposed revisions to the Housing Program Guidelines. He noted that Habitat plans to submit written feedback to OCED and the UCEC.
- Lamar Weir introduced himself from Congresswoman Dingell’s office, noting that he is in attendance to listen for important updates.

**II. Announcements**

- A.** Introductions – Each member state name and physical location (I.e. City or Township): *See above under roll call at the outset of meeting.*

**III. Minutes**

- A.** 3-3-21 Meeting Minutes – Review & Approval (**ACTION**)

*Moved by Meyers. Support by O’Connell.*

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### IV. General Administration

##### A. County Health Officer's COVID-19 Update (Jimena Loveluck, WCHD)

Jimena Loveluck presented slides on COVID 19 and the status of vaccinations in Washtenaw County. Please see slides [here in the updated April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting packet](#) (slides start on page 10).

##### B. Fair Housing Training (Pam Kisch, Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan)

Cohen introduced Pam Kisch, the Executive Director of Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan, explaining that the UCEC is fortunate to have Pam provide this group annual training on fair housing to meet one of the goals outlined in the Urban County's 2017 Assessment of Fair Housing Plan *to provide ongoing education and advocacy around fair housing*. Kisch provided a 30 minute training; the slides can be found [here in the updated April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting packet](#) (slides start on page 16).

##### C. Summary of FY 2021-22 Draft Annual Action Plan (Tara Cohen, OCED)

Cohen shared the FY2021-22 entitlement allocations as communicated by HUD on February 28, 2021, referencing the table included in the meeting packet that shows a comparison to the previous grant amounts by program. She noted that Washtenaw Urban County will be receiving a slight increase in CDBG funds, whereas HOME and ESG funds will decrease slightly. Cohen reviewed a simplified version of the table of activities reflecting proposed uses of the 2021 CDBG funds, followed by an update on the HOME and ESG funding. More details can be found in the [meeting packet](#) on pages 2-4.

##### D. Schedule of Public Hearings on the FY 2021-22 Draft Annual Action Plan (Tara Cohen, OCED)

Cohen stated that today is the first of 3 public hearings to solicit input on the Draft Action Plan, with additional hearings to occur April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Ann Arbor HHSAB meeting, and April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:45pm at the County Board of Commissioners meeting, with all meetings being held remotely via Zoom.

##### E. Public Hearing: Draft 2021-22 Action Plan for Washtenaw Urban County

Commissioner Shink opened the public hearing at 3:18 PM.

Wendy Carty-Saxon of Avalon Housing provided comment to say thank you to the UCEC for its ongoing support of Avalon and for its consideration for Avalon's projects included in the draft 2021 Action Plan to receive HOME funds. Shink closed the hearing at 3:20 PM.

##### F. Housing Program Guidelines Updates – **(DISCUSSION ONLY)** (Sharde Crutchfield, OCED)

OCED's Housing & Infrastructure Manager Sharde Crutchfield presented briefly on proposed changes to the Housing Program Guidelines (a policy guiding document to preserve, maintain, and expand housing stock for lower income owner-occupied households at or below 80% of the Washtenaw County AMI.) Her slides can be found in the [updated meeting packet](#) starting on page 36. She also referenced the complete red-lined Housing Program Guidelines document included in the meeting packet.

##### G. OCED Program Updates/Status of COVID-19 Response (Teresa Gillotti, OCED)

- 1) CDBG-CV Round 3 Funding – *Note: Due to time constraints, this items was not discussed.*
- 2) Update on COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program

OCED Director Teresa Gillotti announced that the portal is expected to become available for submitting rental assistance applications later in the week. She noted that the CERA program will include assistance with arrearages going all the way back to March 2020.

On a related note, she mentioned that the Centers for Disease Control's moratorium on evictions has been extended through the end of June 2021 (from March 31, 2021).

**H. General Updates**

1) Community Announcements/updates (All) - None.

**V. Adjournment**

*Aniol moved to adjourn. Support from Schulze.*

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjourned: 3:40 PM

**Next Meeting: Wed., May 5, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30pm, Location: Remote via Zoom**