

# Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

## **Members Present:**

1. Comm. Justin Hodge,
2. Danyelle Reynolds,
3. Mary Phillips-Smith,
4. Alyshia Dyer
5. Comm. Ricky Jefferson
6. Cherisa Allen,
7. Juanita House,
8. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard
9. Beth Dulka
10. Jason Towler (joining late)
11. Rhonda Weathers,
12. Mark McBride,
13. Linh Song

## **Members Absent:**

1. Jimmie Wilson
2. Elizabeth Janovic

**Staff Present:** Caitlin Nagler,

**Staff Absent:** Morghan Williams Boydston, Teresa Gillotti,

**Guest:** Derrick Jackson

- I. **Call to Order**
  - Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
  - Roll call of CAB board members
- III. **Public Comments**
  - No public comments at this time
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
  - A motion was made by Cath to approve the Agenda. Motion supported by Rhonda .
  - Roll call vote:
    1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
    2. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
    3. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
    4. Alyshia Dyer, yes
    5. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
    6. Cherisa Allen, yes

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7. Juanita House, yes
8. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
9. Beth Dulka, yes
10. Rhonda Weathers, yes
11. Mark McBride, yes
12. Linh Song, yes

- Motion carried.

## V. Approval of April 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Mary. supported by Cherisa.
- Roll Call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  3. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
  4. Alyshia Dyer, yes
  5. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
  6. Cherisa Allen, yes
  7. Juanita House, yes
  8. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
  9. Beth Dulka, yes
  10. Rhonda Weathers, yes
  11. Mark McBride, yes
  12. Linh Song, yes
- Motion carried to approve meeting minutes.

## VI. OCED Updates

- a) New HSP safety net grants RFP process
  - completed the community grant review process earlier this month, the recommendations were:

Organization Name	Safety Net Program Area	Safety Net Grant Funding (Annual)	Safety Net Grant Funding (5 years)
Child Care Network	Childcare	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Food Gatherers	Food	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Packard Health, Inc.	Medical/Health	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Michigan Ability Partners	Housing/Homelessness	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels	Food	\$200,000	\$1,000,000
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County	Housing/Homelessness	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Corner Health Center	Medical/Health	\$244,301	\$1,221,505
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,694,301</b>	<b>\$8,471,505</b>

- these will be considered by the BOC at their meeting next Wednesday, June 1, and by Ann Arbor City Council hopefully June 6, maybe June 20

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- The community grant reviewers were really amazing and so committed to the process, they had great experience to pull from, great diversity of experience and backgrounds, and a lot of knowledge.
- 16 grant reviewers in the end, they each scored about 7 or 8 proposals, and each proposal was scored by 4 separate people.
- We provided a rubric, and the scoring and deliberation was done completely by the grant reviewers.
- The award letters and regret letters went out today, and we have been hearing some feedback, it's difficult because not everyone could be awarded. We had 34 agencies apply, and only 7 were able to be awarded this funding round. Limited funds is the problem.
- We also wanted to emphasize that the decisions were left up to the community grant review team.
- Questions / Comments
  - Mary, clarify what the grant amounts are?
    - Caitlin, yes about \$200,000, some \$250,000, annually
  - Comm. Jefferson, comment about the lack of diversity in grant reviewers for CoFu, trying to improve the process and diversity and equity with this new process
  - Councilmember Song, she spread community reviewer opportunity to her BIPOC Moms Facebook group, a few members of that were on grant review team
- b) Barrier Busters update
  - The 2022 unmet needs fund budget is currently \$333,050. These amounts are allocated on a quarterly basis to limited extended waits for emergency assistance.
  - COVID greatly increased demands on the unmet needs fund, and these demands continue into the current year. Based upon year to date usage, it is estimated that \$692,000 in total funds would be needed to ensure future Barrier Busters demands. This would mean securing an additional \$358,950 in unrestricted funding, bringing total unrestricted funding to \$603,950.
  - OCED posits that demands on the unmet needs fund are due primarily to changes in the Covid Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program, in that it no longer supports utility payments apart from rental assistance.
  - As of April 1, both DTE and Consumer's Energy have ended shut-off protection programs for seniors and those with disabilities, and on September 30 the CERA program will end. Both of these changes are expected to further increase need for utilities support.
  - Juanita: where do we hope these funds come from?
  - Councilmember Song: \$100k from Ann Arbor marijuana excise tax for Barrier Busters, just recently approved, and recent council meeting
- c) LIHWAP update

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- we hired Arieona Klaus, who was the FGP program assistant with Sandy; Arieona is the new LIHWAP program aide, she just started this week, and we're working on outreach to water utilities to get them on board with the program
  - over the next couple of weeks, working on this communication, setting up vendor agreements, etc.
  - plan to have it up and running in June, and we'll have some marketing materials to share out very soon

### VII. **Presentation on Community Violence Interruption Policy**

- Derrick Jackson joined and presented on policy recommendations
- Council on Criminal Justice released 10 points for what communities can do now, to reduce firearm violence
- Data points
  - If exposed to firearm violence, more likely to commit firearm violence in the future
- Discussed the Cycle of Violence, how this can be adverse childhood experience, and impact the youth, as well as other people in the family; leads to PTSD, acute stress
- Mary, this is all so true, her grandson was killed, and his sister is taking it very hard, she is blaming herself, very difficult, they want her to get into therapy
- Recommendations
  - Set a clear goal: commit to saving lives by stopping violence
  - Identify key people and places driving violence
  - Create a plan for engaging key people and places
  - Engage key people with empathy and accountability
  - Address key locations using place-based policing & investment
  - Place responsibility for violence reduction efforts at the top
  - Emphasize healing with trauma-informed approaches
  - Invest in anti-violence workforce development
  - Set aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies
  - Create the Washtenaw County Violence Commission
  - Build a community center in eastern Washtenaw County
  - Build community mural/safe grieving community space
  - Establish grief and loss community response protocol for violent deaths
  - Establish a community alert system
- Alyshia: in her experience doing road patrol, had to respond to homicides and gun violence incidents, and the recommendation about using a trauma-informed approach is really important. People impacted by the gun violence could retaliate, have other emotional effects, harmful consequences of the way the legal system usually deals with these incidents.
- Cherisa: people often don't know how to express their grief, in the detention centers, people are dealing with their grief, often through trying to retaliate after being victim, or friends of victim

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- Beth: appreciates that these recommendations are really focused on listening to the people impacted, and the trauma informed approach seems so important; incorporating this into trauma therapy, other resources that take this into consideration in the aftermath of violent gun deaths
- Derrick said one of the main recommendations that the youth push for is a community center in Ypsilanti area; need a place to do activities and play, and find community; a safe space for kids and families
- Cath: huge difference between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor; Ann Arbor has a ton of community centers, but Ypsilanti doesn't have much; the Boys and Girls Club isn't around anymore, there isn't anywhere for kids to gather
- Derrick: shows the slide with all the names of victims of gun violence, who have died in the last decade, need to see this as a reminder for why we do this
- Cherisa: this impacts everyone, not just Ypsilanti, not just the families, everyone in the County, this impacts you no matter what
- Juanita: interested in the community center, how do you propose that gets done?
- Derrick: lift up the stories we hear, use the facts, and push this information up to a different level; this is a public health crisis, and this impacts everyone; and all the people on this call can be pushing for this, for a new community center; and emphasize that this is about changing lives
- Juanita: also interested in, establish community alert system, how would that work?
- Derrick: currently using a WhatsApp text with other members of the council; something different needed for the larger community communication system
- Councilmember Song: are there budgets aligned with any of the recommendations?
- Derrick: these are broad, general, there's a wide range of ways these can be resourced; some of them might be County-funded, some might be taken up by nonprofits
  - BOC set aside several million dollars, set aside to invest in community violence prevention
  - Comm. Hodge: yes, some of the \$8 million that's for Community Priority Fund, some of that can go towards community violence interruption
  -

### VIII. **CSBG and CSBG CARES FY21 Annual Report Summary**

- Note that especially the new members might have some questions about what this means, apologize for delay in scheduling the new member orientation, we will make sure to schedule that with the new members in first half of June
- This report is mandated by our CSBG funds administered by the BCAEO
- Submitted in FACSPRO, along with the other Michigan CAAs, submitted in January
- Covers time period FY21, October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021
  - Both CSBG and CSBG CARES programs are included in the annual report (this year there was also a separate CSBG CARES report, but the CSBG report does include CARES as well, so screenshots and data are just from the CSBG report)

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- All OCED's programs are included in report, but we enter specific household data in FACSPRO just for CSBG, CSBG CARES, Weatherization, and other BCAEO grant funded programs; some other OCED programs are reported via Mass Entry (just enter a number of participants)
- Slide 1
  - In Facspro we report both Services and Indicators for each program—some programs will only have services attached to them because it is not possible to track outcomes for every program, based on staff capacity, etc. This table shows the number of individuals served (copied from the Facspro CSBG annual report) and I added a column to show some of the corresponding programs
  - Also note, I wanted to highlight the programs where the bulk of our services are, so although we reported numbers in Foster Grandparents and other OCED programs in the report, the Housing services area is where most of the services are; I can share the full report data later though, if people are interested in that.
- Slide 2
  - Some outcomes/indicators shown here. There are fewer because as I mentioned, its not always feasible to track indicators, but we can always show which individual received which service, in each program
- Slide 3
  - Demographics. We served 1,112 individuals that were also entered individually in Facspro. These are the unduplicated numbers, but in addition to this there are a number of people served in Senior Nutrition, FGP, etc., that we report as a mass entered number. With this in mind, its likely that OCED programs served about double this number, although that would technically be a duplicated count. Also 523 households served, unduplicated.
  - I also wanted to show some individual demographic info about the people we served
- Slide 4
  - Demographics (cont.). Slide shows that ethnicity and race of the people served, as well as employment status. I wanted to compare this data to our FY19 and FY20 data to see if there's an increase in unemployed people served, I'm sure there is an increase, I didn't have time to look that up yet.
- Slide 5
  - Household Demographics. We serve some homeowners, but the majority is clearly renters. Also we are allowed to serve up to 200% FPL for most of our programs, but clearly the majority are very low income, much lower than the FPL
- Alyshia: geographic data? Who was served in Ypsilanti and Ypsi Township?
  - Caitlin will send out that information

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## IX. Board: New Business

- Danyelle: last meeting talked about in person gathering; maybe at a park, at Rolling Hills, or County Farm Park
  - Maybe meet at 6, to give people more time to get there
  - Any thoughts on in-person meeting in June
  - We would wait until covid levels are at a low community spread level
  - Cath mentioned she might have her grandson with her, if it's the June meeting
  - Councilmember Song: just concerned about covid levels, and it's hard to know you have it, might test negative even if you have it
  - Alyshia suggested maybe Parkridge, or Riverside? But also only if case numbers are lower
  - Danyelle, yes we'll make sure to poll the group
  - Mary: Ford Heritage Park, near her house, free to get it, and has a playscape for Cath's grandson
- Danyelle also wanted to mention, when we're planning the agenda for a meeting, want to make sure we're hearing from our members about what they're doing
  - We are a community action board, so what can the group do as an action?
  - Also we might have Morghan come back and do more strategic planning with the group
  - Just want to start thinking about this
  - How CAB members can help each other and learn about their work across our networks

## X. CAB Member Discussion

- Alyshia: ARPA funding for Ypsilanti Township, update on the process, mental health was the top area, top concern that community wants ARPA funding to go to; followed by violence, and affordable housing, also top issues
- Councilmember Song: Universal basic income, "guaranteed income"; people will have to meet certain criteria; \$1.6 million of ARPA funding for families that qualify; pilot program that models other programs in other areas; this was passed last week by City Council; first city in Michigan with this type of the program
  - Wanted to fill the gap left by child tax credit not being renewed, and CERA not continuing
  - City staff working on how to administer this grant; meeting with AAACF and United Way, to work with them on how to roll this out
  - Applications to be released hopefully by the end of this summer
- Cherisa: SummerFest Joe Dulin Day August 27, starting at 11am; planning underway for this; Katie Hoffman managing nonprofit vendors
  - Cherisa is managing food and merchandise vendors, let her know
- Rhonda: wanted to share that there is no support for family shelter, no support for rapid rehousing, with the Safety Net Grants awards; she is concerned about this
  - Councilmember Song: elected officials are calling each other to figure out how to raise the funding amount, to deal with this

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- Rhonda: also SOS used CoFu match for HUD match, they'll have to turn away a million dollars because of this
- Rhonda: so many programs not funded, this will be a huge impact
- Danyelle: think about how the CAB advocate for more funding for these programs; put this on the agenda for next meeting

### XI. **BOC Representative Report**

- Comm. Hodge
  - Has to leave for special BOC meeting at 7, quick updates now
  - At June meeting, next round of ARPA allocations
  - July meeting, additional ARPA funds also

### XII. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

### XIII. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.