

# Washtenaw County Community Action Board

## Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

### **Members Present:**

1. Comm. Justin Hodge
2. Cherisa Allen
3. Shoshana DeMaria
4. Jo Ann McCollum
5. Linh Song
6. Jimmie Wilson
7. Mark McBride
8. Mary Phillips-Smith
9. Rhonda Weathers
10. Comm. Ricky Jefferson
11. Linda Adams
12. Danyelle Reynolds

### **Members Absent:**

1. Alyshia Dyer
2. Elizabeth Janovic
3. Juanita House,

**Staff Present:** Teresa Gillotti, Morghan Williams Boydston, Amber Coleman

**Staff Absent:** Caitlin Nagler

**Guest:** N/a

- 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 Commissioner Hodge to approve the agenda.
  - Motion supported by Jo Ann McCollum
  - Roll call vote:
    1. Comm. Justin Hodge, Yes
    2. Cherisa Allen, Yes
    3. Danyelle Reynolds, Yes
    4. Shoshana DeMaria, Yes

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5. Jo Ann McCollum, Yes
6. Linh Song, Yes
7. Jimmie Wilson, Yes
8. Mark McBride, Yes
9. Mary Phillips-Smith, Yes
10. Rhonda Weathers, Yes
11. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, Yes
12. Linda Adams, Yes

- Motion carried.

### V. Approval of April 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Shoshanna DeMaria , supported by .
- Roll Call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, Yes
  2. Cherisa Allen, Yes
  3. Danyelle Reynolds,
  4. Shoshana DeMaria, Yes
  5. Jo Ann McCollum, Yes
  6. Linh Song, Yes
  7. Jimmie Wilson Yes
  8. Mark McBride,
  9. Mary Phillips-Smith, Yes
  10. Rhonda Weathers, Yes
  11. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, Yes
  12. Linda Adams, Yes
- Motion carried to approve meeting minutes.

### VI. Priorities/Goals for CAB

- Dot goals presented by Morghan Boydston.
  - Recap on an activity (SWAT) for CAB
    - Aspirations (6 months to a year out)
      - Focus on top two outcomes from SWAT assessment.
  - Top goal was to engage undocumented and immigrant communities.
  - 2 Increase engagement with OCED programs
  - 3 action and work between meetings
  - 4 opening lines of communications to the board so all feel free to come with issues/concerns/opportunities.
- Commissioner Hodge: Thought that participation in Michigan Community Action would have ranked higher.
- Jo Ann: Thought that making residents more aware of the program would and engagement with neighborhood watch programs.
- Rhonda: Commented that we should integrate the voice of the consumer.
- Benchmark planning was decided to be worked on
  - Jo Ann McCollum: commented that she would like to plan with a focus on the result.

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- Rhonda Weathers: Would like to have collected information from residents.
- Linh Song: Felt that CAB could engage with justice rights groups. She mentioned that there are groups that organize against Asian hate crimes-- that CAB could work with
- Jo Ann McCollum: We should focus research on the needs of the immigrant communities, maybe different resources, or enhanced resources.
- Linda Adams: Brought up potential trust issues in the immigrant community.
- Linh Song: Suggested that CAB leverage the relationships built by Public Health over the pandemic
- Com. Hodge: Welcoming America work already being done by OCED
  
- Morghan: Do we want to tap into the Welcoming America work being done by OCED? Suggested that resources be provided so members of the community can serve and be supported to be successful in their engagement. At least two seats on the board
- Com. Hodge: Suggested that all by law changes be done at the same time
- Danyelle Reynolds: Asked about how the board would like to see the future of board composition.
- Work outside of this meeting may be done in a subgroup on the different step of meeting these goal (strategic planning subgroup) Focus on this will be on the community at large.
  
- Morghan: What would it look like for CAB to have full participation with OCED staff?
  - Justin: CAB should be integrated into the systems in the programs and OCED.
  - Cherisa: Suggested a subgroup to connect with OCED and report back to the larger group.
  - Linh Song: Has been following the increase in number of allowed refugees. We are expecting 500 this year.
  - Morghan: Was interested in allowing CAB member to attend OCED meetings to understand what work is being done in OCED and other work being done by CAB members.
  
- Weakness intermediate (next 3-6 months)
  - Connection to more organizations, formal, and informal, working towards community resiliency and ending poverty.
    - Jo Ann McCollum: We would be trying to reach out to community organizations and introduce board members and what they do and participate in networking events.
    - Linh Song: Suggested that we might do Something like the Homecoming Detroit program to bring people who have left the area and helped to re-engage and invent in the community. This model has been used in other cities. In Detroit one of the results has been the rebuilding of the train station.
    - Danyelle Reynolds: Increase understanding of who is doing the work of ending poverty or working with impoverished residents.
    - Hodge: Said that CAB members could be more engaged in grant funding meetings. OCED can assist by helping to create a map of the major agencies participation in this work

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- JoAnn McCollum: This may be a opportunity to connect with new partners in the community and assist with making connections between the community and non-profits and non-typical orgs.
- Morghan Boydston: How can CAB help connect people in the community together to advance the work of ending poverty.
- No focus/specific tasks delivered.
  - Jo Ann McCollum commented that understanding the roles and skills of board members would assist for this goal.
  - Commissioner Hodge: Suggested the OCED come to the CAB meetings with tasks for CAB and asks of members.
  - Cherisa Allen: Suggested that we include ice breakers for CAB meetings with a check in on how people are doing.
  - Hodge: Also commented how during Zoom there are not the same natural opportunities to get to know people.
- Threats
  - Maintaining the status quo with approached to ending poverty.
  - Lack of integration with non-profits
  - Resources that exist and operate in silos.

## VII. OCED Updates

- Barrier Busters update provided on June numbers to date on households served.
  - 4x increase in requests from immigrant households.
    - Main source of support for immigrant households
    - 44% increase in request to assist family with children.
    - By June 19<sup>th</sup> the total number of requests from 2019 was surpassed
  - City of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township, and City of Ann Arbor contributed to this fund.
  - CERA access guide released by OCED to assist residents in understanding how to fill out their application to assist processing. Completed application expedites the application process and helps decrease processing time.
  - Morghan: Ask of CAB: Explain how COVID impacted your help on CERA. Help the community state how COVID impacted residents when filling out CERA applications.
  - Linda Adams: Stated that she was concerned about Broadband access to turn in the forms. We have many residents in the county without access to the internet.
  - Comm. Hodge: America Rescue Plans and upcoming infrastructure bill federally and Washtenaw Rescue Plan will address Broadband.
  - Danyelle Reynolds: Have we heard anything about support or lack of support to applying for CERA funds.
  - Rhoda Weathers: Some larger complexes are actively putting out fliers. Some of the smaller landlords are not supporting this.
  - Morghan: MSHDA stated today that families can be supported with rental support for three months. They do not qualify for BSG if they are on the street or doubled up.
- Limited emergency housing choice vouchers have been issued through 2022 with move in assistance from people who are already on a waitlist these will be pulled on July 19<sup>th</sup> right now the list has 95 people on them.

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- Advise people to ask to be on the HCV who are literally homeless.
  - This does not include if a family or individual paying for a hotel room

### VIII. **CAB Meeting Schedule – Proposed changes**

- Survey Results
  - Many wanted to increase meetings.
    - When CAB meets in August this would be a good time to change the meetings Cadence via a bylaw amendment
    - Added to the August agenda as an action item.

### IX. **Board: New Business**

- Jo Ann McCollum: Asked for a flier for the CAB meetings that explains what CAB is and gives some context from OCED
  - Danyelle Reynolds was wondering about what experience that community members coming into the meetings would have or what we hope they would have.
  - Justin Hodge: Commented that public engagement in meetings might be an opportunity to engage with the community Suggested adding a response to public comment from the board.
  - Teresa Gillotti: Suggested adding a discussion segment to the agenda on topics posted before meetings.
- Several Members asked about guidance for beginning to meet in person.
- Members would like to meet in person but are waiting to hear from the county on guidance.

### X. **CAB Member Discussion**

- Jo Ann McCollum: in Ypsilanti Township and the City there is a large concern about rats. We need assistance in getting information out to the community on mitigation. This is an emerging issue that is worse than it has been in previous years. Suggested that we should do a mailer to reach residents who are not getting this information who are not online.
- Commissioner Hodge: Has been working with Water Dept. in Ypsilanti Township who is working to catch rats in traps. He also offered to engage with the Township and City.
- Ricky Jefferson: Public Health Department has put out fliers to residents when the traps were put out.
- Cherisa Allen: Meeting for the Summer Fest will be in Person at Parkridge community center at Thursday July 1st, also there will be a community softball game the Sunday before on August 22<sup>nd</sup>

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XI. **BOC Representative Report**

- FEC
- American Rescue Plan
  - Public engagement planning forthcoming
- Administration putting out county building reopening plan soon.

XII. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

XIII. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.