

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, August 31, 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. Linh Song
6. Jimmie Wilson
7. Mark McBride,
8. Mary Phillips-Smith,
9. Rhonda Weathers,
10. Alyshia Dyer
11. Comm. Ricky Jefferson

Members Absent:

1. Jo Ann McCollum,
2. Elizabeth Janovic
3. Shoshana DeMaria,
4. Linda Adams

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

Staff Absent:

Guest:

- I. **Call to Order**
 - Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 Jimmie.
 - Roll call vote:
 1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
 2. Cherisa Allen, yes
 3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
 4. Juanita House, yes

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5. Linh Song, yes
6. Jimmie Wilson, yes
7. Mark McBride, yes
8. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
9. Rhonda Weathers, yes
10. Alyshia Dyer, yes
11. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes

- Motion carried.

V. **Approval of June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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

VI. **Discussion/Approval of CSBG FY22 Community Action Plan**

- Caitlin presented on CSBG plan
 - New questions on the ROMA process, explained how OCED uses ROMA to plan and assess programs
 - Reviewed the programs funded with CSBG, in Barrier Busters
 - Discussed other general OCED activities in the plan including how OCED coordinates with partners, how the intake process works for our various programs, etc.
- Linh Song question about CSBG being used in COFU?
 - Caitlin clarified the response about COFU was just to explain how OCED collaborates with partner agencies, but CSBG funding is not actually allocated for COFU
- Danyelle question about the question “Does your agency have a method to track clients that move out of poverty or up the scale to self-sufficiency?”
 - Morghan responded that we would really like to have the capacity to do more of this. And hopefully with the Financial Empowerment Centers we will see more detailed tracking of clients moving up the self-sufficiency ladder.
- Jimmie question, is this a grant where we don’t know the amount, or is it a predetermined amount?
 - Morghan and Teresa responded that we are considered an eligible entity as a community action agency (CAA) and we are awarded a set amount, which we are informed of when we complete the CSBG application for that fiscal year

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- Caitlin said the amount for FY22 is \$597,521
- Morghan asked the group, what would be helpful for you all, when we present on the CSBG plan next year?
 - Linh was curious about the logic models, would like more detail about our progress to goals in the past
 - Rhonda said, it'd be helpful to know the major changes year-to-year
 - Comm. Jefferson, helpful to know if this funding is really meeting community needs
- Commissioner Hodge motion to approve, Linh Song seconded.
- Roll Call vote:
 1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
 2. Cherisa Allen, yes
 3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
 4. Juanita House, yes
 5. Linh Song, yes
 6. Jimmie Wilson, yes
 7. Mark McBride, yes
 8. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
 9. Rhonda Weathers, yes
 10. Alyshia Dyer, yes
 11. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
- Motion carried to approve CSBG FY22 plan.

VII. **CAB Bylaws Discussion/Approval**

- Morghan discuss bylaws proposed changes
- Proposing term limits, it's a best practice, helps to get new people on the board. This would help us to make sure the board's ideas and discussion doesn't get stagnant. Term limits are also a best practice for equity.
- Alyshia question, is this for each sector?
 - Yes, for public, private, and community sector
- Comm. Hodge question about the BOC commissioner representatives, 3 terms is just 3 years
- Comm. Jefferson said, the commissioners should just be excluded from that requirement.
- Add to the public officials sector: "The BOC commissioner members of the board are excluded from the term limits."
- Mary said, people like herself, Shoshana, Juanita, they've been on the board a long time; Mary said it feels like this is targeting towards this group, and the CAB would be negatively impacted by losing their combined knowledge
- Morghan said, I appreciate your transparency in this question, and we do appreciate the historical knowledge they bring, but this is being proposed because it is a best practice
- Juanita question, does it have to be retroactive?
 - Morghan, yes it would be retroactive, so anyone currently on the board who has served more than 10 years, when their next term ends, they would not be invited to reapply.
- Comm. Jefferson said, he likes the idea of leaving a gap year and then allowing the CAB member to reapply, after a year off
- Comm. Hodge said, for CAB members that term out, cycle off the board, can we think of other ways for CAB members to stay involved?

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- Jimmie commented, he's also on the Habitat for Humanity board, and they do 2 terms, then take 1 year off, then you're allowed to apply again
- Morghan also said we can send out some articles on board term limits to provide more context.
- Danyelle said we do have other items in the bylaws to discuss
- Comm. Jefferson has to leave the meeting, its his wife's birthday
- On page 8, regular board meetings, increase to 9 meetings scheduled a year, with minimum of at least 6
 - Jimmie supports this
 - Rhonda supports this
 - Comm. Hodge supports
- Remote meeting attendance section, just allows all CAB members to attend remotely unlimited number of meetings, rather than limiting to 1 meeting a year
- We haven't reached a consensus on the term limits item; so might need to table the rest of the discussion to September meeting
- Morghan will email the term limits articles
- Comm. Hodge moved to table bylaws updates to September meeting. Danyelle seconded
- Roll call vote:
 1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
 2. Cherisa Allen, yes
 3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
 4. Juanita House, yes
 5. Linh Song, yes
 6. Jimmie Wilson, yes
 7. Mark McBride, yes
 8. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
 9. Rhonda Weathers, yes
 10. Alyshia Dyer, yes
- Motion passed, bylaws updates tabled to September meeting.

VIII. OCED Updates

- New Human Services Partnership Process
 - Morghan presenting
 - New grant partnership goals: more root cause analysis, addressing root causes
 - Poverty, racism, trauma, all root causes of further problems facing households
 - Scalability as a new focus: Scaling out, scaling up, scaling deep, scaling scree, scaling infrastructure
 - Funding framework: 3 funding programs
 - Human services safety net contracts
 - Human services mini grants
 - Human services 5 year grants
 - Open up for questions/comments/concerns

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- Danyelle—how are we going to promote collaboration with this process?
Groups will be competing for these funds, so how do we encourage cooperative grant applications?
 - Morghan said, we will make sure to write RFP in a way to encourage collaboration; collaboration is ideal with new innovative projects, so applicants will hopefully see the need to be collaborative with this
 - Rhonda question—with the old COFU process, agencies were applying for multiple grants, multiple programs within the agency, will this be the same way?
 - Morghan said, ideally we will fund a whole agency, rather than individual programs
 - Rhonda said that sounds great, its exhausting doing 6 different applications for 6 different programs, 1 application for the whole organization would be helpful
 - Alyshia—how can we make safety net contracts non competitive?
 - Morghan—there will be more of a RFQ process rather than RFP; ask for agencies' qualifications;
 - Teresa added, a lot of agencies are specialized, so specific work done by different agencies, to avoid overlap
 - Rhonda, what's the timeline
 - Teresa—things have been pushed back a bit, so the mini grants and safety net contracts will hopefully still be released this fall, with contracts starting in January; the 5 year larger grants maybe will push back to be open in spring, contracts start July 1, 2022, most likely
 - Linh—do you all have capacity to do this?
 - Morghan and Teresa, somewhat, hopefully
 - We will hopefully be able to get some additional capacity
 - Comm. Hodge—it is a priority of BOC to add capacity at OCED
- CERA updates
 - Morghan presenting
 - Eviction moratorium ended
 - So far about \$3 million CERA funds spent locally in Washtenaw
 - Still processing CERA applications, its moving slowly, but still moving forward
 - Tell people, if they need help, apply for CERA
 - Also, they shouldn't move out of the rental unit, need to stay there
 - Attend your court date about eviction
 - If the applicant moves, then the CERA application won't work for them
 - Rhonda added, some CERA funds going towards temporary hotel shelter also
 - Linh—what if the landlord just decides to not renew their lease? Instead of filing eviction notice?

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- Morghan said, they should still try to apply, and if they are still on the lease and in the unit, we might be able to help

IX. **Board: New Business**

- Question from Juanita about childcare and ARPA
- Comm. Hodge discussing ARPA
 - Looking at countywide framework to address childcare issue
 - Juanita said, so it's still being worked out
 - Comm. Hodge, yes, BOC will vote on allocation tomorrow, but won't be able to be fully implemented for a few weeks
 - Juanita—how will people request funds?
 - Comm. Hodge said, County Administration will make it clear how the funds will be requested, process for that, after the allocation is approved
- Linh—the allocation that goes towards Ann Arbor childcare, AA schools, Linh said this is designed to help families that need more resources to help pay for childcare;
 - Agrees though that it is a countywide issue; not just Ann Arbor, people in other county areas need the help also
- ARPA, Washtenaw Rescue Plan
 - Comm. Hodge said, receiving feedback via survey on how ARPA funds should be used
 - BOC will vote on multiple packages, how to use these funds;
 - Childhood Savings Accounts—this will be voted on by BOC; this closes the wealth equity gap, because children that have savings are more likely to have access to more opportunity in education and jobs, etc.
 - Another way ARPA will be used, more internet and broadband funding, for areas of county that lack access to broadband
 - Funding for Weatherization program
 - Morghan—can ARPA be used for affordable housing?
 - Comm. Hodge, yes, there's some plans for affordable housing as part of Washtenaw Rescue Plan
- Comm. Hodge—thank you Linh for pointing out opportunity for state of Michigan Community Action and Economic Opportunity commission; he was recently appointed by the Governor

X. **CAB Member Discussion**

- Nothing at this time

XI. **BOC Representative Report**

- Nothing at this time

XII. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

XIII. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.