

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

1. Danyelle Reynolds,
2. Comm. Justin Hodge,
3. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard,
4. Jason Towler,
5. Elizabeth Janovic,
6. Juanita House,
7. Mary Phillips-Smith,
8. Comm. Ricky Jefferson,
9. Rhonda Weathers

Members Absent:

1. Beth Dulka
2. Cherisa Allen
3. Mark McBride
4. Linh Song
5. Jimmie Wilson, Jr.
6. Alyshia Dyer

Staff Present: Morghan Williams Boydston, Arieona Klaus

Staff Absent: Teresa Gillotti

Guest: N/A

I. Call to Order

- Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 Elizabeth Janovic to approve the Agenda. Motion seconded by Jason Towler.
- Roll call vote:
 - Danyelle Reynolds, yes
 - Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
 - Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
 - Jason Towler, yes
 - Elizabeth Janovic, yes

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- Juanita House, yes
- Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
- Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
- Rhonda Weathers, yes
- Motion carried/passes.

V. **Approval of October 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

- May meeting minutes will be approved at October meeting.

VI. **OCED Updates**

- a) Washtenaw Urban County Assessment of Fair Housing Plan – Presentation by Tara Cohen, OCED Housing and Infrastructure Manager:
 - Develop through HUD mandated initiative called Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).
 - 5 year plan overlapped with consolidated 5 year plan via Urban County.
 - Updates to plan to cover next 5 year cycle.
 - Designed to require communities to explore the history of racial and economic segregation and its ongoing impact on neighborhoods and individual opportunity (opportunity in education, workforce, transport, housing, etc.).
 - Developed in 2017 by the Urban County and Ann Arbor Housing Commission.
 - AFH Plan is living document – needs to be revised for next 5-year planning cycle (FY 2023 – 2027).
 - New subcommittee will:
 - Consider new goals,
 - Provide input on community engagement tools – surveys, focus groups,
 - Incorporate most current data available (i.e. American Community Survey, Census, HUD).
 - Data collection resulted in the creation of local neighborhood profiles (2017).
 - New subcommittee will determine what neighborhoods will be examined and consider if there are areas that should be looked at that were not examined in 2017.
 - Survey collection (788 surveys collected) and focus groups (6 focus groups conducted) were included in last community engagement plan.
 - Racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAP) – HUD definition:
 - A census tract with over 50% concentration of non-white/BIPOC residents and over 40% of population are living in poverty or 3x the average poverty rate.
 - Government policies and racist practices lead to these types of concentration.
 - Two identified R/ECAPS – Leforge and Southside Ypsilanti.
 - Shifts since 2017 – Leforge no longer considered an R/ECAP due to demographic changes and affordable units becoming market rate.

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- 2 additional R/ECAPS that have appeared since 2017.
 - Adjacent to R/ECAP in Census Tract 4106 (south of Michigan Avenue).
- HUD's framework for Access to Opportunity analysis looks at opportunity in education, employment, affordable housing, transportation, and fair housing (10 goal areas).
- Recently formed a new subcommittee to inform the development of the updated AFH Plan.
- Includes staff from OCED and Ann Arbor Housing Commission, Urban County members, and CAB members.
- Thank you to CAB members who joined subcommittee – Jason Towler, Danyelle Reynolds, Cherisa Allen, and Beth Dulka.
- More information at www.washtenaw.org/affh.
- Questions / Comments
 - Q: Juanita – What is the plan?
 - A: We are going to upload the plan developed in 2017 – working together to refocus and develop strategies within the goal areas. Tara hopes to have an outcomes document in the coming weeks that tracks the progress of the updated plan and goals.
 - Q: Ricky – Is the plan and goals to decrease the concentration of poverty and improve opportunity?
 - A: Yes, it is looking at the different areas of how to improve access to opportunity and working with local partners to achieve these goals, tracking and identifying progress.
 - We are also thinking about how we can take steps to improve quality of life throughout the Washtenaw County.
- Q: Justin – As you're working on this plan, is the team working on it connected with Poverty Solutions to update the Opportunity Index?
 - A: We have utilized the Opportunity Index data and Teresa is very involved with this project as well as the Opportunity Index, so it should be on track for updates.
- b) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – Presentation by Arieona Klaus, LIHWAP Program Aide:
 - LIHWAP provides direct payment assistance for water and wastewater arrearages designed to help Washtenaw County residents retain water access.
 - 2 year emergency relief program.
 - Funded by the US Dept of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families.
 - Provides up to \$650 in assistance or \$2,000 (depending on household makeup) for qualifying homes.
 - Qualifications:
 - Residential water account holder,

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- Be in an arrearage or disconnection status,
 - At or below 150% of Federal Poverty Limit,
 - Automatically qualify with SER, SNAP, TANIF, SSI.
- Current providers:
 - City of Dexter, City of Milan, City of Saline, Superior Township, Sylvan Township, Village of Manchester, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA),
- Questions / Comments
 - Q: Cath – Can you send information about the program to present to Augusta Township?
 - A: Arieona will send information about LIHWAP to the entire CAB listserve.
 - Q: Ricky – Are these funds already going to people – have they applied and are they receiving funds? Are you still looking for applicants?
 - A: Yes, we are still accepting applications. Applications are open until September 2023 so residents can apply by contacting Arieona at klausu@washtenaw.org or 734-544-6721 or apply online at https://ewashtenaw.formstack.com/forms/lihwap_intake_form.
- c) Coordinated Entry update from Morghan
 - HAWC is our housing access provider for Washtenaw County.
 - Program that provides phone screening and intake to those experiencing homelessness.
 - Parent organization overseeing work is who we have disengaged from and will no longer receive funding to coordinate this program.
 - Released an RFP to determine new providers will support in this work – RFP proposals are due September 29.
 - Proposals will then be submitted to the funding review team via the Continuum of Care (CoC) team.
 - New providers will be selected and re-envision our entire coordinate entry system.
 - County is taking over phone line during transition period – will allow OCED to hear client experiences, provide support to HAWC staff through training and opportunities in growth areas, and have a better understanding of the volume at which clients are calling and the crises they are experiencing.
 - Questions / Comments
 - Q: Ricky – Are HAWC calls currently going to/received by OCED?
 - A: Calls will continue to go to HAWC but OCED is currently overseeing that work.
 - Q: Justin – Can you talk about some of the advantages to the new cloud-based phone system being utilized (i.e. how multiple partners can work together due to this system)?
 - A: Cloud-based system will make it easier and also expanding reach of our HMIS data system.
 - Front end: referrals in real time.

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- Expand visibility of HMIS on the data side to allow more partners to have access to coordinated entry page.
 - As folks are being referred to different agencies, assessment agencies can see the entire “pathway” of client.
- Q: Danyelle – Is OCED’s capacity/staff increasing to account for this additional oversight and training to support HAWC?
- A: No, there is no expansion of capacity but rather, reprioritizing our work to be able to focus on this.
- Juanita – Will you be able to connect to out of county agencies?
- A: Our system will not be able to connect outside of the county but HAWC staff are interested in understanding more about the resources available in the community. OCED and HAWC staff have been in communication about developing a community resource guide for clients, which can extend to outside county resources as well.

VII. **Board: New Business**

- This Saturday at 1pm, Heritage Park Neighborhood Association is hosting a Domestic Violence Walk.
 - Meeting at the park afterward for refreshments.
- Danyelle – In regard to CAB strategic planning, consider the question, *What do you want the CAB to be known for?*
 - We can discuss more about strategic planning when more folks are on the call but this question can aide in conversations around the CAB moving forward and what the CAB looks like.

VIII. **BOC Representative Report**

- Comm. Hodge
 - Passed the third American Rescue Plan package at our most recent meeting (\$30 million package)
 - Part of the \$30 million funding passed a month and a half ago to fund the Affordable Housing Development at 220 N. Park in City of Ypsilanti.
 - Passed the remaining amount at the recent BOC meeting:
 - Included funding to start the Financial Equity Center - Financial Equity Center will include financial empowerment center, down payment assistance for homebuyers, small business support, and RFP process to find a partner to help underbanked and unbanked individuals get connected to traditional financial services and redesigning how the county processes fines and fees;
 - Embargoing funds for the Health Dept - Funds to support the Health Dept. to do more equity focused work; earmarking funding so the Health Dept. can hire for grant funded positions that are more long-term;
 - Premium pay for emergency related workers (i.e. first responders, front line workers, etc.);

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- Fund for general government services – county administration to put out communication to other county departments and county-wide elected officials asking if there are specific initiatives/programs that ARPA funds should be used for;
- Joint proposal from Water Resources Commission and Road Commission – matching ARPA funds for townships and cities.
- Still in process of finishing allocated funds through Community Priority Fund
 - All categories have been scored
 - Expect for the final recommendations to come from County Administration by the end of October
 - Next meeting will include two more categories – housing and homelessness and early childhood education.
 - Final October meeting will include categories: direct assistance to households and addressing educational disparities (late October).
- Comm. Jefferson
 - October 19 meeting expected to have a conversation around the opioid settlements in Michigan.
 - County will receive \$400,000 every year for 18 years.
 - BOC wants to have conversations with Health Dept., CMH, and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Oversight Policy Board Members to discuss how to spend those dollars (i.e. prevention, education, re-entry).
 - East Side Rec Center and YMCA – more information to come later.
 - No decisions will be fully made until community is engaged through the YMCA community engagement process (2 organizations contracted to do this).
 - Superior Township has created a Community Center Advisory Committee – working groups to assist with decision making and design, programming, and services.
 - Chaney School site potential location – acreage available (24 acres).
 - YMCA to conduct feasibility study.
 - Funding from Parks and Rec, philanthropy support through YMCA, and funding through the township and county.
 - Will ensure CAB gets information about the community input sessions when they happen
 - If you're interested in the advisory committee, you can sit in and listen – once workshops are developed, more opportunities for involvement and participation from CAB members and/or community.
 - All BOC meetings recorded and available online if you cannot attend – feel free to reach out to Justin and Ricky if you have questions.

IX. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

X. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at ???