

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, November 22, 2022

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

1. Danyelle Reynolds
2. Rhonda Weathers
3. Comm. Justin Hodge
4. Jason Towler

There were not enough board members present for quorum.

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Absent:

1. Alyshia Dyer
2. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard
3. Cherisa Allen
4. Ricky Jefferson
5. Mary Phillips Smith
6. Elizabeth Janovic
7. Jimmie Wilson Jr.
8. Juanita House
9. Beth Dulka

Staff Present: Katie Hoffman-Pariyar, Morghan Williams

Staff Absent:

Guest: Cheranissa Roach (OCED)

I. Call to Order

- Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35pm

II. Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call of CAB board members

III. Public Comments

- No public comments at this time

IV. Approval of November Meeting Agenda

- No quorum to approve agenda for November

V. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

- No quorum to approve agenda to approve October meeting minutes

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VI. OCED Updates

- Coordinated Entry (Morghan)
 - Rhonda Weathers (SOS) is under contract for coordinated entry
 - SAWC /Delonis contracted on the family side
 - Strategic planning under way
 - \$1.7 million for new system (~\$1.4 million currently)
 - For 2023, feel solid about a scaled up coordinated entry process
 - 2023-24 programming year
 - Support from CAB – seeking match federal/state grants – not a formal ask but current budget planning
 - Those appointments that were scheduled out through January are now a week out
 - Rhonda: eager to move forward so folks can have a seamless process through coordinated entry
 - What are you hearing within the community about coordinated funding?
 - Families supporting have gotten help they need so change is being seen
 - However, people don't know about the change over (how to communicate that?)
 - Concern for families now is finding people to help move their belongings
- Financial Empowerment Program Updates (presented by Cheranissa Roach, Economic Opportunity Manager at OCED)
 - FEC Impact:
 - Individualized service
 - \$137 million in debt reduced
 - \$19 million in savings achieved
 - Collaborative relationship between client and coach
 - Attention focused on behavior without value judgements
 - Support practicing new financial behaviors
 - Empower clients to set own goals based on their unique needs
 - The work of the FEC aligns with Washtenaw County Gov initiatives focusing on poverty alleviation and wealth equity for all residents
 - Approved by the CFE and we are waiting for more information before we can publicly announce it
 - The Financial Empowerment Center will be a government initiative housed within OCED
 - 4 co-locations at Faith in Action, JFS, AADL, EMU
 - Jason – who are you working with at WISD?
 - Answer: I will get that name for you
 - Rhonda- question, There was an RFP at the beginning of 2022 – is the same rfp?
 - RFP was decided that it remain in-house
 - Justin – people will see this as a functioning service of the government (reason for keeping in-house, “government branded”)
 - Our counselors will work in the field (4 community locations) and have 2 days in the office every week
 - We will have counselors in Dexter, AA and Ypsilanti
 - BOC approved \$1.2 million of ARPA funding over the first two years of implementation
 - Awarded \$250K

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- 480 households in 2023 – each counselor meeting 240 clients and up to 600 households in 2024 and thereafter
- Cheranissa: What would you add/what other information would you like to know?
 - Question -Jason: Are there eligibility requirements of the program? –
 - Answer - Cheranissa: No criteria – won't turn people away if they need assistance
 - Comment - Jason suggested Social Security Benefits training (banking support, benefit counseling)
 - Question - Danyelle: Is there a specific curriculum to give clients/training for counselors that will be followed?
 - Answer - Cheranissa: Counselors will get ~3 months of training to work with folks, in depth training
 - Still working the pieces out on specifics
 - Triage/assess where folks are and what they need help with
 - Individualized per person/family
 - Individual goals
 - Answer - Justin: There is a standardized training via Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE)
 - Morghan: Could the CAB members support in outreach? How can the community at large help?
 - Outreach plan
- Contact Cheranissa or Moon (see slide deck for contact info) if you want to know more/ask questions
- New Human Services Partnership updates (Katie)
 - All contracts have been executed for our Safety Net Grants
 - Funded agencies are beginning invoicing for those funds
 - Community reviewers recommended 10 mini-grant proposals for funding to the BOC and the City of Ann Arbor Council
 - They have been approved by the BOC at their last meeting (with final read on December 7)
 - Approved by Ann Arbor City Council last night
 - Mini-Grant recipients: Washtenaw County Housing Alliance, Coalition for Re-envisioning Our Safety, FedUp Ministries, Buenos Vecinos, Peer Support Network, A Brighter Way, Black Men Read, Michigan Itinerant Shelter System Interdependent Out of Necessity (MISSION), Community Resource Center, Inc., and Fair Housing Center for 1 year of funding at \$40K
 - High Impact Grant RFP will be released in mid-December
 - Comment - Justin: COFU ended after 10 years – continuing to allocate funds throughout the county and those who won't be funding ... many challenges with funding (larger pot of money)
 - Significant shift in how funds are distributed
 - Larger amounts to fewer organizations so the investments goes further
 - Also on the December 7 agenda – BOC funded transition funds (tier 2 safety net applicants) will have final read

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VII. **Board: New Business**

- CAB seat recommendations (Katie)
 - 4 recommendations from the community for consumer seats
 - First time trying the new process of bringing recommendations to the CAB and allowing you all to ultimately decide on new membership
 - Based on your feedback, we would reach out to those that were recommended
 - Tyrone Bridges, and Janis Brown Williams (FGP volunteer), and Yvonne Cudney have been nominated by members of the community
 - Kelly Goolsby (self-nominated)
 - Faith Redwine-Otieno (applied directly through the county application – no nomination included)
 - Send out to slides to all CAB members – discussion for January
 - Reach out to those who were not self-nominated
 - One idea is to invite them to give public comment at next meeting
 - Danyelle: concern is equal opportunity... What about those that cannot be at the meeting?
 - Danyelle and Jason will reach out to Janis Brown Williams, Tyrone Bridges, and Yvonne Cudney
 - Since they were nominated, want to ensure they are interested in the board
 - Katie will send contact information for nominees
 - A decision will be made January meeting when we have quorum
 - Katie - send an updated list of current CAB members
- This is a new process so we will try it out and revise the process as needed

VIII. **BOC**

- Board Chair and Vice Chair

- Terms are up in January 2020 (Danyelle and Rhonda)
- Elect officers in January (2 year terms)
- Discussion of board chair/vice chair in January
- Chair – facilitates meetings, contact with BCAEO
 - More strategic planning
 - Vice chair: facilitates meetings when board chair isn't present
- Who on the board would you want to see in these roles?
 - How can we take our own learning and support advocacy opportunities? (holding off)

What are CAB members doing to drive the mission of poverty alleviation in the community?
(holding off)

IX. **BOC Representative Report**

- December 7 – last meeting of the year
 - Final reading at Dec 7
 - MLive – board of commissioners – compensation
 - First/last meetings, we don't have working sessions – we have a holiday party open to anyone

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- Resolutions to honor people leaving or retiring
- Question – Danyelle: Do you have a sense of which BOC will sit on CAB board?
 - Will hopefully know in early January (before January 14 meeting)
 - Appointments for next year (~100 appointments)
 - Commissioners appointments are 1 year
 - Commissioner Jefferson’s seat will be replaced with a different commissioner
 - Commissioner Hodge might get a new appointment
 - Consider appointing Comm. Beeman(?) and Comm. Sommerville
- Another CAB board reached out to Justin – ask Justin to look at limitations around voter registration and voter education on the state/federal level
- Justin is happy to continue to come to meetings and provide updates/things the board wants to talk about, even if he gets a new appointment

X. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

XI. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned