

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

In-person: 415 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI - 2nd floor suite

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/81780628968>

Members Present:

1. Mary Phillips Smith
2. Jason Towler
3. Juanita House
4. Cherisa Allen
5. Nicole Brown
6. Beth Dulka
7. Elizabeth Janovic
8. Comm Caroline Sanders
9. Comm Annie Sommerville

Absent:

1. Cath Howard
2. Jeanice Townsend
3. Rhonda Weathers
4. Danyelle Reynolds
5. Yvonne Cudney
6. Alyshia Dyer

OCED staff:

1. Katie Hoffman-Pariyar
2. Arieona Klaus
3. Morghan Boydston

Guest speakers:

1. Nancy and Charlotte from Family Services

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I. Call to Order

- Vice-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 May Meeting Agenda

- Beth motions to approve, Cherisa seconded
 - o Jeanice asked about the board retreat – wasn't a Doodle poll sent out?

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

- Cherisa – When was the Doodle sent out?
 - Yes, Jason will go over results – Jason will send it out again
- Unanimous
- Motion carries

V. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes**

- Cherisa motions to approve, Mary seconded
 - Unanimous
 - Motion carries

VI. **OCED Updates**

- LIHWAP Updates, Arieona Klaus, LIHWAP Program Aide presented
 - Up to \$1,500 for residents
 - 142 residents served (some multiple times)
 - YCUA – 116 residents in Ypsi served
 - \$81,000
 - Averaging \$600 per water bill request
 - MDHHS – mass texting via MyBridges
 - Sent to everyone receiving SNAP benefits
 - We have about \$100,000 to spend down
 - Program ending in September 2023
 - Call to action: flyering in community or at your job, refer clients/students
- Can you share the electronic flyer?
 - Electronic flyer will be shared out
 - Add flyers to the Google Drive
- Will share out the electronic form to everyone (also on the flyer)
- Community Action Network (Beth can share that with CAN)

VII. **Community Guest Program**

- Nancy and Charlotte from Family Educational Services
 - Life skills, benefits counseling, customized programs that incorporate flexibility
 - Making programs more accessible to local schools
- Increasing employability
- How to seek services?
 - Packets have been passed out
 - Brochure in packet
 - Referral process information in brochure
 - Call the number on the brochure
 - Employment accomplishments listed in brochure
- Located 5 minutes from St. Joseph's Hospital (Golfside)
 - Welcome to come for a tour
- Is there an opportunity for you to speak to our homelessness providers and hear what you do?
 - Yes, I'd be honored to and support/help
 - Morghan will email Nancy
- Cherisa: How can I connect you with people I work with?

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

- Charlotte: Tuesday/Thursday – peer group, multi gendered
- Jason: we've talked a lot in this group about wrap around services... FES is the closest I've found in the County to wrap around services
- Also work closely with Social Security Office
 - o They fast track our applications
- Community lunches every Thursday after group – a chance for folks to socialize
 - o Sometimes the only meal that folks get
- Morghan: I'm the HS Manager at OCED and I wanted to let you know that there are funding opportunities and processes that I oversee that I am now going to keep you in mind for. So, I hear you and I'm going to be looking out for you from here on out
 - o Correction: Morghan mentioned funding is available (Morghan clarified on June 28 meeting this is NHSP Mini-Grant funding that the organization can apply for through RFP process)

VIII. **Board: New Business**

- CAB fall retreat dates
 - Wednesday/Thursday, September 20-21 or Friday/Saturday, October 6-7
 - Evening time (5:30pm on September 20 – lunch time on September 21)
 - Jason will send out doodle poll
 - NEW Center for board training, person from MCA training
 - Gladwin Center, Newton B&B in Ann Arbor
 - Committees
 - o Jason looking for volunteers to help in planning

IX. **CAB Member Discussion**

X. **BOC Representative Report (Comm. Sanders)**

- Annie:
 - o BOC had a retreat to talk about priorities
 - talked about human services
 - o Can go view it on YouTube
- REO – response
 - o RFP is out related to senior services
 - o Extended for an extra month (deadline June 30)
- BOC summer schedule
 - o First Wednesday of every month only (June – August)
- Has any decision been made about emergency hotel program? When is it ending? Will it extend through the summer?
 - o It is indefinitely extended
 - o Not taking in new additional families at this time but there is no end date
- How can the CAB be more efficient/better? What can we do to be better?
 - o Annie: happy if people can reach out directly

XI. **Public Comment**

Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

- No public comment at this time

XII. **Adjourn**

- Motion on meeting adjourned – Beth motions, Cherisa seconded it
- Unanimous