

WASHTENAW URBAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 - 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Location: Virtual Meeting using Zoom (details below)

Members in Attendance:

Supervisor Brenda Stumbo (Ypsilanti Township); Supervisor Diane O’Connell (Ann Arbor Township); Councilmember Elizabeth Nelson (City of Ann Arbor); Jessica West (Director of Community Development, Pittsfield Township); Supervisor Ken Schwartz (Superior Township); Trustee Linda Adams (Augusta Township); Mayor Lois Richardson (City of Ypsilanti); Michelle Aniol (Community Development Manager, City of Dexter); Mike Greene (Assistant City Manager, City of Saline); Supervisor Will Hathaway (Scio Township).

Members Absent: Supervisor Charles Tellas (York Township); Supervisor Diane Ratkovich (Dexter Township); Supervisor Duane Luick (Lima Township); Supervisor Laurie Fromhart (Bridgewater Township); Supervisor Gary Whittaker (Salem Township); Supervisor Jim Marion (Saline Township); Supervisor John Kingsley (Webster Township); Supervisor Ken Dignan (Northfield Township); Supervisor Ronald Milkey (Manchester Township); Trustee Sandie Schulze (Sylvan Township).

Facilitator: Commissioner Sue Shink

OCED Staff Present: Tara Cohen; Teresa Gillotti.

Guests: Alize Asberry Payne (Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office); Brandyn Walker (Avalon Housing); Jennifer Hall (Ann Arbor Housing Commission); Jimena Loveluck (Washtenaw County Health Department).

Meeting called to order: 2:04 PM

I. Roll Call

Pursuant to [MCL 15.263 Sec.3](#), Cohen took roll call during which each member stated their name and physical location (I.e. City or Township, Washtenaw County, State of Michigan).

Adams: Participating remotely from Augusta Township, Washtenaw County

Nelson: Participating remotely from City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Hathaway: Participating remotely from Scio Township, Washtenaw County

West: Participating remotely from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County

Greene: Participating remotely from City of Saline, Washtenaw County

Richardson: Participating remotely from City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County

O’Connell: Participating remotely from Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County

Aniol: Participating remotely from City of Dexter, Washtenaw County

Schwartz: Participating remotely from Superior Township, Washtenaw County

One additional member joined the meeting after the initial roll call (approx. 2:18pm)

Stumbo: Participating remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County

II. Public Comment

- Brandyn Walker (Avalon Housing) gave an update, noting that Hickory Way I is fully leased up, and Hickory Way II is now 50% leased up. Additionally, construction of Hilltop View Apartments in Dexter is 90% complete, and they are still awaiting tax credit award for The Grove at Veridian. Walker thanked this group for its support of Avalon’s work.

III. Announcements from Members and/or Staff

A. Warming Centers - OCED Director Teresa Gillotti provided a brief update on the following:

- Daytime warming shelter: at Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place, Nov. 1 – March 31 Monday through Thurs (8am-6pm)
- Separate daytime warming shelter in Ann Arbor
 - o December Daytime warming shelter is Journey of Faith, 1900 Manchester, Ann Arbor. Dates and hours will be shared at or prior to UCEC meeting.
- Winter overnight shelter for individuals: Delonis Center and partnering Congregations, Nov. 8 – March 31. Gillotti mentioned that approximately 70% of the shelter population at Delonis has been vaccinated, which is a significant accomplishment for a transient population such as those experiencing homelessness.

B. CERA update – Tara Cohen provided the following updates on the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance program in Washtenaw County:

- 3,755 Applications received to date (increase of 624 since last month's report)
- 1,549 Applications approved to date (increase of 504 since last month's report)
- Over \$10mill disbursed to date of \$16m available for direct assistance (increase of \$3mill since last month's report)

Gillotti clarified that the gap between the number of approved applications and those received to date is not a reflection of denied applications but points to the time required for applications to be fully processed by the 2 entities processing the applications. She also noted that additional CERA funding is currently stuck in the legislature but will be coming to the County, so she expects no interruption to the CERA program for the coming year.

Shink asked if there is enough support in place for processing the CERA applications. Gillotti mentioned Buenos Vecinos was brought under contract to assist with the applications for the Spanish/Latinx population. She also noted monthly calls are still in place with the courts and Legal Services (LSCCSM), and Legal Services is on every single eviction case.

C. Reminder: In-person Meetings resume January 2022. Cohen noted that County's IT is still determining logistics for remote participation for the public at various meeting locations such as the Learning Resource Center, and that she will keep this group up to date as they know more.

- Michelle Aniol asked whether other members had any thoughts/opinions regarding House Bill 4722 on short term rentals. There was a brief discussion among members on topics such as regulation, hotel taxes, and more.
- Mayor Richardson raised the topic of Senator Irwin's bill (sitting in Committee) that would extend remote meetings through the end of March 2022, and she offered to share the letter that Ypsilanti recently sent in support of this bill, urging other communities to do the same. (Letter was then emailed out to UCEC during the meeting.)

IV. Minutes

A. 11-3-21 Meeting Minutes – Review & Approval (ACTION)

Moved by Stumbo. Support by Aniol.

ROLL CALL:

Adams: Yes

Nelson: Yes

Hathaway: Yes

West: Yes

Greene: Yes

Richardson: Yes

O'Connell: Yes

Aniol: Yes

Schwartz: Yes

Stumbo: Yes

Ayes – 10; Nays – 0; **Motion carried.**

V. General Administration

A. County Health Officer's COVID-19 Update (Jimena Loveluck, WCHD) - Health Officer Loveluck provided a presentation that can be found in the updated [agenda packet](#) starting on page eight (8). A brief Q & A followed the presentation.

B. Approval of proposed HOME Rental Policies – **ACTION ITEM** (Teresa Gillotti, OCED)

Gillotti reminded the group from the last meeting's discussion only item on background for creating rental policies for all HOME recipients in the County who operate rental properties. Hathaway and Richardson asked clarifying question about who these policies apply to and how HOME funds are operationalized. Gillotti explained that HOME funds trigger affordability terms for rental properties and are subject to specific HUD regulations. She again thanked Avalon for sharing their rental policies for the County to modify so that they can be utilized more broadly for all HOME grantees with rental housing.

Motion: *The Urban County Executive Committee approves the proposed set of HOME rental policies as written for the Washtenaw Urban County. Further, that all previous HOME grantees who operate rental housing with HOME-assisted units will have until July 1, 2022 to update their policies in accordance with the Washtenaw Urban County HUD HOME rental policies.*

Moved by Richardson. Support by Hathaway.

ROLL CALL:

Adams: Yes

Nelson: Yes

Hathaway: Yes

West: Yes

Greene: Yes

Richardson: Yes

O'Connell: Yes

Aniol: Yes

Schwartz: Yes

[Stumbo absent for roll call]

Ayes – 9; Nays – 0; **Motion carried.**

C. 2022 Affordable Housing RFP Timeline – Discussion only (Tara Cohen, OCED)

Cohen reviewed key dates included for the RFP soon to be released for affordable housing proposals. See the Agenda Summary in the [agenda packet](#) for more details.

D. General Updates

1) Update: 2020 CDBG Public Services for COVID Response – United Way Year-round VITA

Cohen noted that \$100,000 of the \$136,687 in the 2020 Action Plan for CDBG Public Services for COVID response is being awarded to United Way of Washtenaw County to provide year round free tax preparation/filing services to low and moderate income households (VITA program). Cohen explained that VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and it is an IRS program that IRS subsidizes for communities throughout the United States.

2) Member Announcements – None

VI. Public Comment - None

VII. Adjournment

Richardson moved to adjourn. Support from Hathaway.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned: 3:20 PM

Next Meeting: Wed., January 3, 2022, 2:00 – 3:30pm, Location: TBD (In-person)