



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2025

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on February 5, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	Comms.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pat Vallinencourt, Mayor of Manchester City, lent her support to OCED directing the Older Adult Services Millage instead of creating a new agency. She stated that there were about 3,000 older adults living in the city of Manchester and stated her belief that it would be fiscally responsible to have OCED direct the funds.

Heather Williams, Milan, CEO of Home of New Vision, along with Wendy Klinske, Saline, Clinical Director of Home of New Vision, Anna Byberg, President of Dawn Farm, and Ray Rion of Packard Health came to speak about the CMH partnership with SE Michigan and their payments covering people who had Medicare, Medicaid or no insurance. She spoke the way funds were distributed in the past and their new payment model and the negative impacts that the new fee-for-service model creates. They came as a group to request the commissioners help support the providers network with some of the Opioid Overdose Settlement funds.

Eileen Spring, President and CEO of Food Gatherers, expressed her support for OCED managing the Older Adult Services Millage dollars. She stated her belief that this would help the millage dollars get out sooner.

Barbara Nees May, President of Ypsi Meals on Wheels, echoed the sentiments of Eileen Spring.

Sarah Hong, Ann Arbor, JFS, gave her support to OCED for their knowledge, efficiency, transparency, and their integrity and advocacy.

Marie Gress, Millan, Chair of Commission on Aging, recommended creating an Older Adult Services Millage task force.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Dill spoke about their process of selecting a Director of Building Instructor. Tanya Cole has been selected. Tanya Cole came and introduced herself to the board and expressed her eagerness for working with the board.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

Ashley Hall reminded the Commissioners and the public about the Board Priority Retreat on February 7th, 2025.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Toni Kayumi, Director, Ellis Johnson, Finance and Operations Manager, Aaron Kraft and Heidi Johnson, Housing Program Supervisor, Sandy Bower, Human Services Program Lead, and Marti Popyk, Human Services Program Lead presented a proposal for Washtenaw County's Office of Community and Economic Development to manage the older person services millage.

They proposed creating an Aging Services Division at OCED and hiring an Aging Services Division Administrator.

Comm. Somerville thanked OCED for their presentation. She asked if the county was the only funding source for the Pilot program with JFS. Popyk stated that no ARPA dollars were used for the program and that they were using their own funding.

Comm. Somerville asked if there was a capacity to get all of the work done. Johnson stated that they have been able to complete their work without additional staff.

Somerville asked if he knew how many additional staff would be needed. Johnson stated that there would be a regular RFP process.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his support for OCED managing the Older Person Services Millage. He stated his desire to create an Office of Aging. He stated that because of the loss of response nationally that the Board would have to respond locally. He also spoke about the importance of addressing the needs of older adults.

Kayumi stated that they wanted to create another position within OCED and stated that the move would limit some redundancies.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his further support.

Comm. Beeman asked what positions would be needed. Kayumi and Kraft provided more information. Kayumi stated that the staff depended on what programs were specifically requested.

Comm. Somerville asked about federal funding and having a back up plan. Johnson stated that OCED had considered the possibility and that it would be a larger

conversation. He also stated that 36 of the 45 staff were fully federally funded. Comm. Somerville stated her belief that this fact should be included in any future conversations about OCED.

Comm. Scott expressed her reservations on combining Millage funded positions with Federal funded positions. She stated that the main goal was to get the money to the community.

Johnson noted that OCED staff currently log their work hours based on what area they did work in so they were used to the practice. Scott expressed her desire that this did not happen with millage funded positions because of the effects that the millage not being passed would have on the positions.

Johnson explained the challenges that OCED might face with the funds. Scott stated that they would continue to discuss the policy.

Comm. Maciejewski thanked OCED and everyone else for coming out and speaking on the issue. He stated that he was not looking to create more administrative positions. He expressed his concerns with the different funding sources and burying the department within bureaucracy.

Comm. Hodge spoke about some of the concerns that he foresees with the older adult millage.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he did not have a problem with hiring more people to provide more services. He also stated that he did not have a problem with commingling funds. He said that he would not support a proposal where money was passed to non-profits. He stated his desire for the county to control these dollars and directly provide services. He stated his belief that non-profits providing services was a form of privatization that he did not agree with.

Comm. Lyte thanked everyone who presented and stated that she spoke with older adults and noted their optimism with OCED managing the older and aging adults services millage dollars. She stated that there were discussions from residents about not wanting positions to be funded using millage dollars. She expressed her support for OCED managing the funds.

Comm. LaBarre stated that his biggest concern was the county maintaining funds. He stated that he wanted the county to be accountable for the outcome of the millage dollars. He also noted that Washtenaw County was fortunate to have experts in certain fields. He spoke about the challenges currently happening at the federal government.

Comm. Somerville spoke about gaps in funding for the skip program through Barrier Busters. She stated her belief that the board could get money out faster.

- B. Jimena Loveluck, Public Health Officer, Dr. Juan Marquez, Washtenaw County Medical Director, and Nicole Adelman, Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan provided a report on the Opioid Settlement Steering Committee Planning. The group requested an ongoing Opioid Settlement Steering Committee to oversee the funds.

Comm. Scott thanked the steering committee for their presentation and commended the data-driven work that they have been doing.

Comm. Beeman echoed the comments of Comm. Scott and expressed her excitement for the next steps.

Loveluck stated that they have been balancing getting all of the right information with getting the funds out quickly.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Somerville, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

Andy LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: February 19, 2025