# WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**May 21, 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 May 21, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 05:34 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session.

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| Members Present: | Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville |
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| Members Absent: | Comms. |
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| 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; Terrence Williams, Administration; 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

Ilene Spring, Washtenaw County, thanked the commissioners for allocating funds from the Older Adult Services Millage.

Yvonne Cudney, Washtenaw Housing Bureau for Seniors, echoed previous sentiments and noted that there were already requests from agencies for the funds.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Dill thanked his colleagues from United Way for attending the meeting.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

Ashley Hall, introduced Tabatha Reynolds, the new BOC Consituent Outreach Coordinator.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Dr. Darienne Hudson, Executive Director of United Way of Southeastern MI along with Bridget Hermann Sr. Director for Strategic Initiatives & Executive Liaison to Washtenaw County, and Kyle DeBuc, VP of Communication & Advocacy, provided a progress report for United Way.

Comm. Hodge thanked United Way for their presentation and asked if there were other ways that Hudson envisioned Wash Co. partnering with United Way. Hudson expanded further on partnership opportunities. Comm. Hodge asked about a willingness to act as a fiduciary for local organizations. Hudson stated that they would be open to this.

Comm. Sanders asked Hudson how they handle pushback from entities and non-profits who do not want to work with United Way. She expressed her desire for some non-profits to merge together to provide services and asked about limitations and focus areas. Hudson provided her experience working for United Way.

Comm. Beeman asked about public-private partnerships and the trends emerging. Hudson provided more information.

Comm. LaBarre asked about Medicaid and asked about the state of funding from the federal government and cuts and how they are being perceived in the non-profit space. Hudson provides her view of the issues.

Comm. Sanders asked about the percentage that United Way utilizes for administrative costs. Hudson explained that 15% of every dollar received goes back to United Way. She gave a further breakdown of where funds were going.

B. Comm. Somerville, Maciejewski, and Scott provided an updated Older Adults Millage Proposal.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the Senior Center issues and asked for more feedback from his colleagues.

Comm. Beeman reiterated that she has had discussions with the leadership in Milan and noted their appreciation for being recognized.

Comm. Scott stated that she liked the idea of the Board defining qualified Senior Centers.

Comm. Rabhi asked how a community is defined and how communities are designated. Comm. Somerville explained the research that was done.

Comm. Rabhi asked about restrictions on who can visit Senior Centers. Comm. Somerville explained further. Comm. Rabhi suggested that Washtenaw County be specified as a region and suggested that they provide services to any county resident over 60 years of age.

Comm. Rabhi noted that a lot of funding has been committed to rural parts of the county in proportion to the cities and noted that there were many seniors in the county. He expressed his concerns about the distribution of resources. He asked to see the data that underpins the approach. Comm. Somerville explained the process. Suggesting additional funding be added to the current document instead of in the future.

Comm. Beeman spoke about her residents visiting different Senior Centers and spoke about the resources that her rural area lacks.

Comm. Hodge asked for a refresher on what the discussion would achieve. Comm.

Somerville expressed her expectations of the conversations. He asked about the classification of the Centers highlighted in blue, which Comm. Somerville provided.

Comm. Somerville spoke about resources through an equity lens.

Comm Hodge asked where the baseline $200k number came from and asked for a formula or metrics to show, which Somerville explained.

Comm. Lyte provided an example of how Older Adults use multiple Senior Centers throughout the area.

Comm. Sanders noted that she is concerned about supporting centers that charge fees. She also spoke regarding Comm. Rabhi's concerns. She spoke about the limits in the rural areas. She spoke about the timeline and her desire to roll the funding out soon.

Comm. Somerville responded to her colleagues' comments.

Comm. Scott echoed the sentiments of Comm. Beeman and spoke about the opportunity index map and how it relates to the millage.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the initial designs of the MSSI.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his agreement with the list of Senior Centers. He spoke about his concerns about the amount of money each center receives. He spoke about membership fees and residency requirements listed on center websites. Comm. Maciejewski went into more detail on the reason for the list being arranged how it is.

Comm. Somerville highlighted earlier parts of the document and spoke about the complexities of the Senior Centers.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke more about the membership fees and the historic underfinancing. He explained how the baseline number was arrived at.

Comm. Hodge suggested that they reconsider the Golden Ages if other centers charge dues.

Comm. LaBarre asked for more per capita dollars for Ann Arbor-based centers.

Comm. Somerville stated that giving everyone more funds would take funds away from other areas and spoke more about equity.

Comm. Sanders stated that Older Adults are a vulnerable population and spoke about older Adults' needs for Legal Counsel.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the importance of legal aid for older adults. He spoke about his desire to draw the line in some of the areas that legal aid covers.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his support for the inclusion of legal services. He suggested that there be someone embedded within the county to provide these services. .

Comm. Sanders spoke about her wishes for oversight of agencies and service providers.

Comm. Hodge expressed his concerns about the operational components.

Administrator Dill stated that he did not have any comments at that time.

Comm. Rabhi stated his belief that much of the operation of the new department is being given to the future head of the agency and not the County Administrator. Comm. Somerville spoke to his concerns.

Comm. Lyte expressed her desire to provide feedback for any policy that comes through the county.

Comm. LaBarre thanked his colleagues for their work. He stated his belief that a needs assessment should be done less frequently. He also stated that there should be a statement that highlights needs and income. He asked for clarification on the proposed structure of the organization. He stated his desire to start at 2-3 staff members.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke more about staffing and asked for a definition of administrative costs.

Comm. Somerville expressed agreement with Comm. LaBarre's comments and gave more of her thoughts on the commissioner's feedback.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his agreement with Comm. Maciejewski's comments and spoke more about administrative costs. He spoke more about his desire for the administrator to bring recommendations to the Board in a manner that aligns with the county's policy.

Comm. Somerville spoke more about the County Administrator's role.

Comm. Lyte spoke about the proposal process. She highlighted the changes in board operations.

Comm. Scott noted that it was the Board's job to shape policy and the Administrator's job to implement it.

Comm. Rabhi responded to Comm. Lyte's comments.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 08:11 PM.

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

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: June 4, 2025