

WASHTENAW URBAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 - 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Location: Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Supervisor Chuck Tellas (York Township); Supervisor Diane O’Connell (Ann Arbor Township); Councilperson Elizabeth Nelson (City of Ann Arbor); Jessica West (Director of Community Development, Pittsfield Township); Supervisor Ken Dignan (Northfield Township); Supervisor Ken Schwartz (Superior Township); Trustee Linda Adams (Augusta Township); Mayor Lois Richardson (City of Ypsilanti); Michael Radzik (Office of Community Standards Director, Ypsilanti Township); Mike Greene (Assistant City Manager, City of Saline); Supervisor Will Hathaway (Scio Township).

Communities Absent: City of Dexter; Bridgewater Township; Dexter Township; Lima Township; Manchester Township; Salem Township; Saline Township; Sylvan Township; Webster Township.

Facilitator: Commissioner Jason Morgan

OCED Staff Present: Sharde Crutchfield; Tara Cohen; Teresa Gillotti

Guests: Angela Johnson (Washtenaw County resident/Disability Rights advocate); Chris Brown (Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley); County Health Officer Jimena Loveluck (Washtenaw County Health Department); Councilwoman Linh Song (City of Ann Arbor); Marta Larsen (Northfield Human Services/People’s Express board of trustees /Whitmore Lake community advocate); Commissioner Sue Shink (Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners); Wendy Carty-Saxon (Avalon Housing).

Meeting called to order: 2:05 PM

After roll call, Commissioner Jason Morgan introduced Commissioner Sue Shink, who will be taking over as Chair of UCEC at the February meeting.

I. Public Comment

- Chris Brown (Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley) commented on the Affordable Housing RFP, noting that his organization depends on this funding as a large portion of their overall funding.
- Marta Larsen noted that she tried to download and print today’s meeting packet, because it was difficult for her to read it otherwise due to formatting of the document. She also raised concerns and shared details about a specific individual she and others have been trying to help to navigate the homeless services system to obtain housing. Marta stated that she understands the system is extremely overwhelmed, but feels there needs to be a more robust approach. She is also interested in seeing data on who is vs. who is not currently being served.
- Ann Arbor Councilwoman Linh Song stated that she has a contact in Ann Arbor’s Korean community who is interested and willing to translate the non-housing community needs survey. (Cohen replied that she will follow up with Song offline.)
- Angela Johnson introduced herself as a resident who also oversees a 501c3 and works as an independent contractor in the field of disability services. She would like to encourage the County to consider making small changes that can go a long way when hosting virtual events, noting that Zoom now offers captioning free of charge. Johnson asked the County to consider ASL interpretation for meetings as a regular practice, rather than requiring someone who is deaf to give 7 days notice that they are planning to attend a public meeting in order for accommodations to be made.

After public comments, Richardson asked if the Blueprint on Homelessness was still being used. Gillotti confirmed that this report is still being used. Gillotti also responded to Marta Larsen's concerns about the winter warming shelter, pointing out that the County has some extra capacity at this time with current sites including the Delonis Center, Learning Resource Center, rotating congregations, and hotel/motel rooms.

II. Announcements

- A. Introductions – See above. Before Public Comment, pursuant to [MCL 15.263 Sec.3](#), Chair Morgan took roll call during which each member stated their name and physical location (i.e. City or Township, Washtenaw County, State of Michigan) during roll call at the start of the meeting.

III. Minutes

- A. 11-10-20 Meeting Minutes – Review & Approval (**ACTION**)

Moved by Richardson. Support by Nelson.

Roll call vote:

Schwartz: Yes

Tellas: Yes

Adams: Yes

Hathaway: Yes

Nelson: Yes

O'Connell: Yes

West: Yes

Dignan: Yes

Radzik: Yes

Greene: Yes

Richardson: Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. General Administration

- A. Public Hearing: Needs Assessment for 2021 Action Plan

Cohen presented a a brief presentation on the public input process and context for development of the 2021 Annual Action Plan. (See slides beginning on page 15 of the [meeting packet](#).)

Commissioner Morgan declared the Public Hearing open at 2:35pm. No comments were offered. Morgan declared the Public Hearing closed at 2:36pm.

- B. Update: Status of COVID-19 & Response

1) Health Department update (Jimena Loveluck, Washtenaw County Health Department)

Jimena Loveluck presented an update on COVID 19 and vaccination plans in Washtenaw County; her presentation can be found in the [meeting packet](#) (see page 25 of the PDF.) A Q&A followed these updates; Committee members raised questions about specific groups and who is or is not being considered essential for the first group eligible for vaccines. Loveluck shared that clarification is still needed on how specific groups are being defined within the State of Michigan, and also explained that the Health Department will be working through umbrella organizations to the extent possible to effectively verify who falls within the eligible categories for vaccinations.

2) Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program and Winter Sheltering Update (Teresa Gillotti)

Gillotti explained that the CDC eviction moratorium is due to expire on 12/31/20, however the recent stimulus bill passed in Congress will expand the moratorium through 1/31/21. The County's Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program (EDP) is also being extended by MSHDA through 1/31/21. She reminded the group that this program provides free legal services as well as financial assistance for rent. To date, Gillotti shared, the County has assisted approximately 400 households with eviction diversion services. Cohen offered to email out the [program flyers](#) again after the meeting (available in English, Spanish, and Arabic).

Gillotti stated that the County's Warming Shelters have capacity for overnight shelter currently. A member asked whether there were any of these shelters located in Ypsilanti; Gillotti pointed out that the County's Learning Resource Center located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue (in Pittsfield Township) is physically the closest of these shelters to Ypsilanti.

Gillotti directed everyone to call HAWC when trying to obtain overnight shelter, as HAWC needs to conduct a screening before an individual can be provided a shelter bed.

Adams asked about a specific resident who was facing potential eviction and had applied for assistance from HAWC. Gillotti suggested she make sure this person contacts legal services available through the Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program -- and to look for the flyers that Tara Cohen will be emailing out again shortly.

C. Project Planning for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (Discussion only)

- 1) CDBG Allocation Estimates, Low-Mod Income Maps, and Pre-Application Guide posted online: www.washtenaw.org/urbancounty (Click *Apply for Funding*)
- 2) CDBG Project Application forms: Due Feb. 12 by 5pm
- 3) Affordable Housing proposals (RFP #8020): Due Feb. 18 by 3pm
- 4) Key Dates

Cohen reminded the group of the key dates pertaining to Fiscal Year 2021 CDBG and HOME funding opportunities, and reminded of where they can locate their estimated CDBG allocation, CDBG project application, and the CDBG Pre-Application Guide on the [Urban County section of OCED's website](#). She encouraged everyone to review the Guide before completing a CDBG project application, and to reach out to her with any questions about potential projects or related policies.

D. General Updates (Discussion only)

- 1) Urban County Orientation Sessions Jan. 13 and 19 – For members and designees, and open to other elected officials/officers/staff
- 2) Minor updates to Planned Activity Tables (2017/18/19/20) -
For more details on these updates, see agenda summary on page 9 of the [meeting packet](#).
- 3) Local Project Updates
Cohen provided brief updates on progress of current CDBG-funded public infrastructure and facility improvement projects, and Crutchfield gave highlights of current affordable housing projects nearing completion.
- 4) Community Announcements/updates
Cohen thanked Commissioner Morgan for his excellent contributions as Chair of UCEC for the last 2 years. Morgan thanked the members and OCED staff for all their quality work.

V. Adjournment

Nelson moved to adjourn. Support from Richardson.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned: 3:22 PM

Next Meeting: Wed., February 3, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30pm, Location: TBD