

# Washtenaw County Community Action Board

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

## **Members Present:**

1. Comm. Justin Hodge,
2. Danyelle Reynolds,
3. Mark McBride,
4. Rhonda Weathers,
5. Alyshia Dyer
6. Comm. Ricky Jefferson
7. Cherisa Allen,
8. Juanita House,
9. Linh Song
10. Elizabeth Janovic
11. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard
12. Jimmie Wilson (joined meeting at 5:50)

## **Members Absent:**

1. Mary Phillips-Smith,

**Staff Present:** Caitlin Nagler, Nevo Polonsky

**Staff Absent:** Teresa Gillotti, Morghan Williams Boydston,

**Guest:** Matthew Naud

- I. **Call to Order**
  - Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
  - Roll call of CAB board members
- III. **Public Comments**
  - No public comments at this time
- IV. **New Member Swearing In**
  - Danyelle, Cath, Elizabeth, and Alyshia sworn in for new terms by Caitlin Nagler
  - Oath: I, \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Community Action Board in and for the County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, according to the best of my ability, so help me God.
- V. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
  - Cath, question, where are the bylaws?
  - They were emailed earlier with the agenda and minutes, it must not have gone through for some reason, so Caitlin will share screen to show bylaws during that discussion

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- A motion was made by Danyelle to approve the Agenda. Motion supported by Cherisa.
- Roll call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  3. Mark McBride, yes
  4. Rhonda Weathers, yes
  5. Alyshia Dyer, yes
  6. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
  7. Cherisa Allen, yes
  8. Juanita House, yes
  9. Linh Song, yes
  10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
  11. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
- Motion carried.

### VI. Approval of November 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Alyshia, supported by Cherisa and Rhonda.
- Roll Call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  3. Mark McBride, yes
  4. Rhonda Weathers, yes
  5. Alyshia Dyer, yes
  6. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
  7. Cherisa Allen, yes
  8. Juanita House, yes
  9. Linh Song, yes
  10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
  11. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
- Motion carried to approve meeting minutes.

### VII. Climate Action Planning Presentation

- Matt Naud presenting
- Matt works with Resource Recycling Solutions, partner with Washtenaw County on Washtenaw County's Climate Action Plan
- The purpose of this presentation is to bring community voices into this plan to get to net zero emissions in the County, and determine if there are community voices that have been left out of the conversation
- The size and complexity of this problem is large, especially with so many different County organizations. The County is the audience because it is connected to all the organizations.
- The overarching goal is to have net zero County operations by 2030 and net zero through the entire County by 2035
- Wants to know who we're missing, what we're missing, looking for feedback
- Climate Action Plan
  - Why are we doing this?

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- To curb emissions, find solutions to climate change, a large and complex issue
- Goals: Net zero county operations by 2030
- Net zero county by 2035
- Implement plan through a climate lens, as well as an equity lens
- Engagement
  - 7 meetings have been held in different districts with 2 more planned
  - Met with a variety of community groups throughout the County
  - Met with leaders throughout the County to make connections and discuss implementation
- Resilientwashtenaw.org, website about the Plan, and way to get feedback from the community
  - The website has a feature to flag environmental issues on a map of the County
  - Users can note issues ranging from flooding, to needing bike lanes, to inefficient heating/cooling
  - The website has steadily been gaining more traction and has aggregated all of the received comments
  - So far, the Southwest part of the County has not been engaging with the website, but other engagement is spread throughout the County
- We can see approximately where people are, who have commented on website, based on IP address; from the map, it's not just central Ann Arbor, need to keep getting feedback from people all over the county
- What comes after planning?
  - The project will go from Nov 2021 – Nov 2022
  - At the end of the project there will be a proposed plan which will be shared with the Board of Commissioners including changes to County policies, programs, and plans
  - Working with the State of Michigan to joint address State and County goals
  - BOC approval, then implementation of the plan, after this process complete
- Email [climate@washtenaw.org](mailto:climate@washtenaw.org) with questions, comments, requests
- (Trustee Jimmie Wilson joined meeting at 5:50)
- Linh: are you looking to do outreach to non-citizens groups?
  - Matt: yes, we are interested in ways to reach out to those populations, it is a challenge, so looking for groups that are already working with these people
  - Linh shared that WICIR and residents of U of M Family Housing in Ann Arbor's Ward 2 are two avenues to reach this population
  - Matt: Linh, if you can connect us to any of those groups you know of, that would be great
- Matt: also we have multiple language options on website, Spanish, Arabic, and others
- Jimmie: can you expound upon the opportunity for improving resiliency for community centers? Asking because Pastor Harold Wimberly, at Christian Love Fellowship, is working with various community groups and local governments to open a new community center in Superior Township.
  - Matt: a lot of buildings in other communities, put solar panels and other clean energy sources, etc., in a building, a location that the community trusts; should be a safe space that the community trusts, and wants to go to; these

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buildings can operate if the grid goes down; this is part of the resilience and preparedness we're looking for, in the community

- Called "resilience hubs"
- Juanita: as far as community centers, would you consider a municipal pool, as a cooling center, as a resilience hub?
  - Matt: yeah that is a good idea; cooling centers will be a very important part of implementation, as temperatures increase, need to find ways to keep people comfortable in hottest days of summer
- Danyelle asked how to engage renters and make this project worthwhile and inviting
  - Matt shared that the perspective of renters is highly valued and that some ways to go about this are:
    1. Include environmental inspections in addition to safety inspections for rentals
    2. Set a standard that rentals must meet a certain level of energy efficiency
  - Matt also shared that he feels that landlords would buy-in more through cost-sharing models and other ideas that economically incentivize making rentals greener
  - Matt also shared that Ann Arbor is 54% rental and that focusing on rentals is essential for meeting climate goals
- Matt asked CAB if they knew of rental groups across the County that they could reach out to for feedback
  - Comm Jefferson shared the Ann Arbor tenants association and that there is a similar organization for the Sycamore Meadows rental properties

### VIII. **CAB Bylaws Discussion / Approval (ACTION)**

- Revisited the virtual meeting language to comply with Open Meetings Act
- Caitlin shared that as an advisory body there is a little more flexibility, and the bylaw as currently states that CAB will participate in virtual meetings to the extent that is allowed by the County and other applicable authorities/laws
- Comm. Hodge commented to provide context about why CAB is able to meet virtually when other Boards are not
- Motion made by Danyelle, supported by Elizabeth.
- Roll Call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  3. Mark McBride, yes
  4. Rhonda Weathers, yes
  5. Alyshia Dyer, yes
  6. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
  7. Cherisa Allen, yes
  8. Juanita House, yes
  9. Linh Song, yes
  10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
  11. Cathryn (Cath) Antkowiak-Howard, yes
  12. Jimmie Wilson, yes

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- Motion carried to approve bylaws as amended.
- Danyelle asked, what protections are the County providing for people who need to meet in person such as mask or ventilation?
  - Caitlin answered that the County checks in with staff to see what resources are needed for in-person meetings, including meeting in specific spaces, having the room cleaned, and providing masks. If CAB needs to meet in person in the future these resources will be available

### IX. OCED Updates

- Caitlin presents
  - The OCED has been working with the Health Department to distribute test kits provided by DHHS (BCAEO) to County residents. The limit is 1-2 test kits per person and the Health Department is doing simple reporting for DHHS. The first shipment was 2000 packages of 2 tests in early January. Some of the kits went to individuals in the Foster Grandparent program who are lower income older adults. Other events have been held throughout the County including regions on the outskirts of the County. All of the initial shipment has been distributed at this point. The next shipment will be arriving in 1-2 weeks (late February/early March) and will be 1000 packages of 2 kits. IT is unclear if DHHS has resources for further shipments.
  - LIHWAP (Low income household water assistance program). BCAEO has awarded \$867,938 for water utility bills to Washtenaw County OCED. The spending deadline is September 2023, and none of the funds have been used. The OCED is hiring a temporary grant-funded employee to help distribute this funding and implement the program.
- Rhonda update on CERA
  - Rhonda shared that there are two pots of money (CERA 1 and CERA 2). CERA 2 funding can be used now and is for rental assistance but not utilities only. CERA 2 requires a proof of income and valid identification, which was not the case for CERA 1. It is anticipated that some applicants on the backlog will not be able to meet the requirements for CERA 2, but there is still some CERA 1 funding available so that funding will be prioritized for individuals who are not eligible for CERA 2. The funding for each pot needs to be spent down by a certain date. More CERA 1 funding is anticipated after March.
  - Working with the courts, with attorneys, when evictions move forward; with CERA 2 being more restrictive, takes longer, and landlord attorneys are being more difficult, wanting to push out tenants quickly, evict them and not wait for CERA process to be completed
  - Cherisa asked if the CERA 1 is eligible for individuals not on the waitlist.
    - Rhonda responded that only individuals on the backlog are eligible
  - Ricky asked if CERA 1 funding could be spent right now
    - Rhonda shared that currently only CERA 2 money can be spent, but CERA 1 funding will be dedicated to the backlog, to clients who were previously on the list to be helped
  - Cath commented that the issue of requiring identification is far reaching and will likely impact more services such as voting and accessing other needs-based programs. Cathryn asked if there are any initiatives to promote acquiring IDs?

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- Rhonda shared that the Washtenaw ID program working to get IDs for community members and that connecting them would be valuable
- Cath responded reiterating that this is a pressing concern for a large array of issues
- Comm. Hodge agreed that having the Washtenaw ID Program would be a great idea
- Juanita asked if CERA funds can be used for emergency housing?
  - Rhonda answered emergency housing is not covered, but there are other options. Rhonda also shared that the program is slated to end by September 2022 and may end sooner

### X. **Board: New Business**

- Danyelle: about the bylaws, do we expect to keep meeting remotely?
  - Caitlin: yes, stay remote with these meetings, basically until we are told we have to meet in person
- Alyshia: Ypsi Township got rescue plan funding, started community group, YTown ARPA planning committee
  - Going to be rolling out a communitywide survey, to anyone in Ypsi Township
  - The committee goal is to bring community voices in the Rescue Plan Funding spending process. There is \$8.5 million left in funding and this group wants to organize to help ensure the funding is spent in the most impactful and equitable way. Y-Town ARPA Committee has community surveys, will be rolling out, to get feedback from throughout the community.

### XI. **CAB Member Discussion**

- Linh: shared that the City Council has been discussing how to use ARPA fund. Linh has been advocating for a trial UBI program that will give \$150/month to 500 families for two years. Another program is unarmed response.
- Cherisa: starting Summerfest Joe Dulin planning meetings; first Saturday of each month, 10am to 11am; if you want to get in on the ground; Communications Specialist Katie Hoffman from OCED joins also. Meetings at the Parkridge Community Center
- Joe Dulin Summerfest day, on August 27, 11am to 6pm

### XII. **BOC Representative Report**

- Comm. Hodge
  - \$11.3 million ARPA funding package
    - Funds to WCHD, to help them be more equity-driven; Health Dept has a website with dashboard to show health outcomes throughout County, in different populations, looks at health indicators
    - Funding for Health Mobile, with WCHD, all kinds of health services, WIC, etc., could be expanded with this funding
    - OCED, within Barrier Busters, fund to help with home repairs
    - Healthy Neighborhoods initiative; embedded in parts of county with worse health outcomes; Health community workers
    - Healthy Places Initiatives: funding to neighborhoods, need support with issues in the environment, a community group wants to work on this, solve

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- environmental health problems; other things related to structure and environment
  - More training for emergency responders and public health workers, to learn more about how to respond to climate emergency and environmental emergencies
  - WCHD needs funding to become ADA compliant; so some funds go towards this, to signage and physical infrastructure to make it ADA compliant
  - \$8 million investment, Community Priority Fund—funds for grassroots organizations, address educational disparities, housing and homelessness; team of residents and County representatives; designed to be as low barrier as possible
  - Voted once, and it passed unanimously, BOC needs to vote on it one more time, then it will pass and be implemented
- Comm. Jefferson agreed and commented that 50% of the PPE distribution was in 48197/48198, that distributions were not reaching certain residents and that walking door to door was incredibly effective for reaching these communities. He also shared that Teresa in the OCED has been working with the BOC to transition the Coordinated Funding to a New Human Services Partnership which is working on finding an evaluator and developing an RFP, and shared information about the different kinds of grants (1-year mini-grants, 5-year safety net grants, 5-year innovation grants). A lot of resources have been used already and more resources are needed to address these problems. This funding source will have \$2 million – \$2.5million while the previous fund (COFU) had \$5 million. Some of the previous funders from COFU are managing their own funding source and work is occurring in the community to see how to work together with these funding sources.
  - Alyshia: any ideas about how to coordinate PPE distribution; the Ypsi Township community group has been passing out masks also, and Ypsi Township government, both handing out covid test kits and face masks; other groups to collaborate with?
  - Comm. Jefferson responded: yes, feel free to reach out to them to partner
- Danyelle: question about how metrics will work, with the New HSP
  - Comm. Jefferson: good question, COFU didn't do metrics well, the goal with the New HSP, we'll have a program evaluator to help determine metrics to track, and how to report out; and if a grantee is not performing well there's a way to defund them mid grant year, mid contract
- Comm Hodge also mentioned, the new funds, including mini grants for new grantees who weren't funded in COFU; very exciting
  - Also recommend watching Teresa's presentation from the BOC meeting on this

### XIII. **Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time

### XIV. **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.