

# Washtenaw County Community Action Board

## Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

General Session/Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

### **Members Present:**

1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
2. Cherisa Allen, yes
3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
4. Juanita House, yes
5. Shoshana DeMaria, yes
6. Jo Ann McCollum, yes
7. Linh Song, yes
8. Jimmie Wilson, yes
9. Mark McBride, yes
10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
11. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
12. Rhonda Weathers, yes
13. Alyshia Dyer, yes
14. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes

### **Members Absent:**

1. None

**Staff Present:** Teresa Gillotti, Morghan Williams, Ryan Perry

**Staff Absent:** Caitlin Nagler

**Guest:** Crystal Campbell

#### I. **Call to Order**

- Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

#### II. **Welcome and Introductions**

- Roll call of CAB board members
- All members present

#### III. **Public Comments**

- No public comments at this time

#### IV. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

- A motion was made by Danyelle to approve the Agenda (with edits to strike Vaccine discussion and reschedule to next meeting).
- Motion supported by Shoshana Demaria.
- Roll call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Cherisa Allen, yes

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3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
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6. Jo Ann McCollum, yes
7. Linh Song, yes
8. Jimmie Wilson, yes
9. Mark McBride, yes
10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
11. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
12. Rhonda Weathers, yes
13. Alyshia Dyer, yes
14. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes

- Motion carried.

### V. **Approval of January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- Motion made by Jimmie Wilson, supported by Elizabeth Janovic.
- Roll Call vote:
  1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  2. Cherisa Allen, yes
  3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  4. Juanita House, yes
  5. Shoshana DeMaria, yes
  6. Jo Ann McCollum, yes
  7. Linh Song, yes
  8. Jimmie Wilson, yes
  9. Mark McBride, yes
  10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
  11. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
  12. Rhonda Weathers, yes
  13. Alyshia Dyer, yes
  14. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
- Motion carried to approve meeting minutes.

### VI. **Remote meetings policy reminder**

- Danyelle, reminder for roll call votes, closed captioning included, stating who we are and where we are calling from, any questions or concerns?
- Morghan, things in the work to extend doing zoom meetings for a little longer, Justin or Ricky?
- Justin, we have asked them to extend this stating that if there is a state of emergency, we are continue to have these meetings virtually

### VII. **Vaccine Discussion**

- Removed from meeting agenda
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### VIII. Racial Equity Office updates

- Crystal from REO presenting
- Morghan said, Crystal is in Vaccine clinic now, and she'll be talking with us shortly
- Danyelle, Welcome Crystal
- Crystal, I am at the vaccine drive up clinic now, my pleasure to provide update on these masks that we received from the state, in March we had delivery of about 300,000 masks from state, Racial Equity Office partnered with OCED and the Health Department to combine our list of community partners. So we reached out to community partner list and list that health equity office already had, as of now we have distributed almost all 300,000, they were sent to organizations, mutual aid societies, libraries, ultimate goal was to get it to every person that wanted one. About 10 days ago we received a shipment of about 100,000 masks and we are well on our way, our goal is to reach west side of the county more because based on data, just under 5% went to districts 2 and 3, so now we have just under 100,000 masks to give out and would love to target them to west side of county.
- Juanita, how are you getting word out about the masks, how can people get them?
- Crystal, we depended heavily on partners, we did not want to involve a lot of oversight in terms of how organizations decided to give them out, organizations did agree that we could share their contact information with locals, we have been using social media, word of mouth, reached out to elected official, total of 194 partner organizations.
- Mary, where was the pick-up location?
- Crystal, organization were able to pick up from County warehouse. People or partner orgs could call warehouse ahead of time, there boxes would be ready when they arrived. We also had an employee distribution program, free employee mask program, delivered to their offices with strict requirement that they not be sold, we had those people distribute in their own personal channels as well
- Teresa, one cool thing about Ypsilanti library when picking up materials, they automatically ask if you would like to have 5 N95 masks, this was great
- Crystal, we also distributed more masks to restaurants, servers at restaurants who were not getting proper support. Also if anyone knows anyone who needs a covid vaccination we are here until 7pm (at the vaccine clinic).
- Danyelle, that was great to hear, how we have been able to distribute and finding new ways to distribute masks, a highlight for me, we have an OCED update but wanted to make sure that there were things people wanted to bring up if anyone wanted to add anything to what Crystal said,
- Shoshana, I think we need to focus on the senior housings, I often times drop care packages and at the senior center in Ypsilanti area and they are always grateful for it because that do not have enough, senior told me that she uses same disposable mask for a week
- Danyelle, great idea, would it help for you to see list of organizations that we have sent masks to
- Shoshana, yes good idea, we each perhaps know of org
- Juanita, she said they need to focus more on west side, so how and where if that information could be given where they need to be distributed more
- Shoshana, there are senior housings on the west side too, I know perhaps the one on main street, the NAACP have done some things for seniors over there as well, I can check
- Danyelle, us figuring out what's on that public list and things we can be doing, I recognize they are already doing a lot so if there are other things we can be doing, let us know

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### IX. Community Needs Assessment discussion and approval

- Morghan, sharing why we do this and salient points that are important to share, for those who are first seeing this is a requirement for CAAs to receive CSBG funds, need to be done every three years, must be kept in FACSpro, must be information gathered from multiple meetings and spaces, outlines current needs and projected needs, can be coordinated with current efforts. We use 5 different key areas, review of components, the Opportunity Index. Board of Commissioners recently passed resolution stating that index be used to prioritize resources. The index and community assessment are one and the same, covers health, job access, economic well-being, education and training. We have turned in assessment and is awaiting approval, salient points that came out from community needs assessment is that Black infants are born esp. within Ypsi have 7.5%-16.5% lower birth rates, which is something our community should address especially because of the pandemic now. 31-53% of Ypsilanti are experiencing housing burden. A positive change is that young people have higher chance of graduation if we think about 6 years graduation as opposed to four years. Adult education attainment refers to percentage of folks who have associate degree, both EMU and Umich had a program, I worked with the one at EMU focused on Michigan Avenue corridor, huge culture change since no longer automobile industry to rely on, attainment of associates degree has not caught up to lack of presence of automobile industry after high school, any next steps?
- Jimmie Wilson, there are maps that said no data available, what happened in those areas?
- Morghan, great questions, Teresa is going to come on in later meeting to go over opportunity index so that everyone can know how to work it, from my understanding that means that data was statistically insignificant
- Comm Ricky Jefferson, I have been reading about mothers who have passed due to births, are we tracking this?
- Morghan, yes in summer especially, we know there are correlation but we are not sure of causality, we think it is related to infrastructure and adults not being able to maintain healthy temperate, there is an infant mortality center where they do reviews of infant deaths to see what is context so I know we track it that ways though I don't think we do as good a job of reporting it outward in a community setting, yes we can do better
- Ricky, is that something public health would do with you or separate?
- Morghan, that is separate from OCED
- Justin, clarifying a few things. We are requiring that office use the opportunity index and require that we update it every other year in partnership with other staff
- Shoshana, was there any type of resolution or agreement as to how you are going to attempt to fix needs to community
- Morghan, we are hoping to convene and work with you all and see where we are best positioned
- Alyshia, are we looking at rural and urban opportunities as well
- Morghan, yea that is a priority of the office to address not only racial but geographical areas, yes, measured using census data
- Linh, is there a dashboard where folks can track this easily?
- Morghan, yes there is an online dashboard, Teresa will take folks through this training, a lot of data and some review from this community to make sure it works well and is readable
- Linh, this is the same one that is used by community

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- Teresa, we had the soft launch for Opportunity Index and are doing final changes, its on temporary website and will be moved over to final one next week, Linh Song I'm looking at you, if anyone else wants to view it let me know, it will go live next week
  - Juanita, will you let us know when it goes live
  - Teresa, yes we can send something out
  - Danyelle, where can we find the survey results in the qualitative data
  - Morghan, FEP and Umich collaboration when we got over 300 participants responding, its already wrapped up in the survey data, I can send it to this group if you want to see what the data it
  - Teresa, we also have this updated in the opportunity index and I can share it with all of you
  - Morghan, we will need to approve this
  - Roll Call vote
    1. Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
    2. Cherisa Allen, yes
    3. Danyelle Reynolds, yes
    4. Juanita House, yes
    5. Shoshana DeMaria, yes
    6. Jo Ann McCollum, yes
    7. Linh Song, yes
    8. Jimmie Wilson, yes
    9. Mark McBride, yes
    10. Elizabeth Janovic, yes
    11. Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
    12. Rhonda Weathers, yes
    13. Alyshia Dyer, yes
    14. Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
  - Community Needs Assessment is approved
- X. **OCED update**
- Morghan, overview of CERA funds that we have up to date, stands for Covid Eviction Rental Assistance funds, shoutout Rhonda who has decided to support SOS and HAWC, thank you. The CERA funds requires us to staff 21 addition people, of which Rhonda is going to take and 20 million worth of resources. There is a job posting, I will send those out to you all, send out to anyone, case management role. We will provide all technology for folks to access online portal process will send out after meeting, it is online portal; MSHDA has not provided us with this tool though project has been active since March 15, so as soon as they send it to us, then community members will be able to apply directly instead of having to apply to HAWC which will make things go faster but will not have same person to person contact that is standard now. Rhonda what else should this group know
  - Rhonda, we are building plane as we are flying it because MSHDA not coming forth with lots of resources
  - Morghan, any questions, we hope to be able to be more transparent, we want more detail, I can provide what I know
  - Linh, is this something that we can help advocate with our state reps or is it any day now already in the works

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- Teresa, things got held up in state legislature before it got finalized, MSHDA didn't have final word of how things were allocated, I don't think there's an advocacy point yet, hard to know still, concerns from different partners including landlords attorney's, we will be in touch if we do need advocacy, appreciate support
- Mary, I have a webinar for work, I have to leave
- Jimmie, CERA, Covid Emergency Rental Assistance, frees up barrier busters to do what now?
- Morghan, frees up them to do a lot including utility assistance and internet services, leaves a lot of room for them, in beginning of pandemic, the barrier busters started to attend to immigrant household because BB funds became very flexible and allowed that. I am expecting that these funds will provide same opportunity, with CERA people can get up to 12 months of rental assistance. I'm projecting BB will be for those with immigrant status, food insecurity, also help provide support for those that might price out of CERA funds. There's still 80% AMI income cap, we know that new people are impacted by COVID, no income cap for BB general funds. We just prioritize low-priority communities, actual moving costs, U-Haul, furniture, etc. is what BB will start to provide supports for. Rhonda, what are other requests that you see that aren't housing
- Rhonda, most related to housing and utilities, good that we will be able to shift to community that is not very resourced
- Morghan, something that came up today, is that idea that some folks get denied for state resources SER (state emergency relief) through DHHS, will deny someone for funding if evicted but if evicted for behavioral issues, someone is denied for SER because of behavior issue and according to DHHS that doesn't count, so cases like this will be able to be supported
- Jimmie, thank you for better description
- Morghan, any other questions for CERA?

### XI. **Board: New Business**

- Danyelle, new business, also quick note thank you Rhonda, you are bringing lot to this
- Rhonda, thank you we are excited, its going to help so many families
- Justin, I keep hearing about this retreat
- Morghan, one meeting in which we wanted to go over with this board as well as new member to what CAA does and its potential, we haven't gotten the time for it, we were hoping to hold retreat next month 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at same time and go through presentation, history of CAA, talk about its transition and do SWOT analysis of strength and weaknesses and opportunities and threats to this work and prioritizing this to what work we should be doing that will inform next year and our time together, it will also help inform of opportunity index so that low opportunity areas are addressed, for various reasons it could be great to organize, any thoughts?
- Justin, great idea with new board members and better to engage, sounds great
- Shoshana, retreats is good idea, how many hours?
- Morghan, we were thinking two hours
- Rhonda, date and time?
- Justin, 28<sup>th</sup>
- Morghan, 5:30-7:30
- Morghan, I can send out doodle for folks to make sure we can all make it, I will make sure to send out presentation in beginning so you have some detail, I will also be inviting new director of Community Action Network, woman of color, exciting to see someone doing that work,

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wanted to get date confirmed before I offered it up, be great for her to come and inform some decisions that we should make

- Shoshana, we need a retreat to remind us what community is all about, we had one at a Marriott
- Danyelle, I thought Jimmie and Ricky unmuted want to make sure you have space
- Jimmie, did you want to motion to set that date or OCED schedules it
- Motion: set April 28<sup>th</sup> CAB retreat, Jimmie, supported by Ricky
  - Comm. Justin Hodge, yes
  - Cherisa Allen, not approved
  - Danyelle Reynolds, yes
  - Juanita House, yes
  - Shoshana DeMaria, yes
  - Jo Ann McCollum, yes
  - Linh Song, yes
  - Jimmie Wilson, yes
  - Mark McBride, yes
  - Elizabeth Janovic, yes
  - Mary Phillips-Smith, yes
  - Rhonda Weathers, yes
  - Alyshia Dyer, yes
  - Comm. Ricky Jefferson, yes
- Ricky, as to present award to youth to summer day fest, we are asking CAB board to present it as separate award, the awards we do are those, mostly elderly, who have been contributing to community, yes, if CAB wants to add youth award that's fine
- Juanita, is it for youth or elderly
- Ricky, elderly award is summer fest committee, so we are asking CAB to do one for youth community
- Juanita, for the same basis? Community service?
- Ricky, whatever the board is leaning towards
- Shoshana, we will have to write criteria for awards
- Cherisa, I sent out invite will all Zoom meetings, you have invite in your email that was sent to all CAB members last month, first Saturday of every month so at that time you can come and put your thoughts in to whatever else you would like to add to summer fest Joe Dulin Day 2021, I'm just adding that as Ricky goes on about the new award
- Shoshana, so that next one will be April
- Cherisha, is April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1
- Juanita, is that where criteria can be addressed
- Charisa, yes you all can address that there
- Ricky, no deadline but I like to get it out there so I can report it by first Saturday in June
- Danyelle, I have another question about it, so that CAB is going to be create criteria for award and should we be following same timeline as other awards, when does application need to open and what does application process need do
- Cherisa, Ricky is chairperson if this so he can answer that
- Ricky, no criteria application, with the youth figure out what it is you would like to present as an opportunity get award, those who have been pillars of community doing things for children and

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youth, did something for boys club, those type of things, depends , normally we look around and see who it is that we need to make sure needs to know that we appreciate them and being it to ground and group decides

- Cherisa, we just take a vote
- Danyelle, thank you that's helpful
- Shoshana, we can do a random look around, we should have a criteria yes and perhaps we should link in all schools in the area to recommend students that we would like to see award, I'm not so sure about applications, we can send notification that his is being offered and they can send us students of their choice who meet XYZ criteria
- Morghan, we can help in writing application, writing criteria so that all people can be on same page, let us know and we can be glad to help
- Shoshana, this is a board effort and you can start the process and we can go from there
- Morghan, I'd be glad to format really pretty like and send it out
- Shoshana, who is going to take that on? Cher?
- Danyelle, I can commit to going to meeting, deciding on criteria in May meeting makes sense
- Juanita, yes that makes sense, we need focus area to start with
- Cherisa, would you like me to send to zoom link again, don't say I'm not doing my job, look in your mailbox by Friday night and you will see it
- Shoshana, do you send out meeting minutes as well?
- Cherisa, no we usually go over meeting minutes
- Juanita, my phone is about to run out
- Morghan, we will send out notes if you drop off
- Danyelle, anything else under new business?

## XII. CAB Member Discussion

- Danyelle, award great update that we will now be taking on, any other updates of emerging community issues?
- Morghan, if the board as we are seeing these vaccination clinics, let us know that you are hearing from community, if there are any gaps, especially in terms of accessing certain communities, more ahead of it we get the better
- Linh, local Asian American community has been struggling, I have been organizing some things and come up with resources guide for folks who are uncomfortable with working with police, I hope folks are available, there is a vigil on campus this Friday, Justin and I are working on resolutions, the stories are coming out, stories are coming out, parents talking about if they need to arm themselves, Vincent Shin's murder in the 80s in Detroit, lots of us trying to share that, sometimes justice is delayed for generations, hoping that we can have better understanding of what policing and public safety can look like, unarmed police response resolution that is coming up in AA city council, Ann Arbor is trying, we are being tested to see if we can actually make a difference
- Justin, could you share resource guide with CAB when its done
- Linh, sure, we are talking about things like better curriculum with public schools, largest minority group in Ann Arbor 18%, huge gap in immigration experiences, trying to teach folks not to fall into model minority trope, there are some Asian aunties that aren't on this, taking over google docs like crazy

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- Shoshana, I appreciate you bringing this up to this groups, we often leave other cultures out, to me that's segregation and that should never happen, thank you, we need to pray for everyone, this is all of our world to live in
- Linh, I can't wait for my kids to grow up and figure all this out, thanks
- Danyelle, thank you for that Linh and Shoshana, any other emerging issues?

### XIII. **BOC Representative Report**

- Danyelle, updates
- Justin, several things I already mentioned, relation about opportunity index very good, use opportunity index to target efforts, as Linh mentioned we will be able to introduce resolution in next meeting, maybe not need to go to ways and means, children savings account is emerging program that is partner with UMICH. Also the rats issue, West Willow, ongoing thing, we are starting to narrow down where problems are out, fewer to no rats in wilderness, we were concerned about that, but that means more in people's home areas. BOC Board priority, survey not empirical, clear that across county affordable housing is priority, as we learn more about federal funds county is going to receive, a lot of that will go towards affordable housing, I'm looking forward to Teresa present about that. Ricky, add anything?
- Ricky, you covered it all very well, we need to get stimulus package to those who need to most
- Justin, been having conversation with advocacy groups, we have to keep in those who are homeless, those who need a home as well as to make housing more affordable
- Rhonda, question, BOC is probably aware that we are entering last quarter of COFU funding, is there any discussion under way about substitute process or out to agencies that have been reliant to funding
- Justin, I haven't heard anything
- Teresa, we are working on new process, we have so much going on now, we are looking at transition period, while we figure out what is happening now, we are close to presenting timeline of that, hopefully we can move that along, take it through board and city council, and partners, I have to get final yes
- Rhonda, thank you
- Justin, any other questions
- Danyelle, for survey, how many people responded?
- Justin, Ricky help me, more than 300
- Ricky, more than 300, quite a few in district 5 and 6
- Justin, there has been conversation about more serious county wide survey, be able to get people to participate in more ways than just online
- Danyelle, great to have more full picture of how people see this, any other questions for commissioners?

### XIV. **Public Comment**

- Sharif-Ahmed Krabti, I had difficulties finding link to zoom, I found it eventually on county's website but actual CAB page on OCED website doesn't have link, so I don't know what attendance is usually like, just wanted to let you all know about that
- Danyelle, thank you for that Sharif, there hasn't been a lot of attendance virtually
- Justin, these are one of my students to thank you for coming

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- Shoshana, again way to go blue
- Danyelle, also one of my students too

### XV. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7 pm. Jimmie, Danyelle second
  - Morghan will send doodle, looking forward to that time on work that we will be doing forward
  - Justin, good job running the meeting