

Macomb Community Action Advisory Board
Full Board
February 11, 2020

The Macomb Community Action Advisory Board met Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in the Conference & Training Center of the VerKuilen Building, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Amenta, Chair
Monica Bihar-Natzke
Tanya Blatz
Carmen Bordea
Michael Brucci
Bob Combs
Sara Gold
Matthew Micinski
Elizabeth Vogel
Krista Willette
Carlee Wilson

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

John Bierbusse
Joan Flynn
Judge William Hackel
Tom Kalkofen

STAFF PRESENT:

Linda Azar
Stephanie Burgess
Ernest Cawvey
Joe Cooke
Sheila Cote'
Gary Cutler
Karen Frasard
Julie Hintz
Kathleen Nicosia

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christopher Natzke

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Denise Amenta at 12:02 p.m. Members recited together the Pledge of Allegiance and the Community Action Promise.

II. Determination of a Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was established with nine (9) members present.

III. Recommendation to approve the Agenda

The agenda was modified to differentiate between Board Development (Community Development presentation by Stephanie Burgess) and Mission Moment (Individual Development Account presentation by Julie Hintz).

Krista Willette made a motion, supported by Monica Bihar-Natzke, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Amenta stated that this committee operates under the Open Meetings Act and asked if anyone was present who wished to address the Committee. There being no one present requesting this privilege, Chair Amenta proceeded with the meeting.

V. Chairperson's Report

Chair Amenta reminded the members about the upcoming March initiatives to read in a classroom or deliver Meals on Wheels. Members are encouraged to participate in these events and be an ambassador for these programs.

Members were reminded of the upcoming Census. A flyer was shared that is unique to Head Start.

Ms. Amenta shared with the members about her recent trip with Head Start to the Detroit Institute of Arts.

1. Recommendation to select new board member

Ms. Amenta stated that Susan Burkhardt resigned from the board since her office moved, preventing her from attending meetings. As a result, there is a vacancy. Ms. Amenta reminded members of the recent review of applications and vote in December to elect one member out of three candidates, one of which was Carmen Bordea. Through the election process in December, Bob Combs received the greatest number of votes, with Carmen receiving the next greatest number.

Bob Combs made a recommendation, supported by Monica Bihar-Natzke, to approve Carmen Bordea as the new board member. Motion carried.

VI. Consent agenda

Krista Willette made a motion, supported by Matthew Micinski, to approve the items in the consent agenda.

1. Minutes from Full Board meeting, December 10, 2019
2. Executive Committee Reports – None
3. Budget Committee Reports
 - A. Receive and File: Budget Summary
 - B. Receive and File: Special Assistance Grants Report
 - C. Receive and File: Cash Donations Report
 - D. Receive and File: Financial Detail Report: Macomb Food Program
 - E. Receive and File: Financial Detail Report: Administration
 - F. Receive and File: Agency Credit Card Usage Report: October and November 2019
4. Planning Committee Reports
 - A. Head Start Reports:
 1. Receive and File: Financial Reports
 2. Receive and File: 2020 Selection Priority Grid
 3. Receive and File: Community Assessment Update
 4. Receive and Approve: Parent – Community Complaint Procedure
 5. Miscellaneous Training: ELOF, PFCE
 - B. Receive and File: BCAEO Weatherization Monitor Closeout Letter
 - C. Receive and File: MichiganWorks TANF Transportation Monitoring Report
 - D. Receive and File: October and November 2019 Program Reports

Ms. Amenta thanked the members for their diligence and dedication in reviewing the items at each of the committee meetings, allowing for a consent agenda and more time at Full Board meetings.

Motion carried.

VII. Board Development / Mission Moment

Board Development: Stephanie Burgess, program manager for Community Development, provided information to the members on Community Development Block Grant funds, stating:

- In the past, communities received an automatic allocation of funds and select a project to complete
 - When that project is not executed, funds are recaptured
 - We are only able to have no more than 1.5 times our grant amount by May of each year
 - Communities are then notified of available funds
 - This is the first time a NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) notice has been sent to the communities
 - Communities can submit applications for large projects
 - This is on a competitive basis

- For the annual allocations in 2020, the process will also be competitive in this manner
- Applicants were only able to apply for up to \$250,000 for bricks and mortar projects
- Five applicants submitted projects for consideration
 - City of Eastpointe
 - Village of New Haven:
 - Harrison Township
 - Shelby Township
 - Centerline
- Applications are scored by a team
- Applicants are notified of final decisions

Discussion ensued.

Mission Moment: Julie Hintz, Children and Family Services program manager for the Community Action Centers, provided information to the members on the IDA (Individual Development Account) program. The program has been around for approximately 20 years and has gone through many changes. It has a narrow target audience.

- It is a matched savings program for first time home buyers
- Those who enter the program save toward a \$1,000 goal
 - When that goal is met and other requirements are met, we match it with \$3,000 for a total of \$4,000
 - This can be used to purchase a home
- Applicants must meet various requirements, including financial coaching, home ownership classes, and other requirements
- There have been many challenges pertaining to funding for the program
- After many years working with one bank, changes to their policies prevented further partnership with them
 - A new partnership with PNC Bank, allowing customers to open special no-fee accounts
- Four people purchased homes in 2019 through the IDA program

Discussion ensued.

VIII. Director's Report

Ernest Cawvey thanked the committees for the work they do, allowing the consent agenda. We solicit your leadership, both at committee levels and at Full Board. Any recommendations are welcome for programs or subject presentations for mission moment or board development.

Mr. Cawvey commended Stephanie Burgess for the work she does. Entering in competitive CDBG is really innovative, hoping to get a "road show" so communities and municipalities know what they can aspire to. MCA is here to serve and to inspire.

He further stated that he is working with Michigan Community Action to lobby the Michigan legislature around IDAs. We have many competing priorities throughout the year, but IDA is one of our top priorities.

Regarding the Census, Elizabeth Vogel helped us get off the ground with public service announcements. Marketing efforts are in full swing with Smart buses, Comcast, Pandora, etc., so that everyone hears about it. County Departments will have flyers to distribute to the public who walks in their offices.

Mr. Cawvey suggested that the Census call to action for members would be around community partners to encourage that they promote. If there are partners we can reach, please let us know.

Mr. Cawvey reminded members of a state pilot project he recently spoke of called, Mitigate, Michigan Directory Gateway. This is a health services gateway for health providers. It offers MCA an opportunity to link up with health systems as an active care provider for clients we service. MCA would be notified if a client for whom we are an active care provider is discharged from the hospital, including those who may be homeless. We are entering into this pilot to explore being an active care relationship within the health provider systems.

Discussion ensued. The pilot project will address HIPPA.

Mr. Cawvey continued, speaking about the Community Needs Assessment. Joe Cooke will be leading the charge, but the board has leadership for our needs assessment. Your input on what new programs we might need, what program enhancements we might need, what new partnerships we might need, etc. We are working with the Health Department on their assessment, as well.

Mr. Cawvey spoke of the need for volunteers and ambassadors in the community for the Census and other areas. While there may be hundreds of volunteers, we want to ensure they are being plugged in and that we create new volunteer opportunities.

Lastly, we may focus on the urgent needs of scarcity and hardship, but art and enrichment are in our purview to give the community a sense of presence. We have been in communication with Anton Art Center for a series of installations around the County and how MCA can involve the community in enriching activities.

Discussion ensued.

IX. Executive Summary

Chair Amenta recapped the meeting points and thanked the members for their hard work.

X. Other Business

Joe Cooke reminded the members of the upcoming events:

- Walk for Warmth, Saturday, February 29, at Macomb Mall
- Elimination Raffle, Thursday, March 12, at The Italian American Cultural Center

Mr. Cooke stated that we will be bringing Organizational Standard items before you over the next few months at Full Board meetings.

Sara Gold announced that today is February 11, also 2-1-1 day, and encouraged members to spread the word about the importance of The United Way and that they are here to help.

Matt Micinski stated that kiosks in the DHHS offices will have an icon for the Census beginning this week. This will allow for folks to get information or complete their form.

1. 2020 Committee Assignments – none handed out
2. Next Meetings: *TUESDAY*, Executive Committee, March 10, 2020
TUESDAY, Budget Committee, March 17, 2020
TUESDAY, Planning Committee, March 24, 2020
TUESDAY, Full Board, April 14, 2020

XI. Adjournment

Michael Bruci made a motion, Matthew Micinski, to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Frasard