

Macomb Community Action Advisory Board
Executive Committee Minutes
March 10, 2020

The Macomb Community Action Advisory Board Executive Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in the Conference & Training Center of the VerKuilen Building at 21885 Dunham Rd., Clinton Township, MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Amenta, Chair
John Bierbusse
Michael Brucci
Tom Kalkofen
Krista Willette

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Matthew Micinski

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Cooke
Karen Frasad

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Amenta at 11:51 am.

2. Determination of a Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was established with five members present.

3. Recommendation to approve the Agenda

Krista Willette made a motion, supported by John Bierbusse, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4. Recommendation to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes.

Tom Kalkofen made a motion, supported by Krista Willette, to approve the November 5, 2019, minutes. Motion carried.

5. 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.

6. Recommendation to receive and file the BCAEO Monitoring Report on Organizational Standards

Krista Willette made a motion, supported by John Bierbusse, to receive and file the BCAEO Monitoring Report on Organizational Standards.

Joe Cooke presented information on the monitoring report, stating:

- This is the 2019 monitoring review of Organizational Standards
- We are happy to report that we made 50 out of 50 on the standards
- The monitoring took place in August, but the report was not received until December

Motion carried.

7. Recommendation to receive and file the BCAEO Programmatic Monitoring Report on CSBG and WAP

John Bierbusse made a motion, supported by Tom Kalkofen, to receive and file the BCAEO Programmatic Monitoring Report on CSBG and WAP.

Joe Cooke presented information on the monitoring report, stating:

- One report for both the Community me Transportation services; and the Weatherization Assistance Program
 - Both programs are overseen by the BCAEO, so they often combine them together when monitoring
 - There were no findings and no recommendations on this monitoring report.

Motion carried.

8. Recommendation to receive and file the BCAEO STAR Report

Krista Willette made a motion, supported by Tom Kalkofen, to receive and file the BCAEO STAR Report.

Joe Cooke presented information on the report, stating:

- This is a report from the State, showing their analysis of several areas
 - Their initial report showed our Financial Stability at 4.0
 - Considering we are an Agency connected to the County with a very good bond rating, an award-winning Finance Department, no findings with Fiscal, a strong team, delegations of duties is transparent, we requested that the BCAEO reconsider
 - A separate Department's finding in the County's Single Audit brought the score down due to outstanding issues at the time of the review
 - The BCAEO reviewed the report with current information and changed the score from a 4.0 to 4.3, bringing the overall score to a 4.6

Motion carried.

9. Other Business

Ernest Cawvey provided an update on the following:

- 2020 Census
 - Macomb Community Action, under Ernest's direction, has been charged by the OCE to execute the Census 2020 strategy
 - Pursuing this internally through County departments and externally through our partners
 - Flyers, banners, post cards, chip clips, car clings are available
 - Each County Department is submitting a plan for their own outreach: putting materials with each mailing, or banners upon arriving at the facility, etc.
 - Promotions with partners include town hall meetings, outreaches within their communities, but due to concerns with Coronavirus and meetings no longer being held, media outreaches have been recommended
 - Goal is to get the money into the partner's hands, neighborhood association, etc.
 - We are committed to paying for food costs and staffing costs, giving materials for free for partners to do outreaches
 - Your assistance in identifying partner organizations who have a trusted voice in the community
- Linda Azar shared additional information on the 2020 Census, stating:
 - Materials have been ordered and shipped to the Macomb Food Warehouse
 - Requests from County departments for materials are being broken down and distributed
 - We encourage members to share info with your networks, promoting the Census, etc. Materials are available for members to give out
 - Social media is being used to promote
 - Planning and Economic Development has been very helpful and can customize materials in other languages, etc.

- The State of Michigan just awarded the County an additional \$100,000 for the Census that must be spent in a month
 - Clinton Township was awarded \$25,000 and Sterling Heights was awarded \$45,000
 - Your assistance with reaching out to community partners would be appreciated
 - We are advertising on the radio, on streaming radio, etc.
- Macomb Community Action has also been asked to support the efforts of OneMacomb
 - When considering MCA's strategic operations and outreach, we should also look at it through the lens of diversity and inclusion
 - We have the opportunity in 2020 to reinvigorate OneMacomb
 - We are working on holding a Disability 5K that focuses on disability and awareness
 - We would like to do something with seniors and Affirmations
 - Our mandate is maximum, feasible participation – how do we include all residents affected by our programs in our decision making
- A \$5,000 budget has been allocated to MCAAB
 - This will support efforts in ambassadorship, being champions for MCA
 - Be thinking about what funds should be allocated to outreach, professional development, conferences, community outreach, or public beautification, as in a mural, etc.
- WRAP Program
 - MCA and Oakland County have both underperformed on the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) contract due to different challenges within various municipalities
 - The Great Lakes Water Authority has decided to expand WRAP
 - Unspent funds in counties are redistributed to Detroit and Flint
 - Eligibility has increased from 150% poverty to 200%
 - Additional changes include increased allowance on conservation only funding for in-home remediation
 - There are challenges to the program and spending the funds

Discussion ensued. Linda Azar addressed and responded to why we have underperformed due to challenges with the program, with communities, and with support from the grant administrator. Additionally, some cities were not interested, there were stipulations around water usage, etc.

Discussion ensued. Ernest Cawvey shared that a request was made to Wayne Metropolitan Community Action to give us some administrative fees. Although a number was not given, they agreed in principal to give MCA and Oakland some funds to administer the program.

Discussion continued to ensue. Cities with combined water and sewer billings have been reluctant to participate in the program due to the challenges of applying the \$25 credit to only the water portion. We are hoping they will be receptive to a new approach of just paying off past due amounts or allow us to do conservation only through our Home Injury Control program, while doing home services. Tom Kalkofen suggested language with a financial incentive be included in the contract with the communities.

Linda Azar shared information about:

- Show Me the Money Day: March 21, 2020

Joe Cooke updated members on the recent Walk for Warmth:

- A little over \$18,000 has been raised with more funds expected
- There were 180 walkers with over 200 people, including vendors and staff
- Despite recent staff changes, the event was very successful
- Close to \$800,000 has been collected since Walk for Warmth began

Discussion ensued. John Bierbusse recommended that a match program be considered.

Joe Cooke notified the members that at April's Full Board meeting, approximately eight items will be brought to them to satisfy Organizational Standards.

Denise Amenta reminded members:

