

Macomb Community Action Advisory Board
Executive Committee Minutes
May 5, 2020

The Macomb Community Action Advisory Board Executive Committee held a virtual meeting by way of a conference call on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Under CSPM 200 Policy Series effective April 14, 2020, during the Coronavirus Pandemic, virtual board meetings through conference calls are permitted regardless of inclusion in by-laws. Macomb Community Action, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, Michigan.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, virtual board meeting information is posted on the County website as well as displayed on the exterior Macomb Community Action office door.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Amenta, Chair
John Bierbusse
Monica Bihar-Natzke
Michael Bruci
Tom Kalkofen
Matthew Micinski

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Krista Willette

STAFF PRESENT:

Ernest Cawvey
Sheila Cote'
Gary Cutler
Karen Frasard

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Amenta at 11:35 am.

2. Determination of a Quorum

A roll call of members was taken by Karen Frasard. It was determined that a quorum was established with six members present.

At the request of Chair Amenta, Matt Micinski read the Promise of Community Action for the members.

3. Recommendation to approve the Agenda

John Bierbusse made a motion, supported by Michael Bruci, to approve the agenda.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (6 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, John Bierbusse, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Michael Bruci, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski.

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried.

4. Recommendation to approve the March 10, 2020 minutes.

Tom Kalkofen made a motion, supported by Matt Micinski, to approve the March 10, 2020, minutes.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (6 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, John Bierbusse, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Michael Bruci, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski.

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

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

6. Recommendation to receive and approve AAA1-B FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funds for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

John Bierbusse made a motion, supported by Michael Bruci, to receive and file the AAA1-B FFCRA Funds for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals.

Sheila Cote' presented information on the funds, stating:

- This funding comes from the CARES Act funneled from OSA (Office of Services to the Aging) through Area Agency on Aging 1-B down to us
 - It is specifically based on nutrition

Denise Amenta inquired about whether the sites where meals are being made have been affected by the schools being closed due to the pandemic. Sheila Cote' responded that the closures have not affected the sites. The schools are receiving CARES Act funding under a different stream.

Discussion ensued.

- Ernest Cawvey stated:
 - Existing grantees of Federal funds received supplement guidance on programs
 - The schools were notified by the U.S.D.A. of how to use their existing funds
 - Schools were then notified of how to use the additional funds being allocated
 - The Federal government has allowed all schools to continue their feeding program through June 31st instead of their last day of school
 - Schools are now working on summer feeding sites
- Sheila Cote' added:
 - The funding we received from the CARES Act was under the Older Americans section
 - There was another section for college students, K-12 schools, Workforce Development, National Service Participants, etc.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (6 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, John Bierbusse, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Michael Bruci, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski.

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried.

7. Other Business

Ernest Cawvey provided an update on the following, stating:

- Shout out to Sheila Cote' and the team at OSS for the tremendous amount of effort required to restructure the way we deliver Meals on Wheels and make use of those funds
 - Meals on Wheels is one of our largest volunteer programs by folks who bring themselves, their time, their own vehicles to deliver Meals on Wheels
 - With the health and safety concerns for our volunteers, we made a shift and are only utilizing re-assigned County staff to deliver the meals
 - We are eager to bring the volunteers back when County employees return to work
 - The program is not as large nor as impactful without the volunteerism of Macomb County residents helping us leverage funds

- All our programs are operating on modified schedules
 - The Community Action Centers are conducting phone appointments and accepting electronic documents
 - We hope to increase our capacity in the coming months
 - Accelerating our ability to reach residents where they're at
 - Our main phone line has been added as a crisis line for help and County employees from other departments are assisting with those calls
 - Post cards were sent out with this number
 - Large banners with this number were made for school food pick-up sites
 - A simple intake is completed and our programs then respond to the calls
 - Connections have been made with the MISD and their Homeless Liaison
 - Kids are falling in the cracks right now
 - Older children are considering running away or being emancipated
 - We are working with those 25 liaisons to identify who is on their caseloads so we can prepare and work with those parents and students to ensure they are successful over the summer
 - We recently learned of teachers at Lakeshore School District that raised funds to help a homeless family
 - We connected with them and provided additional information and support and stability
 - The stimulus unemployment insurance ends July 31st
 - We have heard that some checks are being garnished or folks are being denied
 - We are preparing ahead for when that ends and for when residents slide into financial hardship

At the request of Chair Amenta, Ernest Cawvey provided an update on the 2020 Census, stating:

- Michigan is #5 in the Country
- Macomb is #2 in Michigan
- Another Census drive through picnic will be today at Jimmy John's Field in Utica
 - Rising Stars Academy in Centerline is holding an event Saturday, handing out meals as well as flowers for Mother's Day
- We are reaching out to mobile home communities, offering gift cards to complete the Census
 - Responses from 2010 indicate the response rate in these areas was as low as 47%
- The timeline has been extended through October
 - Hoping to do a July 4th event, back-to-school event
 - Targeting smaller areas that have been resistant
- Utilizing various methods of advertising: billboards, digital ads, etc.

Discussion ensued. Tom Kalkofen addressed Ernest Cawvey:

- Thanked Ernest for the nice job he is doing on the Census
- Inquired as to how the board is making the board meeting information available to the public if they want to comment
 - Ernest Cawvey responded that for public hearings, we have the ability to hold a virtual meeting and post that information in the Macomb Daily
 - Karen Frasard added our agenda is put on the County website and the virtual meeting information is on the agenda
 - Also, our meeting schedule is posted on the outside of our door and the virtual information is included

Discussion ensued.

Tom Kalkofen made a motion, supported by Michael Bruci, that the public participation process is included as an agenda item at the next Executive committee meeting.

Aye – Denise Amenta, John Bierbusse, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Michael Bruci, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski.
Nay – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried.

Denise Amenta thanked Karen Frasard for including the mission statement on our agendas. Ms. Amenta also thanked the Agency and the County staff for their heroic work helping Macomb County families during this crisis.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

June 9, 2020

Full Board,

Pending: Conference & Training Center, VerKuilen

9. Adjournment

John Bierbusse made a motion, supported by Monica Bihar-Natzke, to adjourn at 12:13.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (6 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, John Bierbusse, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Michael Bruci, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski.

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Frasard