

Macomb Community Action Advisory Board
Full Board
October 13, 2020

The Macomb Community Action Advisory Board held a virtual meeting by way of a conference call on Tuesday, October 13, 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

Roll call was taken. Members and staff present on the virtual meeting are indicated below.

MEMBERS PRESENT virtually:

Denise Amenta, Chair
Monica Bihar-Natzke
Tanya Blatz
Carmen Bordea
Michael Bruci
Bob Combs
Joan Flynn
Sara Gold
Tom Kalkofen
Matthew Micinski
Elizabeth Vogel

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

John Bierbusse
Judge William Hackel
Krista Willette
Carlee Wilson

STAFF PRESENT virtually:

Linda Azar
Ernest Cawvey
Joe Cooke
Gary Cutler
Karen Frasard
Julie Hintz

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Denise Amenta at 11:34 a.m.

Tom Kalkofen inquired about the status of holding meetings virtually since the Executive Orders are no longer standing. Discussion ensued. Elizabeth Vogel responded that on Friday, Senate Bill 1108 passed, allowing virtual meetings to continue and is going to the State House for consideration. This would retroactively confirm that all virtual meetings were done properly and legally.

At the request of Chair Amenta, Bob Combs recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and Tom Kalkofen recited the Community Action Promise.

II. Determination of a Quorum

A roll call of members was taken by Karen Frasard. It was determined that a quorum was established with 11 members present virtually.

III. Recommendation to approve the Agenda

Monica Bihar-Natzke made a motion, supported by Tanya Blatz, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

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

V. Chairperson's Report

Chair Amenta thanked everyone for all they are doing in the community to get us through this difficult time. Chair Amenta reminded members of her request for input on how to acknowledge the work and efforts of all the staff and stated that a letter is being prepared to be sent to Congressman Levin and Senator Peters, requesting that they would acknowledge the staff with a proclamation. Suggestions for additional ways to recognize the staff will be on-going and are welcome.

Ernest Cawvey thanked the Chair for her efforts to recognize the staff and offered to reach out to the Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee of the Board of Commissioners to see if a board recognition would be appropriate.

VI. Consent agenda

Bob Combs made a motion, supported by Michael Bruci, to approve the items in the consent agenda. Ms. Amenta asked if there were any items in the consent agenda that should be removed and discussed separately. Hearing none, Ms. Amenta continued.

1. Minutes from Full Board meeting, August 11, 2020
2. Executive Committee Reports
 - A. Receive and Approve: CRF Water and Plumbing Funds \$345,000
 - B. Receive and Approve: WCARE Grant Funds \$2,887,772
 - C. Receive and Approve: QCARE Grant Funds \$150,000
 - D. Approve: Head Start Expansion Grant Submission
 - E. Receive and File: HUD 2020 Annual Action Plan
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: Weatherization
 - E. Receive and File: Agency Credit Card Usage Report: June / July 2020
 - F. Receive and File: 2021 MCA Budget
4. Program & Planning Committee Reports
 - A. Head Start Report
 1. Receive and File: Notice of Awards
 - i. Head Start and Early Head Start (05CH010685-03-00)
 - ii. Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership (05HP000386-02-00)
 2. Approve: Strategic Planning / Self-Assessment Procedure
 3. Approve: 2019 – 2020 Great Start Mini Grant
 - B. Receive and File: June 2020 Program Reports

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

VII. Action Items

1. Receive and Approve: CDBG-CV3 Grant Funds \$1,530,725

Tanya Blatz made a motion, supported by Tom Kalkofen, to receive and approve the CDBG-CV3 Grant Funds.

Joe Cooke presented information on the funds, stating:

- This is the second round of the Community Development Block Grant CV funds
- These funds go through the end of 2022 but are still for COVID related activities

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

2. Receive and Approve: United Way Basic Needs Grant 2020-2021 \$100,000

Bob Combs made a motion, supported by Matthew Micinski, to receive and approve the United Way Basic Needs Grant.

Linda Azar presented information on the grant funds, stating:

- These funds are focused on housing – rent and mortgage, ensuring individuals have safe and stable housing
- Most of these funds will cover basic needs and direct services around housing
 - A small portion will be allotted to our AmeriCorp individual who is working on housing initiatives within MCA

Discussion ensued regarding indemnification language in the agreement.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

3. Receive and Approve: HS-EHS COVID Funds \$820,806

Carmen Bordea made a motion, supported by Tanya Blatz, to receive and approve the HS-EHS COVID Funds.

Linda Azar presented information on the HS-EHS COVID Funds, stating:

- This is the formal award
 - Funds will be utilized for air purifiers, PPE, and items to ensure the safety of the children in the classroom, as well as the staff

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

4. Receive and Approve: CRF Emergency Services Funds \$138,988

Michael Bruci made a motion, supported by Tom Kalkofen, to receive and approve the CRF Emergency Services Funds.

Joe Cooke presented information on the CRF Emergency Services funds, stating

- These are CARES Act dollars
- Funds will allow us to do essential car repairs and assist with property tax arrearages
 - We are working with the County's Treasurer's office

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

VIII. Mission Moment

Chair Amenta complimented and thanked the staff as they work through these difficult times.

IX. Director's Report

Ernest Cawvey provided an update, stating

- The Census enumerators through the end of October to finish up
 - Macomb County is over 81% of the self-response rate
 - This is a record for the State of Michigan, placing us in the top ranks of the nation for counties larger than 500,000
 - Census workers are now doing non-response follow-up
 - The State of Michigan is at 99% completion
 - Promotion to complete the Census continues
 - Results and subsequent funding are based on relative performance

Joan Flynn inquired about why the snow and grass program was discontinued.

- Ernest Cawvey responded that funds for those programs are from Area Agency on Aging
 - We were recently informed in a recent monitoring that the local AAA1B office was informed by the national AAA1B office that there can be no recurring service offered under the Chore program
 - It must be a one-time service, such as leaf raking or gutter cleaning
 - This new determination required that we modify our Chore service to not be a recurring service, resulting in:
 - We can no longer use AAA1B funds for recurring services in Chore
 - Macomb Community Action has offered each municipality to support in continuing the lawn and snow program if they wish to allocate their CDBG funds to it
 - Every municipality in the past has contributed a portion of their CDBG dollars to supplement the Chore program
 - Communities that are not continuing the lawn and snow service is because the municipality has decided not to allocate CDGB dollars for the program

Ernest Cawvey continued with his report, stating:

- We continue to assess and implement our CARES funding
 - We have a range of CARES funds that supplement our regular services
 - We are expanding the Food Program freezer
 - This will help residents with the increased need due to COVID
 - Expanding the freezer will allow us to be prepared for 2021 to meet the increased demand
- The Governor announced a new CARES funding called Digital Divide
 - We plan to purchase tablets / laptops plus one year of wireless data plan
 - Equipment will be for eligible families that will help them stay home and help children with remote learning
- The Governor had also announced the Mask Up Michigan campaign suggesting residents contact their local Community Action Agency
 - We requested and distributed over 130,000 masks in Macomb County
 - We responded quickly and strongly to the Governor's mandate
- MCA has had some recent press coverage for various things
 - Responding to a house fire
 - The senior Shipt program
 - The Census
 - Press releases help to get our story out there so residents in need know where to turn
- We have been working with both Consumers Energy and DTE to identify ways to proactively reach out to residents in crisis for assistance with utilities
 - A monthly report from them will provide us an early warning sign in 2021 where in Macomb County are hardships being experienced
 - Both Consumers Energy and DTE are giving us a heat map, indicating areas of need
- We are partnering with Macomb County Friend of the Court to assist low-income / eligible residents with unpaid child support
- We are partnering with Macomb County Treasurer's department to assist low-income / eligible residents with tax foreclosures
- We are on target with the Community Needs Assessment
 - We would like to do a supplemental assessment in 2021 to identify newly emerging needs
 - We would like to move to doing an annual assessment, with a refresh process, rather than waiting every three years

Denise Amenta thanked and acknowledged Ernest's excellent leadership on the Census and leading the County in a terrific spot.

X. Executive Summary

None provided.

XI. Other Business

1. Next Meetings: **WEDNESDAY**, Executive Committee, November 4, 2020
TUESDAY, Budget Committee, November 10, 2020
TUESDAY, Planning Committee, November 17, 2020
TUESDAY, Full Board, December 8, 2020

XII. Adjournment

Bob Combs made a motion, supported by Michael Bruci, to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Summary of the vote on the motion: (11 – 0 – 0)

Aye – Denise Amenta, Monica Bihar-Natzke, Tanya Blatz, Carmen Bordea, Michael Bruci, Bob Combs, Joan Flynn, Sara Gold, Tom Kalkofen, Matthew Micinski, Elizabeth Vogel

Nay – None

Abstain - None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Frasard