



Ohio Association of  
Community Action Agencies

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 15, 2017  
Sheraton on Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Members Present:** Tom Reed, President; David Brightbill, First Vice-President; Ruthann House Treasurer; Janice Warner, Secretary; Andrew J. Devany; Deb Gerken; David Shea; Judith Barris; Douglas Bennett; Ken Kempton; Gary Ricer; Steve Sturgill; Kellie Ailes; Andrew Binegar; Alvin Norris; Bambi Baughn; Jeffrey Diver; Rodney Reasonover; Cheryl Grice; Sheila Triplett.

**Members Excused:** Gwen Robinson, Second Vice President; Joshua Anderson; Gary Obloy.

**Staff Present:** Philip E. Cole, Executive Director; Josh Summer, Development Director; Greg Bollenbacher, Fiscal Director; Kathryn A. Clausen, Communications Director; Lorie McClain, Program Manager; Neva Dunn, Office Manager; Jeannette M. Jarrett, Operations and Support Specialist.

**Guests Present:** Paul Kudlak, The Junto Company; Larry Price, L. Price, and Associates; Randall Hunt, Ohio Development Services Agency; Melissa Pearce, Community Action of Wayne/Medina.

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. A quorum was established.

Mr. Norris motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Warner seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Ricer motioned to approve the June 2017 minutes. Mr. Kempton seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Diver motioned to approve the August 2017 electronic minutes. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

**Finance Report: Ruthann House**

Ms. House briefly reviewed the audit which was presented by Zeno, Pockl, Lilly and Copeland during the OCATO meeting. She stated a motion to approve and accept the audit was made by the Finance Committee. Mr. Diver seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. House briefly reviewed the financial reports, which were also reviewed in detail during the preceding OCATO meeting. Ms. House stated a motion to accept the financial reports came out of committee. Mr. Diver seconded. The motion passed.

**President's Report: Tom Reed**

Mr. Reed welcomed Ms. Melissa Pierce to the meeting. He also welcomed three new Board members; Mr. Andrew Binegar, Executive Director of Pickaway County Community Action for District 4, Ms. Cheryl Grice, Executive Director of Pathways, and Ms. Sheila Triplett, Executive Director of MYCAP, both representing District 6.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Cole recommended board committee consolidations. He proposed the Finance, Legislative, and Membership Committees will be maintained per the by-laws, and the Public Relations and Training



and Development will also be maintained. Mr. Cole recommended the By-laws and Exemplary Practice Committees be incorporated into the Membership Committee, the Personnel Committee become a sub-committee of Finance and the Head Start, Workforce, and Energy Committees become part of the Legislative Committee. Mr. Cole recommended all other committees be discontinued.

Mr. Reed called for a motion to accept the board committee consolidation plan recommended by Mr. Cole. Mr. Sturgill motioned. Ms. Warner seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Cole accompanied J.D. Vance, Jai Chabria, and Jamil Javani to Chillicothe to meet with representatives from Ross and Highland Counties to discuss the opioid crisis and the role Community Action has and continues to have in developing solutions.

Mr. Cole reported that a formal relationship has been developed with J.D. Vance and Our Ohio Renewal. Mr. Cole and Mr. Kudlak will work with the three to develop a pilot project. Mr. Cole also discussed working with Mr. Wilhelm on a solar energy project that will bring hundreds of jobs to Ohio -Vinton County in particular.

Mr. Cole met with Mr. David Wilhelm, Partner and Chief Strategy Officer of Hecate Energy. Mr. Wilhelm is working on issues related to poverty in Appalachia. Mr. Cole stated OACAA is trying to work with him. Mr. Wilhelm's focus is on the needs of Vinton County and the immediate region. Hecate wants to create long-term employment opportunities in the area. This collaboration will be ongoing.

Mr. David Bradley expressed to Mr. Cole that he is working in Washington D.C. to provide funds to help states deal with the opioid crisis. Mr. Bradley needs to present plans or strategies to members of Congress on how the opioid crisis is being dealt within the State of Ohio. Mr. Cole asked the membership for testimonials of on-going projects in their service areas that can be shared with Mr. Bradley to demonstrate the positive outcomes in communities being affected by the opioid crisis. Discussion.

Mr. Cole asked Ms. Clausen to provide an update on the working relationship with Mercury, LLC. Ms. Clausen directed members to her report and a copy of the Dayton Daily News included. She explained Mercury was then working with Mr. Anderson to generate a story about HHWP, and they will tour Toledo neighborhoods with Ms. Grice as the agency implements new neighborhood initiative programs. Mr. Cole requested the contract with Mercury be extended through January 2018. The current contract expires September 30, 2017.

Mr. Reed called for a motion to extend the Mercury contract through January 31, 2018. Mr. Brightbill motioned. Mr. Diver seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Cole encouraged the network begin to emphasize opportunities for our younger and/or newer leaders, and suggested the group may help develop a method to recruit young, qualified leaders. He asked for board input regarding this matter. Discussion. Mr. Cole also reported that House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger appointed a task force to study the connection between poverty and low education performance. Mr. Cole offered OACAA as an information resource, beginning with the State of Poverty Report. Mr. Cole continued providing the results of the OACAA 401K provider review. The review committee recommend remaining with the Schwendeman Agency and choosing their newly offered program which offered reduced fees and had outperformed the other submitted proposals.



Mr. Reed called for motion to accept Schwendeman Agency's new 401K program. Mr. Obloy motioned. Ms. Warner seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Cole reported the Summer Conference Hot Topics track and panel discussions were extremely popular and will be a part of future conferences. He also asked the board's input regarding expansion of the OACAA Bulldog Award to Community Action leaders and not only legislators. Mr. Cole stated that there were people on the board and others across the network who do great work and should have the opportunity to be recognized. The board voiced consent to expand the recipients of the Bulldog Award to include Community Action leaders.

Mr. Cole reported discussions with Governor Kasich's office regarding winter coat and shelf-stable meal distribution. The board requested the coat distribution occur earlier in the season than in previous years, and expressed their desire to distribute the shelf-stable meals. Mr. Cole stated he would be in touch with agencies as more information becomes available.

Mr. Cole concluded his report by stating Ohio is in a unique position because of the strength of our CAA's and our support by both political parties. Community Action Agencies are continuing to do all we can to strengthen the future of Community Action and the communities we serve. Mr. Cole thanked the board for setting the standard for their colleagues around the country.

#### **CAPLAW Report: David Brightbill**

Mr. Brightbill reported the four national offices representing Community Action, (NCAF, CAP, CAPLAW, NASCSP) have begun to create a stronger working relationship. The four agencies met in September and are working productively.

#### **Partnership Report: Joe Devany**

Mr. Devany reported the Partnership is in a strong financial position and he has encouraged the organization to donate money to NCAF on a regular basis. He stated the Partnership continues to provide training on ROMA and Strategic Planning throughout the nation, and the 2018 Partnership Conference will be held in Denver. The Partnership's Management Leadership Training Conference will be held January 2018 and was originally scheduled in Houston. The conference may be relocated due to the hurricane damage. Mr. Devany also reported the Partnership donated \$15,000 to the Community Action Agencies affected by Hurricane Harvey. He concluded his report stating the 2017 CCAP class was the largest on record with 79 participants. Next year the program celebrates 25 years with another large class expected.

#### **Legislative Committee Report: David Brightbill**

Mr. Brightbill deferred to Mr. Kudlak. Mr. Kudlak reported on House Bill 126, also known as the Kinship Care bill; it is a bipartisan bill. Mr. Kudlak contacted the General Assembly to see when the next hearing is scheduled. He and Mr. Cole hope that J.D. Vance will testify at the hearing. Mr. Kudlak also reported a meeting has been scheduled regarding the non-emergency medical transportation issue, which was passed during the last budget. The State would like to do a review of the program; consideration for the funds to go through the Department of Medicaid is up for discussion. Mr. Cole and Mr. Kudlak are scheduled to address this issue with the General Assembly.

#### **Public Relations Report: Janice Warner**

Ms. Warner deferred the report to Ms. Clausen. Ms. Clausen reported filming for the Legacy Project in Jackson/Vinton and Pike Counties was completed in August, and the IMPACT video will be released before the end of the year. Ms. Clausen is exploring a partnership with Fayette County to edit the footage to release the videos sooner. Filming will resume in 2018. Ms. Clausen also shared



that the PR Group conference call is scheduled for October. She concluded the report discussing the PR/Fiscal Conference success.

**Training and Development Report: Rodney Reasonover**

No report.

**Exemplary Programs Report: Bambi Baughn**

Ms. Baughn added Exemplary programs will be absorbed into membership committee. Ms. Clausen stated the Exemplary Program Award nominations would be released in September and will be accepted through November. Awards will be presented in January at the Winter Legislative Conference.

**Membership Committee Report: Gwen Robinson**

No report.

**Personnel Committee: Joshua Anderson**

No report.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Mr. Cole announced details of services for Marier “Jack” J. Costa, son of Akron Executive Director Malcolm Costa who passed on Monday, September 11, 2017. Our condolences go out to Mr. Costa and his family.

**Open Dialogue**

None.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Brightbill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20p.m. Mr. Ricer seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date