



**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 21, 2016  
Renaissance Hotel  
Third St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Members Present:** Tom Reed, President; David Brightbill, First Vice-President; Gwen Robinson, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Janice Warner, Secretary; Joshua Anderson; Andrew J. Devany; Deb Gerken; Judith Barris; Douglas Bennett; Ken Kempton; Gary Obloy; Gary Ricer; Anita Maldonado; Kellie Ailes; Al Norris; Bambi Baughn; Robert Chilton; Malcolm Costa.

**Members Excused:** David Shea; Jeffrey Diver, Rodney Reasonover; Steve Sturgill.

**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 Assistant.

**Guests Present:** Ryan Burgess, Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation; Jenny Camper, Lesic & Camper Communications; Gabriel Kravitz, Pew Charitable Trusts; Vincent J. Squillace III, Junto, Inc.; Larry Price, L. Price and Associates; Randall Hunt, Ohio Development Services Agency; Megan Meadows, Ohio Development Services Agency; Tim Donnellan, CAP of Greater Dayton Area; Rochelle Twinning, CAO of DMUCLS.

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Warner called the roll; a quorum was established.

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

Ms. Baughn motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Ricer seconded. The motion passed.

**Finance Report: Ruthann House**

Ms. House commended Mr. Cole, Mr. Bollenbacher and the rest of the staff on the work they've done to strengthen the financial position of the Association over the past ten years. Ms. House continued stating the Finance Committee met to review the revised Fiscal Policies to align the policies with new Uniform Grant Guidance. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Reed requested the policies be emailed to board members for review and assistance with UGG revisions to agency policies. Ms. House made a motion out of committee to accept the revised Fiscal Policies. There were no objections from the board. The motion passed.

Ms. House stated reminders would be sent to the three agencies that have not submitted their second-half dues; at this time, they are not considered members until paid. She further stated the Finance Committee recommended Mr. Cole engage a consultant to evaluate 401K providers. No action was needed at this time.



Mr. Bollenbacher anticipates OACAA will soon be receiving the three-year RPIC contract from the Minnesota Community Action Partnership, who will administer the grant for the next three years. Ms. House continued the report stating there are no concerns with the financial report and recommended they be placed on file for audit. Mr. Devany motioned to accept the financial report. Ms. Warner seconded. The motion passed.

**Presentation, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation: Ryan Burgess, Director**

Mr. Cole introduced Mr. Burgess to the board. Mr. Burgess discussed the key initiatives of the Office of Workforce Transformation which includes producing a skilled, productive workforce in the State of Ohio. Mr. Burgess stated the Governor's executive workforce board is responsible for setting the direction of the office and they have been challenged by Governor Kasich to prepare and continuously retrain Ohioans of all ages for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Mr. Burgess asked board members if a video produced for agencies' lobbies would be helpful to increase participation. It was the general consensus of the board that a video may be helpful. It was also the general consensus that recent ABLE program changes causing the test to be more difficult and cost prohibitive have contributed to the decrease in participation. Mr. Burgess suggested alternative assessments be put in place to make the GED test more competitive to reduce those concerns. Members of the board also suggested alternate high school equivalency assessments may not be successful due to recognition by employers. Mr. Costa requested additional opportunities to provide feedback. Mr. Burgess stated he would be happy to come and visit individual agency administrations to gain additional feedback and information. Mr. Burgess thanked the membership for their time and invited the board to contact him at any time.

**Presentation, Pew Charitable Trusts Payday Lending Legislation: Jenny Camper, Gabriel Kravitz**

Mr. Cole introduced Ms. Camper and Mr. Kravitz who focus on small-dollar loan research and legislative initiatives to protect consumers, specifically from payday lending institutions. Mr. Kravitz discussed the payday lending systems and their effect on low- and middle-income persons. Ohio has the highest interest rates in the country reaching up to four-times that of other states for two-week loans that are up one-third of consumer's paychecks. Mr. Kravitz stated that while small-dollar short-term loans are needed, 72 percent of borrowers nationwide favor regulatory change which can be attained at the federal level. Installment payments would allow customers to repay their loans. He suggested Colorado as a model for payday lending reform in Ohio. Discussion.

Mr. Kravitz thanked the membership and requested members contact him with concerns or input to assist in this initiative.

**Agenda:** Mr. Reed requested the OCATO agenda be combined with the OACAA agenda. Mr. Brightbill motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Ailes seconded. The motion passed.

**Development Services Agency Report: Randall Hunt**

Mr. Hunt reported to the board that all but one of the HWAP contracts had been approved. He also reported that a second RFP was written and released for the contested areas including Morrow, Lorain, and parts of Franklin Counties. Changes in the RFP included utilizing data from



PY 2015 instead PY 2014. The proposals were reviewed and scored by a third party evaluator. The results of the public hearings determined that Ohio Heartland CAA will retain Morrow County and IMPACT CAA will retain the Franklin County contract. Ground Level Solutions did not meet the threshold score though it was selected to provide services in Lorain County because they had no competition on the territory.

Mr. Hunt reported there were only three HEAP operating grants that have not been approved in OCEAN. He believes two of the three were being signed as of this report. Mr. Hunt also reported the five regional trainings have been completed and were a success with over 700 employees participating. Many agencies provided great feedback and found the training to be a great benefit. Mr. Hunt continued to report that ninety people attended HEAP coordinator training and provided good feedback as well. He stated Ms. Ballas would provide a more detailed report next month.

Mr. Hunt stated Ms. Meadows has worked to determine a partial solution to allow social security cards to fulfill some requirements of citizenship verification required by HHS. Members of the board made a note of cyber-security issues and increased risk if personal data is uploaded online. Members also noted the new requirements to prove citizenship are stricter than the Department of Immigration and Homeland Security which require only that an employee sign off on citizenship preventing copies and scans from being at risk in a potential data breach. Board members also noted that heavily stringent requirements might prevent one non-eligible household from being served but could prevent many more eligible households from getting the services they need.

Mr. Hunt also stated data collected over the past year has allowed the DSA to clean up utility data and determine an effective PIPP rate case. Because enrollment has decreased between 40,000-50,000 people, the rate case will be decreased to balance out the fund; it is anticipated to level off next year. He concluded his report stating the winter crisis grant is being finalized, Distribution is anticipated the week of October 24th.

#### **President's Report: Tom Reed**

No report.

#### **Executive Director's Report: Philip E. Cole**

Mr. Cole requested input regarding HEAP administration contributions being shifted to HWAP to save CSBG funds, lessening the carryover, but not impede administrative funds. He also posed the question regarding Summer Crisis funds being rolled over into HWAP as an option. The board's consensus was to determine if state utility companies would agree to such a plan. The issue was tabled. Mr. Cole continued by asking the board for concerns or objections regarding regular HEAP applications being accepted online through the Ohio Benefits Bank. No objections were expressed.

Mr. Cole reported on the progress with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (formerly, Board of Regents) to develop education for Community Action leadership. The next meeting will be held on November 2nd and will include Ms. Maldonado and Mr. Reasonover. Members of the board discussed concerns regarding cost and elective-only transfer credit concerns. Mr. Cole



suggested offering to them the adaptation of current courses to include more information about Community Action, for example in history courses. Discussion.

Mr. Cole reported there had been no additional activity with CareSource to develop a pilot project. He also stated OACAA has sponsored the NCAF post-election webinar and will include connections for all members of the board. Board members should provide Ms. Clausen with the appropriate email address for connection instructions no later than November 4th.

Mr. Cole discussed with the board the ODJFS rule to separate Head Start and publicly funded child care layering and requested input from the board. Mr. Brightbill motioned to pursue a legislative change regarding Rule 5101:2-16-41 to allowing funding layering to provide quality education centers for children. Ms. House seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Cole discussed with the board relationship building with the new administration. He suggested this be an initiative of the Community Action Partnership national office. Mr. Cole continued his report by expressing the belief that H.B. 394 (Unemployment Compensation) will pass during the lame duck session. He also stated regional district meetings would take place throughout November. Mr. Cole concluded his report expressing gratitude for his grandson who was born earlier in the week. To celebrate, he invited everyone to enjoy the cookies he brought in for the board.

Ms. Robinson congratulated Mr. Cole and thanked him for his advocacy throughout the network. Mr. Chilton and Mr. Devany also thanked Mr. Cole for his work regarding the disputed weatherization territories. Mr. Cole thanked the membership for their support.

**Partnership Report: Andrew “Joe” Devany**

No report. Mr. Devany reported the Partnership Management and Leadership Conference would be held on January 11-13, 2017 in Long Beach, California.

**CAPLAW Report: David Brightbill**

No report.

**Legislative Committee Report: David Brightbill**

No report.

**Public Relations Report: Janice Warner**

Ms. Warner deferred the report to Ms. Clausen. Ms. Clausen stated the conference mobile application framework has been completed and will be made available in January. She also stated she recently filmed the Legacy Project in Portage County and is slated to film in Stark and Summit Counties in spring next year. Ms. Clausen concluded the reporting stating footage from the Legacy Project would be featured in a two to three-minute video as part of the Post-Election Summit web broadcast for NCAF.

**Program Reports: Lorie McClain and Josh Summer**

Ms. McClain presented a preliminary topic of tracks for the upcoming winter conference. She also reviewed with the board completed and planned trainings and events for the last quarter of the grant cycle.



Mr. Summer suggested the board research CDFI, a Department of Treasury program, to those interested in developing payday lending alternatives for customers. He continued by discussing his recent attendance at an event in Washington D.C. regarding ROMA Next Generation. He summarized the meeting and directed members to the blog on the Association's website.

Mr. Summer reported he was in receipt of the purchase order number for TANF funds from ODJFS but that documents had yet to be received. Members should have received an email from him to authorize funds. He asked those who did not receive an email to contact him.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ailes thanked Mr. Summer for coordinating the Pathways training observing it was very well done.

**Best Practices Committee Report: Bambi Baughn**

No report.

**Membership Committee Report: Gwen Robinson**

No report

**Personnel Committee: Joshua Anderson**

No report. The committee intends to meet in November.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None

**Open Dialogue**

None.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:57 p.m. Ms. House motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

**End:**

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date