



Ohio Association of  
Community Action Agencies

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 19, 2017  
Sheraton on Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Members Present:** Tom Reed, President; Gwen Robinson, Second Vice President; Janice Warner, Secretary; Andrew J. Devany; David Shea; Judith Barris; Gary Obloy; Gary Ricer; Steve Sturgill; Kellie Ailes; Bambi Baughn; Jeffrey Diver; Rodney Reasonover; Robert Chilton; Malcolm Costa.

**Members Excused:** David Brightbill, First Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Joshua Anderson; Deb Gerken; Douglas Bennett; Ken Kempton; Alvin Norris.

**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; Naima Ilmi, Policy Intern.

**Guests Present:** Paul Kudlak, The Junto Company; Jim Mermis, The Junto Company; Larry Price, L. Price, and Associates; Randall Hunt, Ohio Developmental Services Agency; Tracy Ballas, Ohio Developmental Services Agency; Jackie Boehnlein, President and CEO, Lorain County Community Action Agency; Van D. Nelson, Executive Director, Trumbull Community Action Program; Yvonne Freeman, Ohio Urban Resource System, Steve Wilson, Muskingum Economic Opportunity Action Group.

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.

Ms. Warner called the roll. A quorum was established.

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

Ms. Warner motioned to approve the April 2017 minutes. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

**Finance Report: Ruthann House**

Mr. Reed asked for a motion to recommend the acceptance of the finance report as presented. Ms. Robinson motioned. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

**President's Report: Tom Reed**

Mr. Reed reported on the OACAA Executive Committee meeting which was held via conference call on May 1, 2017. This meeting sought approval of the proposed Mercury, LLC. contract, and the Governor's Office of Faith Based TANF funds administration. Mr. Reed stated the Executive Committee approved the Mercury contract to be paid out of corporate funds for four months. Mr.



Cole is pursuing approval from DSA to continue the contract with funds from the TTA grant following the four-month corporate contract. The contract with Mercury will enhance efforts to build relationships and local support for Community Action programs in order to reduce reliance on federal grant funds. Approval for Governor's Office of Faith Based TANF funds administration was also approved.

Mr. Reed asked for a motion from the board to affirm the approval of the Mercury, LLC contract. Mr. Diver motioned. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Cole reported on his meeting with Representative Stephanie Howse, President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. Mr. Cole assured Ms. Howse that the network would continue to support the OLBC. Mr. Cole also reported ODJFS is interpreting the budget language to mean the Healthier Buckeye program must be closed out on June 30, 2017, and then be reopened. He will continue to work with the General Assembly and ODJFS to clarify that the spirit of the language was to extend the date to obligate funds, not to make it more difficult to spend. Mr. Cole reported the ODJFS rule to separate Head Start from Publicly Funded Child Care will move forward and layering will not be permitted after enforcement of the new rule. He also reported payday lending legislation would likely be delayed.

Mr. Cole discussed his and David Bradley's visit to Scioto County during a staff retreat. Mr. J.D. Vance also met with Mr. Sturgill on a separate date because he was unable to attend the retreat. Discussions surrounded expanding entrepreneurs and engaging lifelong learning in rural areas to boost economic growth. Discussion. Mr. Cole also discussed Mr. Bradley and Head Start funding. He reminded the Board that Mr. Bradley is supportive of the Head Start program and understands the significance of the program to Community Action Agencies.

Mr. Cole recently met with Ms. Janet Hale, Director of the Ohio Poverty Law Center. They discussed how OACAA and OPLC could work together in the future, such as the initiative to assist ex-offenders obtaining CQEs. Mr. Cole also discussed an amendment by Rep. Merrin, which would override local led abatement laws and regulations and look to state regulations. Mr. Cole will work with Ms. Hale to eliminate this language from the amendment.

Mr. Cole stated nine 401(k) proposals were received and had been narrowed down to four plans. Each provider will present the proposed plans to staff and 401(k) Plan Trustees in June. The recommendations will be presented to the board.

Mr. Cole concluded his report asking the board to consider maintaining the VirtualCAP program commitment through the end of 2017.

Ms. Warner motioned to approve continued operation of VirtualCAP through December 31, 2017. Mr. Chilton seconded. The motion passed.

### **Partnership Report: Andrew Devany**

Mr. Devany reported the Partnership is working closely with the National Head Start Association and is supportive of the program's role in the poverty fighting network.



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

Mr. Devany reported in Mr. Brightbill's absence. The CAPLAW conference will be held June 7-9 in Denver, Co. Mr. Brightbill is planning a fundraiser for Mr. Bradley. Mr. Bradley and Ms. Harlow are also discussing collaboration between NCAF and the Partnership.

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

No report.

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

Ms. Clausen reported that the National Branding Summit went well and was very informative. Ohio was well represented. She and Ms. Warner will conduct a branding training at Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron, and Richland Counties later in May. Ms. Clausen reported she recently filmed for the Legacy Project at Akron-Summit Community Action and will film at Jackson-Vinton Community Action and Community Action Committee of Pike County in August. Mr. Costa commented on the importance of the Legacy Project.

### **Training and Development Report: Rodney Reasonover**

No report.

### **Exemplary Programs Report: Bambi Baughn**

Ms. Baughn reported on a conference call with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. A workshop reviewing the program, guidelines, and application process will take place during the summer conference as part of the Leadership track.

### **Membership Committee Report: Gwen Robinson**

Ms. Robinson and Mr. Cole reported the challenges of gathering alumni contact information. Alumni will be invited to a lunch at the summer conference, and Ms. Robinson will facilitate a workshop on the development of the OACAA Alumni Association. Mr. Costa suggested others who may not have retired from Community Action, but worked in the network and moved on to different roles in the poverty fighting network, may be valuable additions to the alumni group.

### **Personnel Committee: Joshua Anderson**

No report.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Cole updated the board on the status of Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) and Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP).

### **New Business**

None.

### **Open Dialogue**

None.



**Adjourn:**

Mr. Diver called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11: 57 a.m. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date