



**Ohio Association of  
Community Action Agencies**

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 19, 2013  
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio**

**Members Present:** Gwen Robinson, President; Robert Chilton, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Joe Devany; Al Norris; Tim Donnellan; Wayne McLaughlin; Tom Reed; David Shea; Ken Kempton; Cheryl Thiessen; Bambi Baughn; Gary Ricer; Deb Gerken; Rodney Reasonover

**Members Excused:** David Brightbill, First Vice President; Janice Warner, Secretary; Charles Chipps; Gary Obloy; Jacqueline Middleton; Robert Hamilton; Malcolm Costa

**Staff Present:** Philip E. Cole, Executive Director; Josh Summer, Development Director; Colleen Stoker, Communications Director; Greg Bollenbacher, Fiscal Director; Lorie McClain, Program Manager; Neva Dunn, Office Manager

**Guests Present:** Randy Hunt and Melissa Stanford, OCA; Jim Mermis and Paul Kudlak, Junto Company; Greg Hopkins, EOPA; D.R. Gossett, Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action Organization; Mike Gonidakis, Ohio Right to Life; Tracy Intihar, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation; Larry Price, Price Consulting; Don Thiessen

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of reflection especially for the families in Boston.

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

Ms. Robinson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no changes. Mr. Kempton moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norris seconded. The agenda was approved.

Ms. House moved to approve the minutes, Mr. McLaughlin seconded. The minutes were approved.

**ODSA Report: Randy Hunt**

Mr. Hunt reported that they are continuing with the process of hiring a second deputy chief and have completed interviews. They are also working on an IU for the Summer Crisis program. It

still needs approval, but tentatively it will run July 1 – August 1 for \$7 million, which is in line with previous years. Eligibility is for those 60 years old or older or those who have a health issue.

He also reported there was an HWAP public hearing for the state plan on Monday. It basically codified what they were doing with the RFP process. There was some push back on the 175 percent poverty level, but that is not an arbitrary number, it must be done for compliance. It is also in the plan to do Best Practice awards.

They are also working on an IU for guidance with T/TA. With sequestration, they have been figuring out how to absorb the cuts without disrupting agencies, so they are going to suspend the competitive grants program and put a hold on future T/TA until there's a better understanding of the financial situation.

Ms. Stanford reported that they hired a new field rep, Michael Higgins who was a trainer in their office, so he is very knowledgeable and some agencies may already know him. They are working on developing new field assignments, and expect to get an IU with that information out on Monday. She also reported that she spoke with Mr. McLaughlin about taking time during the district meetings at conference to talk about next year's CSBG plan in order to begin to get input and increase outreach.

#### **Special Guest: Mike Gonidakis, Ohio Right to Life**

Mr. Gonidakis thanked everyone for the work that they do and explained that he wanted to come and talk at the meeting because of the common interests our organizations share. He explained that his organization is supporting Medicaid expansion and he believes there's still an opportunity to get it passed. He asked that we work together on the issue and build a coalition. Ohio Right to Life acknowledges the work that CAAs do. He believes we share views of helping people, especially women and children. Each board member then introduced themselves and what area of the state they represent.

#### **Finance Report: Ruthann House**

Ms. House reported that there were no changes to the dues summary; OIC and Akron still have not paid. Ms. Robinson asked what the by-laws say about this situation. Mr. Cole said that the by-laws say dues for the first half of the year are due at the end of January and if you don't pay, you are not a member. Mr. Reasonover was asked to discuss the matter with Mr. Costa as the district chair. Ms. House also reported that the expenses exceed income, but that is just a timing issue with the lead program.

Mr. Devany moved to accept the financial report, Ms. Gerken seconded, the motion passed.

#### **President's Report: Gwen Robinson**

Ms. Robinson said that she is looking forward to seeing everyone in Cincinnati for the conference. She also commented that they have a well-traveled band for the entertainment Thursday evening and many of the band's members work for her agency. She said that the conference is a good time to come together and learn what others are doing. She thanked Mr. McLaughlin for his work on the district and membership meetings.

She also reported that we need to appoint a by-laws committee and asked if there were any volunteers. She explained that she hoped the committee could submit recommendations at the September or October meeting. Ms. House volunteered to serve on the committee, but not to be the chair. Ms. Gerken also volunteered to serve on the committee, but not be the chair, and Mr. McLaughlin volunteered. Ms. Robinson said she would also serve on the committee and Mr. Cole would be a part of the committee to convene the group. It will be a working committee without a chair.

#### **Social Enterprise/Marketing Report: Robert Chilton**

Mr. Chilton reported that he has been reviewing materials and found information and case studies on the national association's website, including a case study on a program by WSOS. He has created a survey template to issue to agencies to see what they're doing and define social enterprise. He defines social enterprise as increasing the social mission while building income. He is going to circle back to his committee and get their feedback on the survey and hopes to send it out in the next three weeks.

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

Ms. Stoker reported in Ms. Warner's absence that she had received all of the orders for the insert and that News & Review is working on placing the media buys and finalizing costs for printing and zoned options. Invoices should be sent out the week of April 29. Payment is needed in order to print the inserts and will be due May 8. Because of unexpected issues, the insertion date has been pushed back to May 30.

#### **Training and Development Report: Robert Hamilton**

Mr. Cole reported in Mr. Hamilton's absence that there were 254 attendees at the Winter Conference and they have all paid. If anyone is interested in on-site trainings they should let OACAA know. For Summer Conference there are 118 people registered and the room block is almost met. Also, ODSA Director Goodman is likely to speak at the conference, but it is not confirmed yet.

#### **Legislative Committee and Executive Director's Report: Phil Cole**

Mr. Cole explained that there were several reasons to work with Ohio Right to Life and to develop new partners with whom we have not worked in the past. New issues are arising with the changes in times and with the control of State government by those we have not been aligned with previously. These new partnerships can be mutually beneficial.

Second, we are pursuing an effort with the Ohio Department of Health regarding indirect costs. The ODH claims agencies cannot do indirect costs even though it is required by the federal government. There is an amendment for the budget on the Senate side regarding this issue and there is a meeting with the Senate fiscal director this afternoon. This has been an issue for 20 years and it is time to give it a big push. The board commented on issues with the Department of Health.

Mr. Cole reported that the Partnership released a draft of the organizational performance standards. He still questions where they have the legal authority to do this. Mr. Devany said that

they applied to compile the standards and if not them, than who would do it. Mr. Cole asked if legislation is not passed to enact the standards what would happen to them, and Mr. Devany responded they would sit on a shelf. Mr. Cole said the comment period is through May 15 and he encouraged agencies to comment.

Mr. Devany said that the standards are livable and the Partnership worked hard to get input and make them livable, but there are three steps, the Partnership standards, ROMA which is being done by the NASCSP and they are not being very open with their process, and the standards being created by the Urban Institute. At the conference in Washington, the Urban Institute was unable to answer most questions.

Mr. Cole also reported that the budget included the HEAP transfer language discussed at the last board meeting, stating that the state must transfer no less than 15 percent of HEAP to HWAP.

Head Start grants have been awarded. Dayton did not get Preble County even though the group that did receive the grant had the same infraction that EOPA did and yet EOPA did not get the grant in their area.

Because EOPA did not get the Head Start grant, that means a large financial loss for them. Mr. Cole said he has met with the county commissioners and is meeting with the board chair regarding the agency's future. He is putting together a fiscal team to address the issue that will be led by Nick Sunday. There was a discussion on the Head Start re-competition process.

Mr. Cole said that the president's budget proposal does not offer any surprises or changes from last year's proposal, except that it eliminates discretionary programs. He also reported that the Strategic Directions meetings have started. District 1 had a meeting that was good, but he did not want to go into specifics so as not to influence other districts. One issue that arose though was how to attract the next generation of leaders and that is something we need to think about and work on.

Senator Beagle wants us to testify before his committee on Workforce and Economic Development on the results of our Utica Shale Summit. Before this, there will be a meeting of the key players in a smaller group to make recommendations which will be taken to the committee. Senator Beagle is good with this idea and has said he will sit in on the small group meeting.

Mr. Kudlak reported that the House budget did earmark \$16 million for workforce training for low-income people. He said he was hoping that the other special guest speaker Tracy Intihar with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation could speak more to that. She said that unfortunately, she could not. She did not know a lot about it and her office is hoping to learn more and engage the Senate on the topic.

**Special Guest: Tracy Intihar, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation**

Ms. Intihar said that she was happy to be there and knew that they were all partners in workforce at the local level. Workforce is a priority for the Governor and Ms. Intihar shared their strategic plan that they are using.

The strategic plan prioritizes workforce into three areas. The first is forecasting, or identifying business needs and aggregating or rolling that information up to determine how to meet business challenges. The second priority is to better align education and training. If we have good forecasting, we can look at the inventory of training in those forecasted jobs and provide an open dialogue between businesses and training and education to work together to fill the gaps. She said we also need to work on showing career alternatives and options at the k-12 level. The third priority is to take a good look at the current workforce program, including federal and local, too. Ohio must determine how to streamline it and better align the system, as well as prioritize spending where needed to meet needs.

She concluded by saying she looks forward to working with CAAs and learning more about what they do. She would also like to get feedback and make sure her office and the administration is on the right track. The board provided comments and feedback on the plan. Ms. Intihar encouraged members to visit their website at [www.workforce.ohio.gov](http://www.workforce.ohio.gov) and said she welcomes calls with feedback.

**CAPLAW: David Brightbill**

Nothing to report

**Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton**

Nothing to report

**Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn**

Nothing to report

**Partnership Report: Joe Devany**

Mr. Devany reported that there have not been any Partnership meetings since the last board meeting. As discussed, a draft of the performance standards has been released. The report is due in July. He said the Partnership encourages and appreciates comments.

**Energy Report: Joe Devany**

Mr. Devany reported that there is a statement in the state plan for a transfer of no less than 15% of HEAP to HWAP and looks like it will pass. He said he would like OACAA to take a position supporting this and made a motion to do this. Ms. House seconded that motion. The motion passed.

**Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan**

Mr. Donnellan reported that the Personnel Committee met and would like to give all members of the OACAA staff a cost of living allowance of 2% starting January 1. It was budgeted to have a 3.5% increase, but they are suggesting a lower amount of 2% that will begin May 1.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to allow for this increase. Ms. House seconded. The motion passed.

The Committee also discussed that the new health insurance with United Health is proving inadequate and OACAA is going to go to Anthem. This will reduce costs while providing a more

adequate health insurance. Mr. Donnellan said they also recommended increasing the 401k match from 3% to 5% and made a motion to do so. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

The Personnel Committee also discussed the possibility of hiring another person to meet demand. Mr. Cole is going to evaluate the need and come back to the committee with a recommendation. Mr. Donnellan commented that when he was on the national board he saw what state associations do and OACAA is highly functioning with a small staff. He thinks hiring an additional person is reasonable. Mr. Cole said it is not something we're looking to do, we are just considering it and he wanted the board to be informed. Ms. Thiessen asked that agencies be informed of what the current staff situation is. Mr. Cole said he would do that.

**Head Start Report: Rodney Reasonover**

Mr. Reasonover reported that Ms. Barb Haxton, Executive Director of OHSAI, is providing workshops to help and support agencies that are going thru recompetition. There is also a joint meeting with OHSAI in the works.

**Agency/District Reports**

Mr. McLaughlin reported that phase two of his committee will be handled by the By-laws Committee and his committee will cease. He thinks they need to consider how a motion from a district gets to the board.

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

No new business

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ricer. Mr. Reed seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date