

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 18, 2012
Doubletree Columbus-Worthington
Columbus, Ohio**

Members Present: Gwen Robinson, President; David Brightbill, First Vice President; Robert Chilton, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Janice Warner, Secretary; Joe Devany; Robert Hamilton; David Shea; Dave Hannahs; Bambi Baughn; James Powell; Tom Reed; Ken Kempton; Wayne McLaughlin; Deb Gerken; Rodney Reasonover; Jacqueline Middleton

Members Excused: Charles Chipps; Gary Ricer; Al Norris; Gary Obloy; Tim Donnellan

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

Guests Present: Jim Mermis and Paul Kudlak of the Junto Company; Larry Price of Price Consulting

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to take a moment to reflect on where we are and where we want to be.

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

Ms. Robinson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were not any. Mr. Brightbill moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Hamilton seconded. The agenda was approved.

Mr. Devany moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Hannahs seconded. The minutes were approved.

ODOD Report

Nothing to report

Finance Report: Ruthann House

Ms. House gave an update on the status of unpaid members.

The Finance Committee had a meeting prior to the Board Meeting. They will need to meet again in June to work a few things out before presenting the budget to the Board. Ms. House explained that the delay is because of OCA's delays in funding. Ms. House reported that there are no concerns on the finance report. The earnings minus expenditures is \$40,000 over, but she believes that is a timing issue because of the lead grant.

Mr. Devany moved to accept the financial report. Mr. Kempton seconded. The motion passed.

Presidents Report: Gwen Robinson

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending the Executive Directors Meeting. She said it was a good start. She suggested another meeting, possibly in September to keep the conversation going and stay strong and viable as a state. Ms. Robinson also said that we have a lot of knowledge and expertise that we need to capture, perhaps through essays or the use of video. She asked Mr. Hannahs to work on ideas for that.

Public Relations Report: Janice Warner

Ms. Warner deferred to Ms. Stoker. Ms. Stoker gave an update on the activities for Community Action Month. The Food Stamp Challenge had at least 35 participants, possibly more, and received a great deal of media coverage with eight articles in six different newspapers, broadcasts on NPR and WNKU radio stations and an article in FRAC's newsletter. The Public News Service that we subscribe to also ran a story that was played by 30 different media outlets, reaching an estimated audience of 51,468. The *Toledo Blade* and Northwoods software also started their own blogs about the Challenge. Our Challenge blog received 1,112 page views.

Twitter Day was also successful with 177 people tweeting about Community Action, sending 832 tweets, reaching an estimated audience of 57,900 and making an estimated 240,000 impressions. A press conference was held to release the Exemplary Practices report developed by Ohio University. Articles ran in three newspapers, it aired on NPR and appeared in the Gongwer Report. The Public News Service will run a story on Monday. WSOS had its event to highlight their program that was featured in the report on Thursday. It was very successful with over 30 people attending, including commissioners and the media.

Training and Development Report: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported the expenses and revenue for the Winter Conference as listed on the report. He then referred the Board to the list of on-site trainings listed on the report. Mr. Hamilton also said that the early bird rate cut off for the Summer Conference is May 23, the hotel registration cut off is June 6 and conference registration ends June 13, and that we are now accepting credit card payments for the conference.

Ms. Robinson asked if we were expecting smaller numbers since it is a smaller venue. Mr. Hamilton said that he is happy with the venue because it is close to restaurants and shopping and has free parking. Ms. Robinson asked about entertainment and Ms. McClain said there will be an event for Nick Sunday Monday night, an off-site event sponsored by IMPACT with transportation Tuesday night and the basket raffle and Cho Chose Me Game for prizes. Mr. Hamilton reported that the Board meeting will be Tuesday morning and the Service Awards will be Monday.

Legislative Committee and Executive Director's Report: Phil Cole

Mr. Cole provided a summary of the Executive Directors Meeting with ten goals/strategies. The first is funding concerns for HWAP. OACAA is working on that with ODOD. ODOD has told us that competition is not their idea; they're feeling pressure from at least one legislators.

Currently, up to 15 percent of HEAP funding can go to HWAP. OPAE wants to make it 15 percent, but we want to leave it as is until the competition issue is resolved. The Board discussed the issue of competition for HWAP. Mr. Mermis said we need to keep pressure on and we are doing that, and educating those involved on why competition is not a good idea for this situation.

There was a discussion on if the Board should officially oppose competition. Mr. Mermis said he didn't think we should officially oppose it because it puts us in a box. Mr. Reasonover asked what definition of competition would be acceptable that we could officially support or suggest. The Board discussed this issue. Mr. Brightbill suggested Mr. Mermis work with OACAA to craft a letter stating what we officially suggest/support. The Board discussed whether a letter was a good tactic, what other states are doing and that competition goes beyond federal law.

Mr. Brightbill made a motion to craft a letter that works for us and presents us in the best light possible. Mr. Chilton seconded. Ms. Gerken questioned if it is best to draw attention to something we're opposed to. The Board discussed further. Mr. Mermis said having a discussion in drafting a letter would fine tune our thinking and we may decide we want to remain silent. We can then come back to the Board with that decision or a letter for approval. The Board agreed to that and the motion passed.

Mr. Cole reported another goal from the Executive Directors meeting is to continue strong relations with OCA. A new person has not been appointed yet to replace Nick Sunday. We continue to have good relations with Janet Cesner, the interim replacement. She continues to seek our input on issues. The Board discussed some of their needs from OCA, such as the need to move CSBG funding to agencies, and the need for additional personnel for the HEAP program. Mr. Brightbill said we need OCA to move expeditiously on these issues.

Mr. Cole said another goal/strategy from the Executive Directors meeting was the formation of a legislative posse. We had one in the past that would meet with legislators as issues came up and it was helpful for them to hear from people who will be affected. If more people are interested in signing up to be on the posse, they can. We will have a meeting to discuss further.

Mr. Kudlak commented that having the posse come to Columbus is fine, but it is just as effective, if not more so to meet with your legislators while they're in your district. He is working on an outline of ideas to share with the posse.

Mr. Cole said another strategy is the creation of local impact statements, which we've done before. These should be prepared for legislators and local vendors.

Mr. Cole said he received a call from NCAF asking if we can do more. Mr. Bradley is paying some people out of his own pocket and some people are leaving. Mr. Cole asked that the Board do whatever they can do.

There was a conference call yesterday on the Head Start lawsuit. The timeline is still the same, mid-July. HHS's response didn't really say anything, and it was not strong. Mr. Cole said it is hard to see us not prevailing, but you never know. They might try to run us out of money. Those up for recompetition are open for bid. Agencies were told to apply as if they lost the lawsuit.

Mr. Cole reported that there have been no further hearings on the Development Services Agency legislation, so our amendment has not been added. The Planned Parenthood legislation was taken out of the MBR, but is going to go through separate legislation. Mr. Cole was asked to testify again, but he said no. Legislation on the drug testing of welfare recipients was originally for all counties, but was changed to a pilot and added to the MBR. It has been taken out of the MBR and there are going to be hearings on the original bill with the changes to the language making it a pilot. OACAA is opposing it. Mr. Kudlak said the pilot would be three volunteer counties, so they might not have volunteers. It has received some negative attention, so it might die in committee. For the DSA legislation, Mr. Kudlak said both the House and Senate passed the same version. The House was supposed to proceed with the bill, but they didn't so the Senate says they will and that is why it is at a standstill. The legislature should be wrapping up next week.

Social Enterprise/Marketing Report: Robert Chilton

Mr. Chilton reported that the committee was at a standstill after Mr. Locke left. They were working on a proposal to get startup money, but that has been on hold. They're looking to create replicable programs, but they're not sure where the seed money will from or if OACAA has the money, and are not sure how to proceed. Mr. Chilton said he is willing to commit money from his own agency if others are. He is looking for thoughts from the Board and will reconvene the committee. Ms. Robinson asked if a survey had been done to determine what replicable programs agencies are doing. Mr. Hannahs recalls there being a survey in the past. Mr. Chilton said maybe a survey is the next step, but we need to define what a social enterprise is. To him it is a profit or nonprofit fee-based revenue generator. Mr. Chilton also said he attended a national weatherization conference in New Orleans where a presentation was given on a weatherization social enterprise that was launched. He has all of the information on that and thinks it's a good model. He can forward the information to anyone who is interested.

Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan

Nothing to report

Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that there was a conference call about the veterans program. We have \$1 million. On the conference call there was discussion around how to implement the program and the difficulties with CSBG.

We have agreed on pilot agencies and it shouldn't difficult to start a program. At the next meeting he would like to decide on a uniform packet for the pilot sites of what they need and due dates for budgets, programs, MOUs, who is the responsible person/contact, etc. because we only have until June 2013 to complete the project. We need to determine how we're distributing the money as well. Mr. Hamilton said he would like to see equal distribution rather than having to judge programs, but we do need in writing what is required of programs. Also, Mr. Hamilton

said conference calls should be for committee members only, not staff members unless serving as an alternate. Mr. Hamilton said he would like to have everything done by the end of June.

Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn

Nothing to report

Partnership Report: Joe Devany

Nothing to report

Energy Report: Joe Devany

Nothing to report

Head Start Report: Rodney Reasonover

It was discussed that Ms. House is actually the liaison to OHSAI and will give the report going forward, but she did not attend the national meeting so she had nothing to report. Ms. Robinson reported that she heard invitations to the national meeting were sent to the superintendents of schools and at the meeting OHSAI said they wanted to work closer with them. There is also going to be a directors retreat in June and July.

Agency/District Reports

Nothing to report

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Brightbill. Mr. Shea seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice W. Warner, Secretary

Date