



## Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

### Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies Board of Trustees Meeting May 21, 2013 Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Cincinnati, Ohio

**Members Present:** Gwen Robinson, President; Robert Chilton, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Joe Devany; Tim Donnellan; Wayne McLaughlin; David Shea; Cheryl Thiessen; Deb Gerken; Rodney Reasonover; Robert Hamilton; Malcolm Costa

**Members Excused:** David Brightbill, First Vice President; Janice Warner, Secretary; Charles Chipps; Gary Obloy; Jacqueline Middleton; Tom Reed; Ken Kempton; Bambi Baughn; Gary Ricer; Al Norris

**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

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of reflection. She requested that there be a delay in roll call and approval of the agenda and minutes until other board members arrived. In the meantime, she requested reports be given that did not need a vote.

#### **ODSA Report: Randy Hunt**

Nothing to report

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

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Summer Conference registration was at 230, which is close to normal numbers. He also reported that OCA is only giving grants a quarter at a time due to direction from the federal government. Because of this, the grant for trainings only runs through June. We have trainings scheduled now through September and members can request trainings, but they cannot currently be scheduled because of the funding issue.

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

Ms. Stoker reported in Ms. Warner's absence that everything was finalized with the newspaper inserts, copies are available for pickup at the conference and it will be distributed in thirty-five newspapers on May 30. She also reported that OACAA is having a press conference on June 4 at the Statehouse to release the Self-Sufficiency Standard along with an online calculator that was

created for agencies to enter a family's composition and location to determine the income needed to be self-sufficient.

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

Mr. Devany reported that there have not been any Partnership meetings since the last board meeting. The Partnership is still working on the Standards and Lil Dupree will be giving a presentation on them on Friday. They are now discussing implementation. They are also moving forward with the possibility of a healthcare plan that Mr. Devany would really like to see Ohio involved in.

### **Energy Report: Joe Devany**

Mr. Devany reported that EPP is up for bid and applications are due in early June. He said our questions haven't received answers yet. He also said that for Weatherization, the growth is going to be in utility weatherization. Mr. Hamilton commented that he wished the state would be more proactive in getting information out to recipients. Ms. Robinson agreed saying that the utilities should include letters with statements. Mr. Cole said that there will be nineteen people from OCA attending the Summer Conference and that this issue should be addressed with them.

### **Head Start Report: Rodney Reasonover**

Mr. Reasonover reported that the OHSAI conference has been scheduled and there is a regional conference in Chicago in November. Mr. Cole said that the D.C. district court ruled against the appeal so the case is over unless they appeal to the Supreme Court.

### **Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan**

Nothing to report

### **Agency/District Reports**

Mr. McLaughlin reported that a meeting was held in Chillicothe that eighteen people attended. There were representatives from almost every agency in the district. During the meeting, they strategically looked at the future. He said that Mr. Cole was good at directing the meeting. They broke up into groups. He thought the meeting was meaningful. Ms. House and Ms. Gerken commented that their district meeting was also good and there were only a couple of agencies in the district that did not participate.

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

Mr. Cole reported that there is only one more district that needs to meet to have a strategic direction meeting. After that we will create a report with the data that should be out in the fall. To date, the pluses and minuses that have been discussed are similar. The pluses that have been discussed are that we advocate well, build partnerships, build capacity for families, leverage resources and we help people. The minuses are that we don't tell our story. We need a new terminology to say what we do, that summarizes what we do. Board members discussed this and agreed.

Mr. Cole also reported that we are continuing to look for a way to get into the niche of the Utica shale market. We might copy what LEADS is doing with job training. Mr. Cole is talking to Joel Potts with ODJFS about getting money to do a similar program.

He said that there will be a lot of talk about Medicaid expansion during the conference. There have been discussions about how this. One thing that recently came up is the idea of tying it to work requirements like TANF. Mr. Cole said he believes that expansion will happen and it will be close to what was originally proposed.

There have been other legislative activities. A preschool voucher program has been proposed. Also a tax bill was introduced. But, our primary concern remains Medicaid expansion.

He also reported that we are sending a team to EOPA next week. The main the issue is how to make the shift from having Head Start, including getting out of contracts for space. He has talked to the board chair and finance director and thinks we can help them get through this.

SOURCES has a strong new executive director, but they have possible costs of up to \$800,000. Nick Sunday is meeting with them to see what they can ask to waive. Mr. Cole said we will see what we can do to strengthen the agency. Unfortunately, they are also in the district of Senate President Keith Faber.

Mr. Cole also said that NCAF is about bankrupt. They are trying some creative things. OACAA is paying for Neil McCabe to fly to D.C. and meet with them to develop a plan to raise \$2 million in two years.

Mr. Cole also reported that the by-laws committee should meet soon.

At this time all of the board members had arrived. Ms. Dunn took the roll. A quorum was established. Mr. Devany moved to approve the minutes, Ms. House seconded. The minutes were approved.

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

Ms. House reported that there were no changes to the dues summary. Two agencies still have not paid; Akron-Summit and OIC. Mr. Costa said a check would be given tomorrow. Ms. House also reported that there were no concerns or issues with the finance report. The audit is going on now. The field work is done and it should be wrapping up soon. Mr. Devany moved to accept the financial report, Ms. Gerken seconded, the motion passed.

#### **Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton**

Mr. Hamilton reported that a couple of agencies were having stand down events for Community Action month. CEOGC had theirs yesterday. There were about 240 attendees. Mr. Summer reported that all of the participating agencies are doing well. We have served a little more than half of what we had planned. We have been given the chance to request an extension through December to spend the money. That will also give us an opportunity to look for continued funding. Ms. Robinson asked about the status of continued funding, which she thought we were promised. Mr. Hamilton explained that we thought we would have continued funding, but there was a leadership change at the state, which has changed the situation.

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

Mr. Chilton reported that he has drafted a survey. He needs to touch base with his committee and then he will send it out through Survey Monkey. He also reported that he is launching a social enterprise tied into housing that he thinks is something that could be replicated. Ms. House suggested that the survey be broken down by areas to help people think of everything they do in the agency. Mr. Chilton said his approach is to identify agencies that are doing something and then dig deeper.

**President's Report: Gwen Robinson**

Nothing to report

**CAPLAW: David Brightbill**

Nothing to report

**Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn**

Nothing to report

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

Mr. McLaughlin said that he is hoping to increase consistency in the district meetings. A packet has been created for each district and Melissa Stanford is going to speak to each district. Hopefully there will be reports at the membership meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Devany. Ms. Thiessen seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date