

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 18, 2011
Double Tree Columbus/Worthington
Columbus, Ohio**

Members Present: Gwen Robinson, President; Robert Chilton, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Janice Warner, Secretary; Joe Devany; Robert Hamilton; David Shea; Dave Hannahs; Tim Donnellan; Bambi Baughn; Ken Kempton; James Powell; Gary Ricer; Tom Reed; Wayne McLaughlin; Al Norris; Rodney Reasonover

Members Excused: David Brightbill, First Vice President; Gary Obloy; Robert Gilchrest, Charles Chipps; Deb Gerken

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: Melissa Stanford Field Service Program Manager with Office of Community Assistance; Jim Mermis and Paul Kudliak of the Junto Company; Larry Price of Price Consulting and Barbara Haxton Executive Director OHS&I

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to take a moment to reflect on the past, future and now.

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

Ms. Robinson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Devany asked if his committee reports could be moved up because he had a meeting. Ms. Warner motioned to approve. Mr. Reasonover seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Reasonover moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Kempton seconded. The minutes were approved.

ODOD Report: Nick Sunday

Ms. Stanford gave the ODOD report in Mr. Sunday's absence and passed along his apologies for not being able to attend and well wishes. Ms. Stanford reported that there is a continuing

resolution for HHS until December. She also reported that the Winter Crisis program is going well and that letters for the first determination were being sent out that day. A settlement was reached with Amerigas and a check was received. They are working to target eligible customers. Any leftover funds will go to HEAP eligible customers. The CSBG series of trainings on the new application was well received. There is a temporary provider for the remaining HWAP ARRA money. Nothing more has been said about competition for HWAP. Ms. Stanford encouraged members to keep doing what they're doing and doing a good job. Mr. Cole commented that the competition for HWAP has been put off until 2015. Only agencies in trouble need to worry, but term-limits should help. Ms. Stanford also reported that ODOD has had discussions with OACAA concerning technical assistance and training grants.

Head Start Report: Barbara Haxton, Executive Director OHSAI

Ms. Robinson introduced Barbara Haxton, Executive Director of OHSAI who gave a presentation on the Final Rule on the Designation Renewal System or Recompetition for Head Start. The Final Rule was published on November 9, 2011 and goes into effect on December 9, 2011 Ms. Haxton discussed the seven triggers for redesignation:

1. Having one or more deficiencies on a single review
2. Not having established program goals for improving school readiness and demonstrating that such goals are appropriate
3. Classrooms below the minimum threshold for emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support
4. Revocation of any license for a program serving children
5. Suspension from HS or EHS program by ACF
6. Debarment from receiving federal or state funds
7. At risk of failing to continue functioning as a going concern or enterprise

Ms. Haxton believes the biggest concern is probably the first point of deficiencies. She also explained that within 30 working days of December 9, 2011 that agencies must report in writing that they want to be considered for renewal. After December 9, agencies must report to ACF within ten working days of an occurrence of revocation of license, filing for bankruptcy, being debarred, an audit review or if an agency is at risk for ceasing to be a going concern.

If an agency is found deficient, there is a five year period to demonstrate that they qualify and then they must submit a proposal that demonstrates it is the most qualified agency. Agencies that have had HS/EHS grants terminated for cause in the preceding five years are excluded from competing for the next five years. Each HS/EHS agency wanting to continue to be renewed for a five year period without competition needs to submit a letter within six months of December 9.

Ms. Haxton also noted that there are approximately 1,680 grantees nationwide, which equals 560 grantees for each three year cycle. Thirty-three percent recompute projections equals 187 per year. With 12 regions, that equals 16 per region. Ohio has 26 percent of total grantees for its region, so 25 percent of 16 equals four possible recompetes in Ohio per year. Ms. Haxton also said that in 2009-10, 11 HS programs were reviewed, two of which had deficiencies that might be subject to recompute, one of which was a community action agency. (Please find more information in the attached handouts)

Finance Report: Ruthann House

Ms. House reported that there are no changes in the membership. She also reported that extension requests have been submitted into HHS. We received approval on one grant and are waiting to hear on two others. We mostly underspent. Mr. Hannahs moved to accept the financial report, Mr. Reasonover seconded, the motion passed.

Ms. Robinson stated that she wants to get the executive directors together to discuss the current political and social environment and that Mr. Cole is working on setting that meeting up. Ms. Robinson feels we need to discuss how to reinvent our services, step up quality and look at the future. She encouraged the board to attend. A discussion was had on potential dates. December 9 was suggested as a possible date.

Social Enterprise/Marketing Report: Robert Chilton

Mr. Chilton mentioned that a proposal was submitted for consideration and appears to be in a holding pattern. He asked how to proceed. Ms. Robinson asked him to resubmit the proposal.

Public Relations Report: Janice Warner

Ms. Warner deferred to Ms. Stoker. Ms. Stoker reported that she conducted her first PR Group conference call on October 27. She introduced herself and discussed the Success Story Questionnaire and HEAP press release that she showed the board at the last meeting. The group thought the Success Story Questionnaire was a good idea and requested the ability to brand it for their agency. Ms. Stoker sent them a template they could brand and encourages agencies to start using it. She also reported that a newsletter was sent out in November that went to 421 people, but only 140 opened it. She is going to continue to monitor results and determine if a different format is needed. She also mentioned that the Ohio Poverty Law Center has started an initiative known as Ohio Speaks and is requesting that social services agencies submit stories. Ms. Stoker encouraged members submit their stories to OACAA via the success story questionnaire so that we ensure we have a bank of stories to support our issues, such as CSBG dollars. Ms. Stoker also reported that she is looking into costs to launch a public relations campaign to increase awareness of community action and our members.

Training and Development Report: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Winter Conference is getting close and that we rely on members suggestions for topics and presenters. Ms. McClain is going to send a copy of the request for topics form to each member individually and Mr. Hamilton is going to keep a record of responses. Ms. Robinson suggested an innovation session on rolling out new programs. Mr. Hamilton listed on the onsite trainings that were held and/or are scheduled and commented that the IC retreat seemed to be successful.

Energy Report: Joe Devany

Mr. Devany said that he has spoken with Mr. Cole and Dave Rinebolt with OPAE about having a weatherization meeting at the beginning of the Winter Conference with just the CAPs to discuss ideas. He also reported that Ohio did a good job with ARRA funds.

Partnership Report: Joe Devany

Mr. Devany reported that at the retreat last week the board discussed the need to strengthen finances. The rural taskforce is reaching out to like organizations to highlight specific programs and the inability to get assistance in certain areas. The Management/Leadership Conference is scheduled for January. The new OCS director will present, David Bradley will be there and there will be a Head Start presentation by CAPLAW. A business plan for CDFI was presented and approved, they are seeking grants. Ms. Robinson requested that Mr. Devany suggest partnering with United Way. This is already happening in Cincinnati and discussions have been held in Columbus. It might be a nationwide effort that we should get in front of.

Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan

Nothing to report

Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that the committee had a conference call to start strategizing and identifying problems. They are discussing what to do and how to do it. The amount of money available is still in question. The committee is still discussing the program and will keep the board abreast.

Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn

Nothing to report

Agency/District Reports

Nothing to report

Legislative Committee and Executive Directors: Phil Cole

Mr. Cole reported that it is in our best interest if the Super Committee comes to an agreement because our funding is off the table right now, but the status of the committee changes frequently and all we can do is wait and continue to push our issues with Congress. Mr. Cole also reported that we have a couple of initiatives we are working on with the governor's office. One initiative is the veteran's program. The other initiative that has been discussed is doing a summit with the governor's office on our issues, but on jobs instead of poverty. Mr. Mermis discussed that for the summit we would reach out to non-traditional partners, such as the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the need for jobs. People need meaningful, sustained employment instead of a food handout. Mr. Mermis talked to the governor's office about this and they are supportive. We don't want to have organizations showing how they help the poor. We want to show how community action agencies are different and we truly help the individual and employers and where we don't do that, determine how to improve. Mr. Reasonover mentioned inviting top employers in the state and possibly leveraging corporate funding. Mr. Mermis discussed targeting small businesses as well through the NFIB.

Mr. Mermis also agreed that no one knows what's going to happen with the Super Committee, but they are having almost daily dialogues with the Ohio delegation and that he still believes that CSBG dollars are safe.

Mr. Cole mentioned the need to continue to build the IC program. Mr. Kudliak reported that we drafted a letter of opposition to HB 275 at the request of the Consumer Council. The letter was presented before the House Judicial and Ethics Committee on Tuesday where a number of people testified. There will be another hearing on November 29. We will continue to work through the coalition expressing our opposition.

Mr. Cole also emphasized that if agencies aren't already partnering with United Way, they should do so.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shea.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice W. Warner, Secretary

Date