

**Ohio Community Action Training Organization**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**January 20, 2012**  
**Sheraton on Capitol Square**  
**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; Tom Reed; Wayne McLaughlin; Al Norris; Deb Gerken; Gary Obloy

**Members Excused:** David Brightbill, First Vice President; Robert Gilchrest, Charles Chipps; Gary Ricer; Rodney Reasonover

**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:** Nick Sunday, Deputy Chief with Office of Community Assistance; Jim Mermis and Paul Kudliak of the Junto Company; Sylvester Gould, Board Member with EOPA

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order.

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

Ms. Robinson added to the agenda that OACAA's two lobbyists, Jim Mermis and Paul Kudliak would like to say a few words.

Mr. Kudliak said that the House put out an aggressive agenda for what they want to accomplish in 2012, such as the mid-term budget review, school funding, workforce development, workers' compensation reform and pension reform. Mr. Kudliak does not think it will all be accomplished in six months.

Workforce development is important to OACAA. There were ad-hoc meetings over the summer and recommendations were created from those meetings, which will be the basis of any legislation. We are also following the "Cure" bill, which begins hearings next week. We are working with a coalition to make changes. It is not going smoothly. The bill sponsor is amenable

to changes, but the House wants to pass it. The coalition would like to get the sponsor to become their advocate. Another bill we are following is on debt settlement. There is a hearing on that next week too. It will possibly pass. We're looking into what to do regarding that.

Mr. Mermis said that we have begun to build a solid relationship with William Murdock. He credits Mr. Sunday with this. We have reached a point where he will contact us directly with any questions or concerns.

In regards to workforce development, we continue to have open and regular interaction with Rich Frederick. There is intent to codify the workforce development direction and a desire to reduce the number of WIA regions to mirror with JobsOhio's six regions. Mr. Mermis pointed out that this is not as simple as it sounds, but they're willing to take it on. We will pay close attention to this issue. A new state workforce board has also been discussed, which is dictated by federal law. The law says that you can have as few as 25 members, but as many as the state wants. The state would have fewer. This is part of the ongoing discussions that we will follow.

There is intent to use the mid-term budget to affect policy changes. We will pay close attention to this. At the federal level, if the board is interested we can explore getting the delegation onto human services issues, send letters of support. Ms. Robinson suggested it would be nice to sit down with two or three delegates and talk, rather than going from room to room, similar to what NCAF arranged.

Mr. Kudliak mentioned that the State of the State Address was going to be on February 7 in Steubenville.

Mr. Summer reminded everyone that Ohio University was going to be presenting their findings at the Winter Legislative Conference during Thursday's breakfast.

Mr. Devany said that the Partnership was having a phone conference on Monday to discuss state involvement. He will let the Board know more.

Mr. Shea motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLaughlin seconded. The motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date