

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 16, 2012
Doubletree 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; James Powell; Wayne McLaughlin; Deb Gerken; Charles Chipps; Rodney Reasonover; Jacqueline Middleton

Members Excused: David Brightbill, First Vice President; Gary Ricer; Ken Kempton; Tom Reed; Al Norris; Gary Obloy

Staff Present: Philip E. Cole, Executive Director (via telephone); Josh Summer, Development Director; Colleen Stoker, Communications Director; Lorie McClain, Program Manager; Neva Dunn, Office Manager; Jim Danes, Consultant

Guests Present: Nick Sunday, Deputy Chief with Office of Community Assistance; Paul Kudlak of the Junto Company; Gloria Haven of Community Action Council of Portage County

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order.

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

Ms. Robinson asked everyone to take a moment for reflection and wish Nick Sunday the best for his retirement.

Ms. Robinson requested to make two changes to the agenda, moving up the District 6 report and adding the MACAA (Mid-America Community Action Association) Meeting to the agenda. Mr. Chipps motioned to approve the agenda with those changes. Mr. McLaughlin seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Gerken moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Shea seconded. The minutes were approved.

ODOD Report: Nick Sunday

Mr. Sunday reported that there are several things he would like to accomplish before his retirement and one of those is fixing the bottlenecks in OCEAN. They are releasing money. Work plans are not the problem, budgets are causing problems. They are looking into the problems and want to have everything approved by April 30. They have approved funding for six agencies. They don't want the system to be cumbersome. They have found the more complex an agency is, the more challenging it is in OCEAN. They might have to develop a backup plan if they can't get the problems fixed. Revisions are taking a while to get in, but they're hoping to have all applications complete by April 30.

ODOD had a state finding. They overspent on admin. HHS is reviewing.

They have developed an allocation table for HWAP. There is no money from the DOE. They are using carryover from the formula money. There is not a lot of support going forward for HWAP. LIHEAP is looking strong and stable. There is a push for performance-based CSBG like Head Start. Mr. Sunday also reported that Jeannie Chaffin, director of OCS questioned him about Ohio's involvement in the Head Start law suit. Mr. Cole said that he has spoken to Ms. Chaffin and explained Ohio's position.

Mr. Sunday also reported that they received a donation from ConocoPhillips that they are making a fuel fund for. Amerigas also gave a settlement for a fuel fund. These will add to LIHEAP money. Mr. Sunday said there are fewer customers for winter crisis because PIPP is working.

Mr. Sunday concluded by saying they have done so many good things while he was with ODOD. He has a transition plan in place. Janet Cesner will replace him until the end of the year and then she will retire. He has identified some potential candidates to take his place. He encouraged the Board to let him know if they have any suggestions of any good people to consider.

District 6 Report

Ms. Robinson formerly welcomed Jacqueline Middleton to the Board as the District 6 representative.

Finance Report: Ruthann House

Ms. House reported that there are five agencies that have not paid their dues. Ms. Robinson said we might need to write them off. Ms. House said that our finances are strong. We are working on a three month extension grant and negotiations are moving forward. We need to have a Finance Committee meeting to approve the budget before the April Board meeting. Mr. Chipps moved to accept the financial report. Mr. Hannahs seconded. The motion passed.

Social Enterprise/Marketing Report: Robert Chilton

Mr. Chilton reported that the proposal the committee submitted for funding for a pilot project was on hold. He said that conversations need to be had with OACAA.

Public Relations Report: Janice Warner

Ms. Warner deferred to Ms. Stoker. Ms. Stoker reported that we launched a new blog to share our success stories. She encouraged everyone to follow the blog and share it with their employees, board members, clients and stakeholders and link to it from their website. The more links and hits it gets the better it will do and the more we will spread the word about Community Action in Ohio. She also encouraged everyone to continue to send her success stories so that we can keep the blog viable. She reported that the blog has received 493 page views since it was launched on February 24, which is good.

Ms. Stoker reported the plans that OACAA has developed for Community Action Month in May. We have developed a theme of Strengthening Ohio's Communities. We will release the Exemplary Practices Report done by Ohio University, which showcases how Community Action Agencies contribute to community economic development. Each week following the release of the report we will have a media event at one of the highlighted locations. Ms. Stoker encouraged other agencies to have their own events highlighting their economic development projects. OACAA will provide members with template press releases and social media postings to promote Community Action Month and the events.

She also reported she is working with the Community Action Partnership and other state associations to launch a twitter campaign for Community Action Month. She explained that using a hashtag in front of words on Twitter allows people to follow those subjects and if a subject gets enough tweets it is considering trending and all Twitter followers are made aware of it. The goal of the campaign is to have agency staff, board members and constituents tweet #CommunityAction as much as possible on May 8 so that it will trend. This will take 6,000 tweets. There will be classes on how to set up a Twitter account and start using it.

We will also work on getting a proclamation from the governor declaring May Community Action Month. We will also have a Food Stamp Challenge where CAA staff members, board members, stakeholders and local officials will be asked to live on a food stamp budget for one week. We will start a blog where participants can share their thoughts on the experience. We will provide templates to help promote the event.

MACAA Meeting

Ms. Robinson reported that there was a MACAA meeting. They discussed the accreditation of CSBG. Wisconsin drafted a letter to OCS asking them to go slow. The letter said CAAs are local organizations and should have local control, but we're not against accreditation and we're for accountability. We're nervous about who is at the table and who is not for discussions. Region 5 of the Community Action Partnership supports the letter and is willing to be a part in shaping policy. Mr. Devany said David Bradley feels the way to work the accreditation is through Congress. David Bradley doesn't believe the people at HHS have the President's ear; they're just following marching orders. Many see his view, but think that being at the table with HHS is good too.

Ms. Robinson also said there is new executive director training that Minnesota is hosting. Each association is putting forth \$2,000 towards the program. She commented that every state is having problems with some agencies. There is a sense that they're going after all of us to get to

one of us. The election year is going to be challenging. Mr. Hamilton said we need to support agencies up for Head Start recompetition and those applying for grants that are up for competition. Ms. Robinson mentioned that one state hired a technical writer to help the recompetition agencies write their grants.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion that OACAA support with a letter, all Community Action Agencies up for recompetition and those applying for grants that do not compete with existing Community Action Agencies. Mr. Hannahs seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed.

Training and Development Report: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that 271 people attended the Winter Legislative Conference, 233 have paid and 21 people still owe payment. There are a number of trainings that have been requested, but not scheduled because we have not received our grant yet. Mr. Hamilton said he understands that things are moving forward with the grant and when that is settled we will move forward with scheduling trainings, as well as Summer Conference. Ms. Robinson asked what is going to be different about the Summer Conference. Mr. Cole said that originally the state was forcing there to be a legislative institute as part of the conference, but since COAD has one then we don't feel it would be needed for our members or a wise use of tax dollars. The delay in funding has caused problems. We are looking at what the membership wants. No money has been spent yet or contracts signed. We are looking at tentative dates the week of June 18. Mr. Hamilton reiterated that we are always open to suggestions.

Legislative Committee and Executive Director's Report: Phil Cole

Mr. Cole reported that HHS says they want to work with us in regards to Head Start, but they won't change anything. They have moved the deadline for filing applications for those recompeting and they might again. He said he hopes there is not a second list of agencies that need to recompute, but there may be. There are ten states that could join the lawsuit. Region 4 is considering joining, but paying less than Ohio for eight states. If that is the case then OACAA will drive negotiations rather than there being an equal say. Negotiations are beginning. It's important to show that if they try to take away our funding we're going to try to stop them especially if they try to drive CSBG the same way. There should be a ruling by the end of May. The testimony HHS gave before Congress said that the system they have to identify deficiencies is flawed, but that is what they used to determine who should recompute.

Mr. Cole also said that the meetings they had with Senators Portman and Brown went well and they made good headway. Mr. Kudlak said that they have followed up with Senator Portman and his staff. They are thankful that we met with them and we are keeping the lines of communication open.

Mr. Kudlak said that the state legislature just got back from a break to an aggressive agenda. HB 275 that we've been following, the right to cure bill, had another hearing. There has not been a vote yet. He has heard that the Senate is making some positive changes. The Governor released his Mid Biennium Review (MBR) in a press conference. It covers management efficiency and health care, income tax cuts, bank tax reform, local governments, energy policy, education and workforce, and capital improvements. He is not seeing a lot of support for it. It is hard to pass a budget when we have to, since we don't have to do this time there's going to be pushback. Every

interest group is going to come out and testify. The main issues affecting OACAA are some veterans and job stuff. Under management efficiency, it allows Jobs & Family Services agencies to consolidate. There are not any bills yet, only summaries, which are available on the Governor's website. Bills should be introduced next week and then hearings will start. We will see what's in the bills.

Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton deferred to Mr. Danes. Mr. Danes reported that they gave a proposal to the state and are working with the state to get funding for a pilot. We want to work to get the program right and then expand. Mr. Sunday also said agencies were chosen based on how well they work with their workforce boards.

Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn

Nothing to report

Partnership Report: Joe Devany

Mr. Devany reported that there was a Board meeting during the NCAF conference. Membership is up this year. The conference in New York is currently booking and putting together speakers. The new reality on the website is being maintained and updated with articles by Peter Kilde of Region 5. Region 5 submitted a proposal for the development and promotion of software that could accept data from other agencies on a national basis and eliminate excessive reentry. The Partnership is reviewing the proposal and will make a recommendation at the May meeting. The general feeling was that the proposal has merit and defines a definite need; the question was the resources of the Partnership to participate in this type of proposal. The evaluation of personnel needs at the Partnership is occurring and a report should be ready by the May meeting. The CDFI is continuing to be developed. The plan is to roll it out at CAPLAW this summer and at the national convention. They are looking at starting loans in the \$25,000 range. They have a \$500,000 proposal into the Kressge Foundation that they have not heard on as of yet. If this is received there will be more loans and possibly higher loans available. They are continuing to work with the administration and NASCSP.

Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan

Nothing to report. Ms. Robinson said that evaluations are coming up.

Energy Report: Joe Devany

Mr. Devany said he had nothing more to report than what Mr. Sunday had in his report, but with weatherization funding going down, we should look at doing something with the utilities throughout the state.

Head Start Report: Rodney Reasonover

Mr. Reasonover deferred to Ms. House who attended the last OHS AI meeting. Ms. House commented that Kay Willmoth attended and there was some tension. Ms. Baughn commented that she attended a Head Start recompetition meeting in Las Vegas by Ted Waters and there were a lot of predator organizations there looking to take the grants for recompetition. Mr. Cole asked if it would help to have a conference call with Ted Waters and the agencies up for Head Start recompetition. Ms. Robinson said it would be helpful for everyone. Mr. Cole said it would be

easier to start with the five agencies, so they're up on the legal strategy, but we can do more than one. Ms. House suggested including the Executive Committee.

Agency/District Reports

Nothing to report

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice W. Warner, Secretary

Date