

**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
August 17, 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; James Powell; Al Norris; Tim Donnellan; Wayne McLaughlin; Bambi Baughn; Ken Kempton; Tom Reed; Gary Ricer; Gary Obloy; Cheryl Thiessen; Jacqueline Middleton

**Members Excused:** David Brightbill, First Vice President; David Shea; Deb Gerken; Rodney Reasonover; Charles Chipps

**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

**Guests Present:** Karen Wise of Ohio Heartland; Robin Renee Walton of Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership; Malcolm Costa of Akron Summit Community Action; Tom Salzbrum of Warren County Community Action; Larry Price, Consultant; Italia Penn; David Bradley of the National Community Action Foundation

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of reflection.

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

Ms. Robinson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Cole asked to move the Executive Directors report after the Finance report and have it followed by the Energy report. Mr. Devany moved to approve the agenda with Mr. Cole's changes, Ms. House seconded. The agenda was approved.

Mr. Donnellan moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Norris seconded. The minutes were approved.

**ODOD Report**

Nothing to report.

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

Ms. House reported that we are within budget and that ARRA has been spent. She also noted that we are a sub-grantee of the RPIC grant. A budget for that grant was not included in the report, but Mr. Bollenbacher will send it to Pike. Ms. House explained that DMU's dues have been reduced and that will be reflected in the August membership report. Mr. Cole explained to the guests that DMU had increased their membership dues in the past to buy additional votes, which is allowed in the by-laws, but that they have elected to reduce their dues back to their basic level as other agencies use. Ms. House said that she will present the audit report next month, but that there were no findings and we are considered low risk. Mr. Ricer made a motion to accept the Finance report, Mr. Obloy seconded, the motion passed.

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

Mr. Cole reported that there would be an Executive Directors meeting following the Board meeting. It is also a meeting with Senator Sherrod Brown. Mr. Cole stressed that we need to remember he is our strongest advocate in Congress.

Mr. Cole then reported that Tri-County CLS has asked for a waiver of their dues and has requested help because of cash flow problems. A team has been created, headed by Mr. Devany and Mr. Kempton to offer assistance. A copy of the waiver request was included in the Board Package. Mr. Reed moved to accept the waiver and offer assistance, Mr. Norris seconded, a discussion was had and the motion passed.

Mr. Cole said he believed there would be a ruling on the Head Start lawsuit by the end of December, but since we are no longer a party on the lawsuit he does not have any additional information. He suggested agencies act as if the plaintiffs would not prevail and submit their applications. Mr. Devany said that he heard from Ms. Haxton that Washington was disappointed that they didn't get as many applications as they thought they would, especially in the rural areas, and that they are questioning the quality of the applicants. He said that he believes that is true in Ohio as well. A discussion was had about the rules not necessarily being in the best interest of the kids.

Mr. Cole said that he had a meeting with former-Congressman Zack Space about working with him to take advantage of economic development opportunities from the shale gas exploration in Ohio. They agreed that OACAA could host workshops and work to be seen as a lead agency. He explained we have some money for this and are working to pull together people in economic development in the area. He then asked if agencies in the area are on board with the plan. Questions were asked about being involved in an industry that is seen to some as negative because of the environmental impact. Mr. Cole explained that we are looking at it as a reality, that the exploration is going to happen, and we are determining how to take advantage of it. A discussion was had about how the current situation is affecting the area and what some agencies are doing to help out. Mr. Cole's conclusion was that the exploration is going to happen and our role would be to steer it to try and make things better for our clients and the environment, if possible.

Mr. Cole also reported that our telephone system has outlived its usefulness and we received estimates on a new system. Of the system we reviewed, we have chosen XBlue over

ProTechnologies, and Nortex. XBlue was the least expensive and highest rated system. We will also change phone service provider from Windstream to Time Warner. This will reduce our costs of monthly service for phone and internet from approximately \$580 to about \$275.

Ms. Thiessen made a motion to accept the purchase of a new phone system and make these changes. Mr. Hamilton seconded; the motion was approved.

Mr. Cole said that State Rep. Clayton Luckie has been removed from the ballot for reelection and has been replaced by Fred Strahorn. Mr. Strahorn understands Community Action.

Mr. Cole also reported that another CCAP class is forming if anyone is interested in participating. He will send out the dates. Mr. McLaughlin commented on how worthwhile his employees who took the most recent class found it.

Finally, Mr. Cole discussed the administration's plans for making HWAP competitive. They had considered a plan to regionalize the program. Rather than having 37 grantees, there would be one in each of four regions and one in each of seven urban counties. There have been talks with Mr. Murdock and he understands the difficulties of regionalization and the number of jobs it could cost Ohioans. Mr. Cole suggested he talk to Mr. Rinebolt and Mr. Cole then turned the conversation over to Mr. Rinebolt for the Energy report.

#### **Energy Report: Dave Rinebolt**

Mr. Rinebolt followed Mr. Cole's discussion of the proposed reorganization and competitive bidding process with comments on engaging members of the General Assembly and the utilities to weigh in on the program structure. He also discussed the amount of carryover and HEAP funds that will be added to the program this year. There was a conversation regarding the increase in utility funds and coordination of utility programs without using HWAP as a base. Several agencies mentioned difficulties in cash flow caused by delays in ODOD reimbursement and the AEP Community Assistance Program (CAP).

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

Nothing to report.

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

Ms. Warner deferred to Ms. Stoker. Ms. Stoker reported that OACAA would like to update its website and after receiving several estimates they narrowed it down to two. She said we would like to go with Marcy Design, which is less expensive and offers the same features, but just has a lower overhead.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the new website; Ms. Thiessen seconded. There were questions on funding and ongoing maintenance, which will be covered under the state T/TA grant. The motion passed. Ms. Stoker also commented that there will be a members section that will not be password protected and a new logo for OACAA only will be designed for the site.

Ms. Stoker then discussed a potential public relations project that would entail working with a company called News & Review to create newspaper inserts that promote Community Action,

our programs and agencies that would be distributed through area newspapers. The Public Relations Committee has discussed the project and OACAA staff has met with N&R's representative, Jeff vonKaenel, twice. We think this is a worthwhile project and have two options for proceeding. In option 1, we would create a general statewide publication where only the back cover would change to list agencies in the area where the insert is distributed. In option 2, we would create five different regional inserts that would have local stories for the region. There were questions about the regions, and how the regions as set up for OACAA might not make sense. Mr. Cole said that we can define the regions, but we need to discuss the costs. The issue will be discussed further at the Executive Directors meeting.

**Personnel Report: Tim Donnellan**

Nothing to report

**Veteran's Committee: Robert Hamilton**

Mr. Hamilton reported that all of the agencies have received their advances. Also, the case manager trainings have been completed and all of the agencies have case managers hired. The program is up and running, and the first report is due in October.

**Training and Development Report: Robert Hamilton**

Mr. Hamilton reported that there are still seven agencies with outstanding payments for the Summer Conference. He will provide a list at the next meeting. He also explained that a new fundraiser is planned for the Winter Conference. Instead of the basket raffle, there will be a yard sale. We are looking for items to be donated that cost \$10 or more. Instead of having to crowd into a room to announce the winners of a raffle, once a day there will a room open for people to shop for items where everything will cost \$10 in a hope to make everything run smoother. We do have some items, but are looking for more donations.

**Best Practices Report: Bambi Baughn**

Nothing to report

**Partnership Report: Joe Devany**

Mr. Devany reported that the annual conference starts Sunday and runs through Wednesday in New York City.

**Head Start Report: Rodney Reasonover**

Nothing to report

**Agency/District Reports**

Nothing to report

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

No new business

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice W. Warner, Secretary

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Date