



**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 25, 2019
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center
7000 Kalahari Drive
Sandusky, Ohio**

Members Present: Janice Warner, President; David Brightbill First Vice President; Melissa Pearce, Second Vice President; Ruthann House, Treasurer; Julia Wise, Secretary; Joshua Anderson; Andrew Devany; Deb Gerken; David Shea; Judith Barris; Ken Kempton; Alaire Mancz; Gary Ricer; Kellie Ailes; Alvin Norris; Bambi Baughn; Jeffrey Diver; Rodney Reasonover; Sheila Triplett.

Members Excused: Doug Bennett; Steve Sturgil; Andrew Binegar; Cheryl Grice.

Staff Present: Philip E. Cole, Executive Director; Greg Bollenbacher, Fiscal Director; Kathryn Clausen, Communications Director; Josh Summer, Development Director; Lorie McClain, Program Specialist; Neva Dunn, Office Manager; Jeannette M. Jarrett, Operations and Support Specialist.

Guests Present: Jim Mermis, The Junto Company; Paul Kudlak, The Junto Company; David Bradley, National Community Action Foundation; Tom Andrews, Community Action Agency of Columbiana County; Gwen L. Robinson-Benning, GLRobinson Consulting Services, LLC; Larry Price, L. Price, and Associates.

Ms. Warner called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. A quorum was established.

Ms. House motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Brightbill seconded. The motion passed.

Finance Report: Ruthann House

Ms. House requested the board accept the report as presented. Mr. Reasonover motioned to accept the financial report. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report: Janice Warner

No report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Cole reported the Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition had disbanded. He stated EITC funds were increased in the federal transportation budget from 10 to 30 percent.

Mr. Cole reported the Geauga County Community Action Agency Board of Trustees had agreed to be de-designated as a Community Action Agency. He suggested to the Board of Trustees that they select another agency. He reported the Geauga board members hoped to choose a neighboring agency. Mr. Cole announced the selection process would begin the week of August 5, 2019.

Mr. Cole reported the Office of Community Assistance had scheduled interviews to fill the vacant OCA Deputy Chief position. The agency expected to fill the position by mid-August.



Mr. Cole reported Senate Bill 3, the Sentencing Reform Act, had not been considered during budget discussions. Mr. Cole stated he believed both House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 3 would be considered for passage in the fall. Mr. Cole stated the Legislature would resume session in August and thanked Mr. Kudlak for his comprehensive Ohio Biennial Budget report which he shared with board members.

Mr. Cole stated if the Ohio Clean Air Act passed, the HEAP transfer to the Weatherization Assistance Program would increase by 5%, and the Highland County Solar Panel project would proceed. He stated the passing of this bill could also increase job opportunities in Appalachia.

Mr. Cole reported the agencies bidding on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation had withdrawn their proposals. He stated the Ohio Department of Transportation still would like for the transportation services to be assigned to regions around the state.

Mr. Cole reported the Columbus Dispatch opinion piece he wrote entitled “Americans are duty-bound to look out for one another” would be published the week of July 29, 2019. He stated the Association would circulate the article also.

Partnership Report: Joe Devaney

Mr. Devany reported the annual Partnership audit had no findings and received board approval. The Partnership has applied for a \$27,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focusing on racial equity. He also stated the Partnership would apply for a three-year grant focusing on multi-generation approaches to addressing issues of poverty.

Mr. Devany reported the Partnership Executive Director Denise Harlow and staff had trained at state associations around the country and had attended the Census 2020 National Retreat. Ms. Harlow also participated on panels at CAPLAW and NCAF. Mr. Devany reported a staff member had been hired by the Partnership to assist in working on the 2020 Census.

Mr. Devany announced the Partnership would be one of the sponsors for the New Hampshire Presidential Forum on Poverty. He also reminded the board of the upcoming Annual Convention being held in Chicago August 28th through 30th. He also reported a meeting with the Office of Community Services would be held during the conference.

CAPLAW Report: David Brightbill

Mr. Brightbill reported the 2019 CAPLAW Conference held June 19th through 21st received the largest registration numbers on record. He stated 1,300 persons were scheduled to attend. He announced the resignation of Executive Director Eleanor Evans, and stated Ms. Alison Ma'luf would become the new Executive Director. Mr. Brightbill also announced there is a vacancy on the CAPLAW board. He reported the board would like to have a member from an area of the country that has been under-represented. Mr. Brightbill stated interviews would be held at the Partnership conference in August.

NCAF Report

Ms. Warner deferred to Mr. Cole regarding the state of NCAF. Mr. Cole explained income generated to date was not enough to keep the doors of NCAF open. Mr. Cole stated the Finance Committee proposed that the board consider making an interest-free loan or line-of-credit up to \$50,000 to



NCAF. The board discussed the proposal. Mr. Brightbill moved to create an interest-free loan product or line of credit up to \$50,000 for the purpose of supporting NCAF's operations. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed. Mr. Cole stated Ms. House and Mr. Bollenbacher would report back to the board on the outcome of this motion.

Legislative Committee Report: David Brightbill

No report.

Public Relations Report: Janice Warner

Ms. Warner deferred to Ms. Clausen who directed the board to the written report. She also distributed annual report. Ms. Clausen reported the success of the State of Poverty Report press conference. Media in attendance included television, print, and radio. The report received good news coverage.

Training and Development Report: Rodney Reasonover

Mr. Reasonover reported 325 persons were attending the Summer Conference. He stated initial feedback regarding the content of the sessions was very good.

Membership Committee Report: Melissa Pearce

Ms. Pearce reported the committee was expecting further guidance on what constitutes "member agencies in good standing." Ms. Pearce announced a committee would hold a conference call with OSU on August 5th to discuss concerns regarding the Exemplary Program Awards. She asked that anyone who had ideas, suggestions, questions, or concerns to send her or Ms. Clausen an email.

Executive Session:

Ms. Warner asked for a motion to go into executive session at 6:55 p.m. Mr. Devany made a motion. Ms. House seconded. The motion passed. The executive session ended at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Brightbill motioned to approve the corrected personnel action for a COLA, retroactive from January 1, 2018, for the Association Executive Director. Mr. Devany seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

No report.

Open Dialogue

None.

Adjourn:

Ms. Diver motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shea seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Julia Wise, Secretary

Date

Initials _____