

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Center for Community Health

1601 E Fourth Plain, C210C

November 4, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Lydia Sanders	Joyce Lindsay		Kate Budd	
Armando Herrera	Melodie Pazolt		Pete Munroe	
Anne McEnergy-Ogle			Rebecca Royce	
Jessica Ghiglieri			Janet Snook	
Mavis Nickels			Rhonda Dimick	

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Secretary, Lydia Sanders.

II. Approval of September 9, 2014, Meeting Minutes

Mavis Nickels made a motion to approve the September 9, 2014, minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Anne McEnergy-Ogle. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. HB 2060 Funding Allocation Vote

Armando Herrera presented the Clark County HB 2060 Funds Application score results. Anne made a motion to fund Second Step Housing, Janus Youth, and Vancouver Housing Authority at their requested amount, and to fund Share at \$103,500, a reduction of \$36,500 from the requested amount. Lydia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously without further discussion.

IV. ZoomGrants Debrief

Kate Budd thanked the Board for scoring the applications before the due date. Lydia Sanders endorsed the process as much easier than using the binders. Kate shared there will be a large request for application in mid-2015.

V. Community Funds, CHG and ESG January-June 2014 Funding & Report

Rhonda Dimick provided a spreadsheet detailing funding balances for Community Funds, CHG/HEN, and ESG. She explained the percentage spent will appear less for CHG agencies, as these are two-year contracts into 2015. Kate shared that Landlord Risk Mitigation funds were recently allocated to reduce the risk landlords assume when renting to individuals with barriers. Agencies are beginning to identify how to best use these funds in a rental market with less than a 3% vacancy rate. Anne inquired about the Vancouver Housing Authority's (VHA) rental rate to individuals with barriers. Kate indicated the VHA properties have screening criteria that may limit eligibility for residence. It was suggested to ask Roy Johnson, executive director, to speak about this in a future meeting.

Rhonda mentioned that Community Funds contracts end December 31, 2014. Any funds not spent by agencies will be recaptured and reallocated throughout the system. Agencies have been notified to anticipate a 10% reduction in funds next year due to a 25-30% reduction in 2014 document recording fees. Special mention included: New Day Dental has been contacted regarding their spending; and the Salvation Army Dislocated Families Program supported a household during this last quarter. The total amount spent for all contracts to date is \$5,678,691. Total Administration and Total Program Support amounts were also provided.

VI. Consolidated Plan and Community Survey

Pete Munroe described the Consolidated Plan and encouraged individuals to take the Community Survey available through the Clark County CDBG webpage to provide data for this Plan. He presented a map showing the low- and moderate-income areas in Clark County. Graphs showing the cost burden for renters and for homeowners in the County were explained. These graphs portray households in which housing costs exceed more than 30% or more than 50% of the family's income. This represents a serious need for more affordable housing. Data from 2007 to 2014 identifies rents have increased more than three times faster than median income. A draft of the priority needs for the Consolidated Plan was also provided. It details the goals for affordable housing development and preservation, community and neighborhood sustainability, and for prevention and alleviation of homelessness.

Anne inquired whether abandoned homes could be rehabilitated for affordable housing. Pete expressed it is often difficult to find out who owns the home and costly to acquire it. Funding for renovation is more applicable to the CDBG and HOME programs, under the oversight of the Urban County Policy Board. REACH is one established agency involved in rehabilitation of houses. They have helped about 45 homeowners in Washougal in the past year.

VII. Executive Officer Nominations

Armando expressed that the members of the current executive committee have indicated they are willing to continue as officers for 2015. Nominations and voting will occur at the January 13, 2015, retreat.

VIII. January CAAB Retreat Agenda

Kate presented a draft agenda for the CAAB retreat scheduled for January 13, 2015, at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This retreat will replace the regularly scheduled January CAAB meeting. Topics include: election of executive officers; an update from the director of Community Services; discussion on the mission and purpose of CAAB; special guest speakers; information on advocacy opportunities; and drafting the 2015 CAAB work plan.

Anne requested to add a discussion regarding empty and abandoned homes in Vancouver and Clark County. Kate replied CAAB might be instrumental in helping to identify a group to be involved in home rehabilitation for more affordable housing, and perhaps Council for the Homeless could be involved. It was recommended to invite Andy Silver to a meeting in a few months to provide an update on affordable housing.

IX. Legislative Update

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance has not released their 2015 Legislative Agenda yet.

There are no Federal updates, but the elections may impact funding. The government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that lasts until December 11.

In Washington, the McCleary decision will have an enormous investment impact, most likely resulting in a loss of funding for safety net services. Action will have to be taken in the upcoming legislative session to address McCleary and balance the budget.

X. Community Action Agency 50th Anniversary and Hunger Relief Month Event

Rebecca Royce informed the Board that a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Community Action will be held Thursday, November 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Health. The event will include a showing of the documentary "American Winter," dinner, and a panel discussion. The event is free and open to the public.

XI. Other Business

Kate is coordinating a volunteer opportunity at the men's WHO shelter, Saturday, December 13, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Notify Kate if interested in assisting.

Kate will send the Advocacy Calendar by email. She recommended Board members check out the workgroups and the Coalition of Service Providers to gain a broader understanding of the scope of community providers.

There are currently two seats open in CAAB, both in district 3: a general community representative position and a low-income representative position. The application is available online. So far, two applications have been received for the community representative, and one application from a low-income representative.

Kate advised that due to the size of the request for application in 2015 for Community Funds, CHG, and ESG, Board members should expect to meet monthly between July and December, 2015.

Pete acknowledged that Kate has been honored with the 2014 Accomplished and Under 40 award through the Vancouver Business Journal.

Next meeting: Retreat: January 13, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 5606 NE Gher Rd, Vancouver, WA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Lydia Sanders, Secretary

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