

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
1601 E Fourth Plain, Room C210C
July 12, 2016

| <u>PRESENT</u> | <u>EXCUSED</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> | <u>STAFF</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Lydia Sanders | Paula Martin | | Michael Torres |
| Bridget McLeman | Mavis Nickels | | Rebecca Royce |
| Julie Rotz | | | Janet Snook |
| Sheree Thun | | | Kate Budd |
| Ty Stober | | | Samantha Whitley |
| Judith Walseth (by phone) | | | |

GUESTS: Samantha Whitley (Clark County); Andy Silver, Olivia Resnick (Council for the Homeless); Danell Norby (City of Vancouver)

- I. Call to Order/Introductions
The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

- II. Approval of May 2016 Minutes
The minutes of the May 10, 2016, meeting were approved following a motion by Councilmember Ty Stober that was seconded by Bridget McLeman.

- III. Report to the Community (Org Standard 5.9)
The report, which was discussed at the May 2016 meeting, contains information about the CAAB, defines Community Action, lists funding sources and programs that received funding by category, and provides statistical information and success stories. The report was adopted following a motion by Julie Rotz that was seconded by Councilmember Ty Stober. It will be posted on the Clark County website and sent out to community partners.

- IV. Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) Priorities
FEMA provides Emergency Food and Shelter funding to communities with high needs through the regional EFSP board. This year, Clark County did not qualify to receive this funding since the County's unemployment and poverty rate is below the funding thresholds. The CAAB has historically determined the percentage of funding allocated to food, shelter and rent assistance; however, the CAAB does not provide oversight of the funding itself. Funding oversight is the responsibility of the EFSP regional board. If funding is made available through the State EFSP process, the CAAB will be consulted.

- V. Feedback from Board Members
 - CSBG Symposium – April 27-28, 2016
Board members and staff provided feedback on their experience attending the Symposium. The event offered innovative ideas for housing opportunities, including building more affordable and tiny homes. Data was provided showing the impact of government-implemented social services on the community. The employment link to poverty reveals that even if all available jobs were filled, many people would still be in poverty.
 - Ending Homelessness Conference – May 11-12, 2016
Board members and staff provided feedback on their experience attending the Conference. The trainings provided awareness of evidence-based best practices to serve diverse households and of how policies affect social services. The prevention session provided solutions for helping individuals think through their options when in a housing crisis. The supported employment session touted the numerous benefits of linking those in permanent supported housing with employment.

VI. Task Force Updates

- **Advocacy Efforts**

The Advocacy Task Force provided a one-page CAAB Advocacy Action document defining advocacy and how it might look, and answering frequently asked questions. CAAB members are advised to identify as a CAAB member when advocating, but to speak on behalf of the board only when discussing a document adopted by the board or by the Board of County Councilors. The CAAB will be offering advocacy training on November 8 from 9:40am-10:40am after the regularly scheduled meeting. Thanks to Councilmember Ty Stober for facilitating the training.

- **Community Needs Assessment**

The Community Needs Assessment Task Force completed the Community Needs Survey. It is now available online and will soon be distributed to agencies, community centers, and partners, and presented at community events. It will be available in English, Spanish, and Russian. Responses are due by September 30, 2016.

VII. Legislative Updates

- **Affordable Housing Levy**

City of Vancouver councilors approved placing an affordable housing levy on the November 8, 2016, ballot. The levy will raise \$6 million each year for seven years. The funds will be designated for construction, acquisition, preservation, rental assistance, and supportive services. BringVancouverHome.com is seeking volunteers to educate the community on this levy.

- **State**

Advocacy agencies are using this time between legislative sessions to create advocacy agendas. CAAB members are encouraged to contact these agencies with ideas. The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA) will be focusing on eliminating the sunset provision of document recording fees, in which \$30 of each transaction would no longer be available for social services. It is hoped the McCleary decision will be fully funded without affecting social services.

- **Federal**

Weatherization funding is expected to remain the same. The re-authorization effort for CSBG is still underway. Legislators are trying to preserve the Low-Income tax credit.

VIII. January through March 2016 Outcomes Report (Org Standard 4.4, 5.9, 8.7)

The summary of outcomes for the first quarter shows all programs are on-track towards achieving goals. Results for newly-funded programs will increase in future quarters as they are more established. State-funded Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) programs and Federal-funded Emergency Services Grant (ESG) programs are listed separately on the report as they have different timelines and requirements.

IX. Housing Solutions Center Presentation (Org Standard 5.9)

Andy Silver, Executive Director, and Olivia Resnick, Housing Solutions Center Director, both of the Council for the Homeless, presented on the Housing Solutions Center (HSC). The HSC is a single-point of entry for persons seeking housing assistance. By conducting coordinated assessment, clients calling the hotline are evaluated for assistance. Callers may access emergency shelter, motel vouchers and longer term housing assistance. Access to programs are based on vulnerability and best fit. Prevention assistance provides support to those who will soon lose their housing or are doubled-up with family or friends. The most vulnerable are placed in Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing. Those who are homeless with medium level needs will be placed in Rapid Re-housing and transitional housing as appropriate. Diversion helps clients navigate the system, providing financial, life skills, and housing support. There are currently 748 individuals waiting for housing.

X. Open Forum

The National Public Radio (NPR) Uncertain Hour six-episode podcast documents the effects of the changes to welfare reform in the past 20 years.

XI. Other Business

Jessica Ghiglieri has moved from Vancouver, and has resigned from the Board. Applications are being taken for a District 2 Low-income Representative from the eastern portion of the County.

XII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Next meeting: September 13, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., 1601 E Fourth Plain, Room C210 C

Mavis Nickels, Secretary

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