

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform
January 3, 2024

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Alishia Topper, vice chair	Jamie Spinelli		Abby Molloy
Amy Roark			Rebecca Royce
Bridget McLeman			Janet Snook
David Poland			Michael Torres
Diana Perez			Kayla Williams
Ernie Suggs			Vanessa Gaston
Joyce Cooper			
Karyn Kameroff			
Megan Mulsoff			
Nickeia Hunter			
Melanie Green, chair			
Rob Perkins, secretary			

Guests: Jackie St. Louis (consultant); Alex Panagotacos (DSHS); Samantha Whitley (City of Vancouver); CODAs interpreters; Allison Pauletto

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Election of 2024 Executive Team

Nominations received include: Melanie Green, Chair; Alishia Topper and David Poland for Vice Chair; Rob Perkins for Secretary.

A motion made by Ernie Suggs was seconded by Alishia Topper to elect Rob Perkins for secretary. Motion passed.

Alishia Topper made a motion to elect Melanie Green as chair. Motion was seconded by Bridget McLeman and carried.

A roll call vote was conducted to select Vice Chair. 7 votes were cast for Alishia Topper and 4 votes were cast for David Poland.

A motion was made by Rob Perkins and seconded by Bridget McLeman to elect Alishia Topper as vice chair. Motion carried.

III. Approval of November 2023 Minutes

David Poland requested the minutes provide more detail.

Alishia Topper made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by David Poland and carried.

IV. Clark County Community Services Director update (Vanessa Gaston)

Community Services is continuing to work towards implementing best practices; monitoring; finishing ARPA and Covid funding; and improving interaction between units.

The strategic plan is being developed with consultant, Jackie St. Louis. Working on implementation this quarter, with focus on using data-focused decision making and leveraging community resources.

Programs are also teaming with community partners to focus on building a variety of low-income affordable housing with services for buyers. Jackie St Louis is working on a report for all partners to access resources. Ten workgroups are in planning phases. David Poland suggests considering accessibility conveniences and will send information to Jackie St Louis (jackiekstlouis@gmail.com). Alishia Topper indicated mobile home parks should be included in the discussion for low-income housing. Vanessa mentioned Clark County does not have enough developers to address all housing types. Cowlitz Tribes are included in the discussions.

V. Community Services Strategic Plan update (Org. Std. 6.5) (Jackie St. Louis)

Jackie St Louis is coordinating the Community Services' Strategic Plan. A committee was formed, and

research is being done. A draft plan is in process.

The initial survey recommended more alignment with council, more staff and community input, and more DEI inclusion. Most urgent issues to address include: mental health; racial equity, housing; homelessness; and poverty. Barriers include: political/policy; lack of resources; economic/financial. Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicated needs of their clients have changed in the past five year.

Emerging strategic objectives are: affordable housing and homelessness; economic development and employment; community engagement and representation; mental health and substance use services; equity and inclusion.

Short-term goals include immediate enhancements in homelessness services; launch targeted job training programs. Medium-term goals include: significant strides in community engagement and expansion of mental health services. Long-term goals include: sustainable economic growth with increased job opportunities; establish culture of equity and inclusion. These goals are possibly measured by number of affordable housing units developed, employment rates in targeted populations, community satisfactions, accessibility and utilization.

Data continues to be collected and the draft continues to be written.

VI. DSHS 10-year plan presentation (Alex Panagotacos) (org. std. 5.9)

Alex discussed the 10-year plan to dismantle poverty in Washington blueprint. The blueprint was guided by people with lived experience. The plan seeks improvements in well-being; enhanced education, health, employment; decreased homelessness, child neglect, addiction, and crime; and dignity, humanity and belonging. For every \$1 invested, the return is at least \$7. It is a detailed guide for government to adjust how government works. Strategies include: undo structural racism; balance power; increase economic opportunity; ensure foundational well-being; prioritize urgent needs; build a holistic continuum of care; prepare for the future of work. Plan is in implementation stage. More information is available at www.facebook.com/dismantlepovertyinWA/ or <https://dimatleypovertyinwa.com/>. Alex can be reached at Alex.Panagotacos@dshs.wa.gov; 360.763.2900.

VII. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness update (Samantha Whitley) (org. std. 5.9)

Completed applications for CDBG and HOME funds have been received and are being reviewed. Applicants will present next month. Applications are being moved to Neighborly.

All four safe stays are open. City looking for bridge shelter now, to include 150-175 beds.

VIII. Board Business

- CAAB bylaws (org. std. 5.4). Bylaws were updated in 2022, and are available online.
- Conflict of Interest policy (org. std. 5.6). Sent for signature via DocuSign.
- Board member responsibilities (org. std. 5.8). Sent for signature in DocuSign. Bridget requests more involvement in Community Services activities such as the Strategic Planning. David Poland requests discussion of meeting time to increase public inclusion. Executive Board will discuss this and revisit at March meeting.
- Organizational Standards update. CAAB required to uphold 50 organizational standards annually. All standards were accepted for 2023, except those out-of-compliance with the Strategic Plan. These will be updated in March.
- 2024 Board member update. Currently 3 open positions. Readvertising for these positions later this month.
- Upcoming RFA information (org. std. 8.7). Next request for applications will open this fall. CAAB will be trained for scoring and selecting in 2025.

IX. Adopt 2024 Work Plan

Work plan was sent by email and is available online. It outlines anticipated activities to be covered in each meeting. David Poland moved to accept the draft plan; Ernie Suggs seconded the motion. Motion passed.

X. Task Force updates

- Legislative Advocacy

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance lists housing bills to be covered this session, but legislative numbers are not yet assigned. The legislative advocacy task force consists of Amy Roark, David Poland, Karyn Kameroff, Alishia Topper. It was suggested that a couple priority items be targeted and supported by the entire board. Ernie Suggs is attending City Action Days in early February.

- Community Needs Assessment

Community Forums are occurring on January 9, 17, 23, and 25. Information from the meetings will be included in the final report. Final CNA to be approved in May meeting.

XI. Update on fentanyl crisis

Amy Roark shared that manmade fentanyl is cheap, readily available, and deadly. It is affecting everyone, including those in poverty, children, families, and even those not directly using it. In 2022, one-quarter of Clark County residents were prescribed opioids. Treatment programs are limited. More awareness and treatment centers are needed. Everyone should have access to Narcan and know how to use it. David Poland is a trainer for using Narcan.

XII. Open Forum

No discussion.

XIII. Other Business

- Next meeting, Equity training, 9-1pm, January 12

Rob Perkins, Secretary

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