

## COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform  
March 6, 2024

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

Guests: Jackie St. Louis (consultant); Beth Landry (YWCA); CODAs interpreters; Samantha Whitley, Ann Hawkins (City of Vancouver)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Approval of January 2024 Minutes

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

III. YWCA Homeless Crisis Response program presentation (Org. Std. 4.4, 5.9) (Beth Landry)

Safe Choice provides shelter, outreach, and housing hotline. Advocacy is offered at the general office, and is available 24/7. Domestic violence is caused by a person’s belief that they have the right to control another. One in 15 children, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 9 men experience domestic violence.

Underrepresented groups face additional obstacles when seeking safety. Abuse can be sexual, financial, physical, emotional, and technological. Services are trauma-informed and family-centered. Asking a survivor why they stay in the relationship places blame on the victim not the abuser. Program focuses on high lethality concerns. Shelter renovations funded by VHA and City of Vancouver, allowed capacity to increase to 14 years. Safe Choice offers rapid rehousing, transitional housing, motel vouchers, and eviction prevention. Partnership with Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program helps clients get back to their lives. Questions can be emailed to Abby Molloy.

IV. Clark County Community Services’ Strategic Plan and Mission Statement update (Org. Stds. 4.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5) (Jackie St. Louis)

Jackie St Louis is coordinating the Community Services’ Strategic Plan. It focuses on key areas to meet the diverse needs of our community. It includes data from surveys, focus groups, interviews, and research. Themes are synthesized. Vision is a vibrant, equitable, diverse community for individuals and families to flourish. This includes economic opportunities, education, healthcare, housing, social services, civic engagement, and environment, where every person feels valued and understood.

The mission of Clark County Community Services is to empower and uplift our community by providing essential support, resources, opportunities aimed at overcoming poverty and ensure a stable healthy and engaged community for all. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of empathy, service, and accountability, where the dignity of every individual is upheld, and the interconnectedness of our well-being is recognized. Through strategic partnerships, we commit to enhancing economic security and well-being, addressing the root causes of poverty and building a foundation for a prosperous future. Keys to this include: advocate for equity, inclusion, and social justice; promote economic empowerment; enhance health and well-being; cultivate inclusive community engagement; strengthen support systems.

Strategic priorities and goals emerging are: affordable housing and homelessness; economic development and employment; community engagement and representation; mental health and substance use services; equity and inclusion. Performance indicators need to be defined.

The steering committee is finalizing review. Final draft will be submitted for approval.

V. July 2023-December 2023 Outcomes Report (Org. std. 1.3, 4.4, 5.9, 8.7)

Most programs are on-track for the first two quarters of the fiscal year. Clark College program has closed. Any remaining funds will be reallocated. Battle Ground Healthcare increased their goals. Council for the Homeless motel vouchers and Share are billing to other grants first. New EPRAP programs will be reported next quarter. Any remaining funds at the end of the year will be used to cover the House Bill deficit.

VI. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness update (Samantha Whitley, Jamie Spinelli) (org. std. 5.9)

- Affordable housing fund applications were open in February; 25 applications were received.
- CDBG and HOME applications are scored and making recommendations. Five-year plan will be ready for review by end of month.
- Housing Action Plan near completion.

VII. Task Force updates

- Legislative Advocacy  
Residential housing bill HB2071 passed.  
HB1652, child support bill passed.  
HB1541, “Nothing about us without us” bill passed.  
Rent control failed.  
HB2114 regarding fees on tenants did not get out of committee.
- Community Needs Assessment  
Draft Community Needs Assessment will be sent to task force for review, and to board before May meeting.
- General
  - Task force appointments  
Recruiting new members for legislative advocacy task force. CNA task force is ending. Contact Abby by email.
  - Policy Task Force  
A new task force to review CAAB bylaws and policies and sending to board for approval. If interested, contact Abby by email.

VIII. Open Forum

No discussion.

IX. Other Business

- Meeting cadence: Decision made to discuss meeting times and frequency closer to year-end.
- Equity training to be rescheduled based on poll.
- Next meeting, 9-10:30am, May 1

Rob Perkins, Secretary  
am