

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform
May 1, 2024

PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT	STAFF
Melanie Green, Chair	David Poland	Karyn Kameroff	Abby Molloy
Alishia Topper, Vice Chair	Bridget McLeman	Clover Spears	Rebecca Royce
Amy Roark	Nickeia Hunter	Rob Perkins, Secretary	Dawn Lee
Diana Perez			Alissa Page, Finance Unit
Joyce Cooper			
Jamie Spinelli			
Megan Mulsoff			
Faye Salomone			
Ernie Suggs			
Brittini Lasseigne			

Guests: Jackie St. Louis (consultant); CODAs interpreters; Ann Hawkins, (City of Vancouver); Sue Neal, (Battle Ground Healthcare Clinic); Curtis Rodgers and Alice Rodgers, Peer Counselors, (Community Foundation); Leticia Flores, Service Manager, (The Salvation Army)

I. Welcome/Introductions

New members introduced: Brittini Lasseigne, CEO, YWCA Clark County; Faye Salomone, background in real estate and property management; Clover Spears, absent.

II. Approval of March 2024 Minutes

Ernie Suggs motioned to approve March minutes; Amy Roark seconded; motion carried.

III. Clark County Community Services' Strategic Plan and Mission Statement update/ approval (Org. Standards 4.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5)

Jamie Spinelli questioned demographics. The total percentage of white population is 111%, with 11.4% being of Hispanic descent. Suggests Hispanic percentile be broken-out from white population for clarity. Diana Perez agreed with Jamie about clarifying ethnicity for the report. Ernie Suggs thanked everyone for their involvement in getting the report out.

Faye Salomone motioned to approve strategic plan and mission statement; Ernie Suggs seconded; motion carried.

IV. Clark County Community Needs Assessment (Org Standard 3.5)

Alisha Topper motioned to approve Community Needs Assessment; Megan Mulsoff seconded; motion carried.

V. July-December 2023 All-Funding Finance Report (Org. Standard 8.7)

Alissa Page, Finance Unit, Clark County Community Services, provided presentation of County expense and revenue reports for July-December 2023. Program and funding sources are approximately 50% spent-out. Report breaks out Covid vs. Non-Covid funding and ARPA funds. Expenses and revenue are set-up the same. Local funds revenue is for two-years. Document recording fees are down significantly; having received extra funds, there is hope that no cuts to programs will result. ARPA and ESG-CV are the only two Covid revenue funds remaining.

Question by The Salvation Army to explain the RFA selection process for funding and stated she wasn't aware of 'mortgage' assistance, only 'rental' assistance available. Alissa Page responded that RFPs go out each year; the next RFP should be issued spring 2025. Abby explained that 'eviction' assistance is available and to check the legend at end of report for acronyms.

Ernie Suggs asked if there is a time-limit on fund expenditures; Alissa explained time-limits depend on the funding source (state, federal, local) and range from 1-5 years, with some funds allowing a carry-over

into the next funding year. Those funds ending, are prioritized of any carry-over funds to ensure spend-out by deadlines.

Jamie Spinelli asked if there are ARPA spending limitations for unsheltered and transitional households. Abby Molloy stated there are no specific funding distinctions between the two types of 'unhoused' households. There are a variety of programs which serve different target populations.

Diana Perez questioned if there will be a \$4 million dollar gap after ARPA funds run out. Alissa explained that ARPA was part of Covid funding and providers are aware that once the money runs out, there will no longer be funding for those programs. The expense report shows which providers spend ARPA/Covid funds for their programs.

Jamie Spinelli asked what happens if ARPA funds are not spent by the deadline; funds will be lost if not spent-out. Jamie also asked, in cases where ARPA funds can't be spent by deadline, can contracts be modified? This is a question for agency Program Coordinators for each provider. Rebecca Royce added that DCS works closely with providers to ensure funds are spent and currently, every contract is on-target for spending.

Alishia Topper reminded Board to advocate to state legislature during their budget allocations so housing programs can get funded!

VI. Battle Ground Healthcare CAP Program Presentation (Org. Standards 4.4, 5.9)

Sue Neal, Battle Ground Healthcare (BGHC), provided presentation. All services of the clinic are free for individuals 18-years and older (no child services); serve households up to 300% federal poverty level; Medicaid or Medicare-eligible households; under/uninsured households or those who've exhausted insurance benefits; available to anyone, not just those who are homeless.

BGHC moved to new location in 2021, expanding their capacity by 58% and have room for future vaccine clinic. BGHC offers comprehensive integrated services including medical, dental, rehabilitation, health/lifestyle/spiritual care. 2023 demographics: 59% of patients live in Vancouver, 20% in Battle Ground, 4% Ridgefield, 3% Camas/Washougal, and 11% in North County; 36% of patients experience housing insecurity/homelessness.

BGHC offers a 4-bay dental clinic with pain-free digital CT scanner. BGHC operates on a 'hybrid' model with three paid staff and 90+ volunteers/students from Clark College, Legacy Vancouver, Cascadia Tech, other nursing programs. BGHC had 1,240 dental visits in 2023 (totaling over \$496k), a 200% increase since opening in 2021! The PowerPoint presentation will be emailed out to the Board; any questions to be sent to Abby Molloy.

VII. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness update (Ann Hawkins) (Org. Standard 5.9)

- Affordable housing fund (AHF) application period opened January 29th and closed March 1st. 26 AHF applications received for a total of \$28.5 million; 13 total applications recommended, with City Council scheduled to review/approve May 6th.
- 7 Rental Unit Production/Preservation projects recommended; 9 applications not recommended.
- 3 Home ownership applications received and 2 funded at half of requested amount, due to funding available; only 2 emergency shelter applications received and both fully-funded; 4 rental assistance applications received with 2 recommended for funding.
- Council for the Homeless (CFTH) requested 3-year pilot project funding; 1-year funding recommended based on fund availability.
- Agencies not recommended/approved for funding can contact COV for feedback and technical assistance.

VIII. Task Force updates

- Legislative Advocacy
Question arose at last meeting regarding HB 1590 (sales tax dollars). Revenue was approximately \$7.5 million for 2023; Jamie's department has utilized \$3.6 million for safe stays and safe park programs, serving 337 individuals and housing 90 households.

Alisha Topper inquired about a strategic plan for sales tax dollars and specific spending strategies.

Diana Perez will check with City Manager and report back to CAAB.

- General

- Task force appointments

- Recruiting new members for legislative advocacy task force. CNA task force is ending; CNA adopted and approved today and Abby Molloy will distribute to the Board.

- 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.

IX. Open Public Forum

Q. How do agencies apply for sales tax pilot program?

A. Affordable housing sales tax dollars are handled by the City of Vancouver, Jamie Spinelli asked to distribute more information to the group for sales tax program.

Q. Who is responsible for helping residents with utility payments?

A. Many rental assistance providers offer help with utility payments and Community Services has contract with Clark Public Utilities (CPU) to offer utility payment assistance through Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP season runs Oct. 1st through June 30th (sometimes later). Contact CPU Comcare (360) 992-3000 for more information.

X. Other Business

- May is Community Action Month with many opportunities to participate in activities. Abby will send-out toolkit. Reminder that if you use your CAAB position to participate in any activities, PRIOR Board approval is required, email Abby Molloy with your intentions ahead of participation.
- Abby thanked everyone for their participation in the equity training last week; this is only the beginning and everyone is encouraged to participate in future trainings.
- Next meeting, 9-11am, July 3rd.

Adjourn 10:30 am