

Washenaw County
Community Action Board (CAB)
General Session
Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 28, 2005 **Time:** 6:00 pm

Members Present: Michael DuRussel, Cyril Berry, Donn Wolf, Juanita House, Shoshana DeMaria, Suzanne Shaw and Hurley Myers.

Members Absent: Robert Brackenbury (excused), Christina Montague (excused), Elette Collins, Joseph Dulin, Brenda McKinney and Rolland Sizemore.

Staff Present: Jenny Bivens, Susan Sweet Scott, Deryl Beasley and Rana Alzoubi.

Guest Present: Alicia Myers

1. Call to Order

DuRussel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

There is not a quorum at this meeting. Therefore, all voting must be ratified at the next full board meeting where there is a quorum.

3. Consent Agenda Items

These items will be moved to the next full board meeting where there is a quorum.

4. Report of the Chair

DuRussel welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

5. Report of the Board of Commissioners

- The CSBG and the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) administrations were proposing to combine 36 grants into 18 which would mean less money for some of the locals. This would put Ann Arbor in competition with Ypsilanti. Ypsilanti would probably receive more money as a result. Wolf met with the author of the legislation who felt that the proposed legislation would not pass.

6. Report of the Executive Director

A. Resolutions – Bivens for Rusher

- i. Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board’s signature on ETCS’s application to the Michigan Family Independence Agency (now Department of Human Services – DHS) for the 2003 MPSC Client Education Funds in the amount of \$11,996 for the period of December 8, 2004 through August 31, 2005
 - This money would be for client education classes.
- ii. Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board’s signature on ETCS’s application to the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) for Fiscal Year (FY)

- 2004-2005 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) funds (MPSC/MCAAA CAA Heating Assistance)
- This is done in conjunction with our other programs such as Emergency Services and Weatherization.
 - A \$50 voucher will be given to participants along with an energy kit
- iii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on ETCS's application to FIA (now DHS) for the 2005 MPSC Weatherization Assistance Program.
- This program adds funds to help Weatherize twenty (20) additional units.
 - We met our program goals last year.
- iv. Ratification of the County Administrator's signature on the FY 2005 Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) Federal Grant Application to the Corporation for National and Community Service in the amount of \$457,325 for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005
- This is continuation funding for administrative purposes.
 - We have an eight percent (8%) increase this year.
 - The program is going well; there is currently a waiting list for interested participants.
- v. Ratification of the County Administrator's signature on the FY 2005 Weatherization Program Plan to DHS for a total budget of \$344,425 for the program period of April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.
- This represents 113 units which is an increase from last year.
 - Funds are available for people who are at or below 150% poverty.
- vi. Ratification of the County Administrator's signature on the ETCS's FY 2005 LIHEAP Application in the amount of \$129,000 for the period of April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006
- These funds may be used in conjunction with other Weatherization money.
- vii. Resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the application of ETCS funds for the FY 2005 TANF Agreement to the DHS in the amount of \$70,920 for the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005
- This money allows us to provide case management to our customers. Currently, we have two staff members who are doing case work.
 - This supplements the Work First TANF dollars that ETCS receives for workforce development Programs. Between workforce development and community action, ETCS runs about thirty different programs at the same time.
- viii. Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board's signature on ETCS's application to DHS for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); Deliverable Fuels funds
- Last year, we gave back a lot of the money. We gave it back early enough so that it could be redistributed to those agencies that could distribute the funds. This year, DHS asked the agencies how much they felt they could spend.
 - We have already spent \$8,000 of our allocated money.
- ix. Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board's signature on the ETCS's application to DHS for the CSBG Discretionary – Tax Preparation Assistance Program & Resolution
- DHS is providing more TANF funds and CSBG Discretionary funds this year.
 - This money is to help promote those who do not file for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Washtenaw County.
 - ETCS, Ave Marie, Michigan State University Extension and other organizations worked together on this program. Super Saturdays and Tax Tuesdays were hosted at the Michigan Works! Service Center. About thirty people attended the first Super Saturday. Tax Tuesdays are days when an Ave Marie student volunteers to help file taxes at the Service Center. Appointments

are booked through March. DeMaria asked why another date, other than Tuesday, is made available since the demand seemed so high. Beasley said that he would explore this with the students at the College. He noted that there are other places where volunteers help file taxes, such as Catholic Social Services. The second Super Saturday will be on April 9 at the Service Center. Beasley pointed out that this service is provided free of cost.

B. Gateway Community and Economic Development Corporation (YGCEDC) Update – Beasley

- The YGCEDC is currently exploring ways to realign themselves under the County to establish a long term solution.
- They are getting ready to break ground on the Orchard and Worden projects.
- Beasley has a meeting with an eligible buyer for the home on Hamilton Street.

C. Program Updates

i. Emergency Services

- DeMaria and Berry volunteered at the last TEFAP distribution. Food Gatherers was also present at the distribution. The next date is on Thursday, May 19, 2005. Unloading the trucks begins at 6:30 a.m. and the actual food distribution begins at 9:00 a.m.
- We only served three households through the housing assistance program because we chose to spend THAW dollars first. We expect to have no problem expending these dollars; last year we expended all of the funds well before the deadline. This money is to help families get out of shut off status as well as some extenuating circumstances.
- Planning for the Summer Food Sponsor Program has started for this year. Letters have been sent out to local organizations in the Ypsilanti and Willow Run area because most students in these school districts are eligible for the program.

ii. Housing and Energy

- CDBG funding is available for housing rehabilitation assistance of twelve homes throughout the County. One project has been completed and eleven are in progress.
- The Weatherization program provides assistance to low-income households through energy efficiency measures. Ninety (90) households have been served to date. The program year ends March 31, 2005.
- The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Weatherization funding provides client energy education. Seventeen (17) households have been served up to date. The program year ends August 31, 2005.

iii. Senior Services

- The CAB authorized printing of the Catholic Social Services, Older Adult Services 2005 Resource Directory for Washtenaw County. A copy was included in the meeting packet for board members.
- The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) Recognition luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 20 at the Kensington Court Hotel. All CAB members will be sent an invitation to attend.

7. **Adjourn**

DuRussel adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.