

Washtenaw County
Community Action Board (CAB)
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, May 06, 2005 **Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Michael DuRussel, Cyril Berry, Robert Brackenburg, Juanita House, Cynthia Maritato, Brenda McKinney, Hurley Myers, Christina Montague and Donn Wolf.

Members Absent: Shoshana DeMaria (excused), Joseph Dulin (excused), Suzanne Shaw (excused) and Rolland Sizemore.

WDB Liaison Present: Steven Gulick

Staff Present: Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens, Susan Sweet Scott, Rana Alzoubi, Aaron Kraft and Yvonne Taylor.

Guests Present: Jill Kind – Director, Older Adult Services, Catholic Social Services.

1. Call to Order

DuRussel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked that everyone introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Wolf moved to approve the meeting agenda. Berry supported. Meeting agenda approved.

3. Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of the Minutes

- i. 11/22/04 General Session
- ii. 01/10/05 Joint Annual Meeting
- iii. 03/28/05 General Session

Wolf moved to approve the minutes. Brackenburg supported. Meeting minutes approved.

B. Ratification of the 03/28/05 Action Items (due to lack of quorum)

- i. Ratification of the Chair of the of the Board's signature on ETCS's application to the Department of Human Services (DHS – formerly FIA) for the 2005 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Client Education Funds.
- ii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on ETCS's application to the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAAA) for FY 2004-05 MPSC funds
- iii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on ETCS's application to DHS for the 2005 MPSC Weatherization Assistance Program.

Berry moved to approve the resolutions. Myers supported. Resolutions approved.

4. Report of the Chair

A. Announcements – none

B. MCAAAA Updates – Berry

- ETCS had a couple of volunteer recognitions at the MCAAAA Meeting and Awards Ceremony.

- The Annual Conference is scheduled in July.
- The Annual Report is included in the meeting binders for members to review along with the Economic Impact Report that was published recently.

5. Report of the Board of Commissioners (BOC)

A. Announcements

- The biggest issue right now is the Public Safety and Justice millage and how to pay for improvements now that the millage failed. Last night's BOC meeting was adjourned late due to discussions. There are a number of public meetings scheduled for people to discuss the jail expansion further. Administration wants a decision from the BOC by June.
- DuRussel asked if layoffs are expected for the future. Brackenbury stated that there probably will be another one hundred (100) job cuts.
- Brackenbury added that asking for another millage is not a good idea because the last one failed by such a large margin. Another option is to cut money from the County's General Fund, including \$500,000 from ETCS. The third option is to cut funding for road patrol subsidies. This is a hot issue and each of the Commissioners has a different perspective depending on the area they represent. Ypsilanti and Superior Townships both benefit from the subsidy and are not in support of the third option. Brackenbury pointed out that his district, Pittsfield, does not benefit from such subsidies. If this option is chosen, there will be a two-year transitional period.

6. Report of the Executive Director

A. Federal / State / Local Updates

Federal

- We are still debating with congress for CSBG funds. Our lobbyist, David Bradley who was at the Joint Annual Meeting, is optimistic. We have sent "Thank You" letters to our legislators.

State

- The State legislature passed Public Act 123 that created a new bureau. A new bureau chief was hired, but he is retiring after a few months due to health reasons. Stacey Gibson is the interim director and the bureau is in transition. The locals are concerned because they feel that community action programs are not being protected. There is debate among the directors whether they should remain in the Department of Human Services or move.

Local - none

B. Resolution

- Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board's signature on the ETCS application to MCAA for FY 2005 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) application to the MPSC/MCAA Community Action Agency (CAA) Energy Assistance Program in the amount of \$32,256 for the period of April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005.
 - This money is for emergency assistance. It is for metered bills including electricity.
 - This will be taken to the next BOC meeting for approval.

McKinney moved to approve the resolution. Brackenbury supported. Resolution approved.

C. Program Updates

These will be reserved for the Retreat so that our speaker can present on the Blueprint for Aging.

7. Report of the Officers, Committees and Liaisons

A. Workforce Development Board (WDB)

- Gulick announced that there are some layoffs expected in the supplier markets at Visteon, GM and other plants in the County. DuRussel commented about the ripple effect of plants closing and how this will affect other businesses in the community. A total of up to 1,000 jobs might be cut.
- The WDB will have their Retreat next week.

8. Other Business / Announcements

There was no other business to discuss at this time.

9. Next Meeting Dates

- Monday, September 26, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. (dinner at 5:30 p.m.) at the Michigan Works! Service Center located at 304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan
- Monday, November 28, 2005

10. Meeting Adjourns – Retreat Begins

DuRussel adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.