

Washtenaw County  
**Community Action Board (CAB)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Monday, May 14, 2007 **Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center, 304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti

**Members Present:** Joseph Dulin, Mandy Grewal, Rolland Sizemore, S.A. Trudy Swanson, Cyril Berry, Shoshana DeMaria, Hurley Meyers, Donn Wolf, Elette Collins, Stephanie Gordon, Juanita House, Cassandra McCallister, Cynthia Maritato,

**Members Absent:** Brenda McKinney, Michael DuRussel (excused)

**Liaison Present:** Donn Wolf, Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board

**Staff Present:** Trena Rusher, Jenny Bivens, Tiffany Lucas

**I. Call to Order**

Dulin called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

Wolf moved to approve the minutes from the 3/26/07 meeting. DeMaria supported. Meeting minutes approved.

**IV. Report of the Chair – (Dulin)**

A. Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

B. MCAAA Update

- At the recent MCAAA conference special guests included the First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern, Rev. Al Sharpton, Senator Mark Schauer, and Senator James Couzens.
- At the event Washtenaw County volunteers collected three volunteer awards and received a very nice award for their Meals on Wheels program.
- Berry noted that the Community Action Board should also give special recognition to these volunteers.
- **Berry moves that a committee be formed to explore the idea of recognizing community volunteers. Dulin supports. Motion passed.**
- The committee will include Shoshana DeMaria, Cyril Berry, Donn Wolf, Trena Rusher, and Tiffany Lucas.

**V. Report of the Board of Commissioners**

#### A. Announcements

- Commissioner Sizemore expressed his regards to the etcs staff for their wonderful work putting together the Foster Grandparent (FGP) Awards.
- There will be a public hearing Wednesday regarding the expansion of the road commission from three members to four. Interested parties should contact Commissioner Sizemore for further details.
- The Community Action Board has received additional communication about the Community Collaborative and will purchase memberships for Workforce Development and Community Action Boards at the price of a single membership. Mike DuRussel has appointed Joe Dulin as the spokesperson. Michael Scholl will be contacting Dulin with more information.

### **VI. Report of the Executive Director**

#### A. Local/State/Federal Updates

##### i. Jet Media Event

- On Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Keith Cooley and Marianne Udow visited our Michigan Works! Service Center for the JET media event.
- At the event we had a JET participant come in to talk about her progress from welfare to the workforce through the JET program, she was also honored at the event.
- Cooley toured the serviced center and afterwards met with members of our Workforce Development Board (WDB). There was discussion about the current initiatives our boards are focusing on. Cooley was very supportive and expressed interest in helping us in the future.
- Governor Granholm has been pushing the “No Worker Left Behind” initiative and our Workforce Development Board will continue to support her efforts.
- DLEG has approached EMU to ask if they and a partner would be interested in a million dollar grant from excess dislocated worker funds. Freman Hendrix, Chief of EMU government relations has asked etcs to be their partner.
- We met with his staff last week to put together a four page proposal, which details a program for the ACH workers modeled after the Early College Alliance. Rusher noted that the program will aim to retrain the ACH workers with dignity and pride. The grant will probably be issued in July to Eastern Michigan University and **etcs** will administer those funds in partnership with EMU.

##### ii. Child Care Network Partnership

- We are working with the Child Care Network, Washtenaw Community College, and the area Chambers so that individuals interested in starting daycare facilities will have a supporting program to help them succeed. This program will promote affordable and quality daycare in the County through competitive business.

##### iii. MEGA- P / Pfizer Talent Team Merge

- When Pfizer announced it’s closing in January, we quickly formed the Talent Team with various workforce development partners in the County. The team was responsible for finding new opportunities for the Pfizer employees and also helping those interested in entrepreneurial opportunities connect to the resources available

to them in the County. The MEGA- Partnership was created with very similar purposes, and many of the Talent Team members also serve as a part of the MEGA- Partnership.

- Officially the Talent Team has been faded into the MEGA- Partnership.
- iv. Show Me the Money Workshop
- As a part of the commitment to change and Share Network initiatives we have put together a “Show Me the Money” workshop series in partnership with the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area Minister’s Alliance. The first workshop was held on Thursday, May 3, 2007. There were many attendees from the Minister’s Alliance. We also had staff from the New Center, Power Inc., and Pastor Melvin T. Walls come to speak about how to apply for federal grants and their experiences as non-profit organizations. The participants received a binder containing a helpful resource guide, tips to help with grant writing, and a compact disc with links to several internet resources.
  - Wolf adds that he would like a copy of the materials provided to the workshop attendees.
  - Starting in the County a center for experienced talent. The workforce board decided to create a center just for the workers that are. We are applying for an additional grant to help with this program.
- v. United Way/etcs Kiosks
- Rusher stated that the United Way has implemented 211 throughout the County, but have noticed that the many of the call have been requests for the services offered by etcs. With this in mind, the United Way approached etcs about the idea of strategically placed Kiosks that would allow people to access those services more readily. The proposed locations for the kiosks were Arborland Mall, and Briarwood Mall.
  - House suggested that the kiosks be placed on the local bus lines so that the services can accessed while people wait or on their commute to and from work.
- vi. Key Bank Move
- Rusher reported that etcs will be moving its administrative services to Key Bank, located at 301 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 400, late August. The Community Services will be relocating to the Harriet Street Center, shortly thereafter inside the space previously occupied by Biggies Restaurant.
- B. Ypsilanti Gateway Community and Economic Development Corporation Update
- Rusher reported that the Gateway Board has been working with Mark McDaniel of Great Lakes Capital Funding, and etcs partners M3Strategies to pursue fundraising opportunities for the Gateway Corporation.
  - Gateway received a clean audit, but is still waiting for CHODO status with the County so that they can hire a full-time Executive Director. The program manager, Deryl Beasley will be moving to New York, and will no longer be with Gateway. The board is currently debating whether it would be feasible to hire an Executive Director at this point or to look for another program manager.

### C. Program Updates

- Rusher reported that Susan Sweet Scott was unable to meeting, because she is in the hospital. Susan was not able to give the program updates.
- Rusher directed the board members to the handouts provided in their meeting packets, which gave a breakdown of the program updates.

## **VII. Report of the Officers, Committees, Liaisons**

### A. Report of the Officers

- There is no report at this time.

### B. Workforce Development Board

- There is no report at this time.

### C. Head Start

- Collins reported that she attended the Head Start National Conference where she learned that Nike has partnered with Head Start to form NIKE GO HEAD START, to fight childhood obesity.
- Collins noted that Lincoln has 68 students in Head Start at their 10 current sites who will lose the benefits of Head Start, since Lincoln will be closing there Head Start program to expand their kindergarten classes.

## **VIII. Other Business**

- Dulin introduced Tyrone Bridges Director of Behavior Workshops.
- Bridges thanked the Board and stated that Behavior Workshops administers the Computer Assistance Program Scholarship (CAPS) to teach children how to build, repair and operate computers.
- Bridges noted that McKinley properties has already donated 24 computers in support of the program, but without additional funding continuing the program without substantial charge to the parent will be impossible.
- The workshop is held on one two hour session, two days a week, but increased sessions will be necessary, because students often learn by repetitiveness.
- Bridges notes that the Behavior Workshop is a 501C3, and asked that the board give 8,000.00 to fund the continuation of this program.
- Swanson asks that Bridges supply the board with a more concise breakdown of what is need to fund the program.
- Various board members suggest that Bridges contact other sources to secure funding and clearly define his proposal.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Dulin adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

