



**COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)**  
**March 6, 2024 held virtually via Zoom**  
**7:30 AM – 8:50 AM**

<b>FACILITATOR</b>		Adam Khosroabadi			
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>		R.E. Szego			
P	Paul Edgar	E	Leota Childress	S	Brenda Durbin
P	Sonia Agnew	O	Daniel Hovanas (?)	S	Joey Johns
P	Richard Sheldon			S	Jennifer Much Grund
E	Marya Choudhry			S	R.E. Szego
P	Adam Khosroabadi	O	John Parker		

**P-Present, A -Absent, E-Excused, S-Staff, O-Other Attendee**

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b> Quorum is 50% +1	Adam called the meeting to order at 7:33am. Introductions included John Parker, Prospective Member, and Daniel Hovanas, CEO for Do Good Multnomah County.
<b>Adoption of Meeting Minutes</b>	Adoption of prior meeting minutes proceeded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 7, 2023 – Paul motioned; Sonia seconded; minutes were approved.</li> <li>• September 6, 2023 – Paul motioned; Richard seconded; minutes were approved.</li> <li>• October 4, 2023 – Paul motioned; Sonia seconded; minutes were approved.</li> <li>• February 7, 2024 – Paul motioned; Sonia seconded; minutes were approved.</li> </ul>
<b>Recruitment Update</b>	R.E. recommended reopening the recruitment. How can we be more clear that the openings are for someone representing low income communities?
<b>Stipend Proposal</b>	Brenda introduced the stipend proposal as a best practice being adopted by other agencies. The group reviewed the draft proposal.

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	<p>Adam expressed concern about the possibility of a tax on the stipend. Brenda clarified that you have declare when income from any one source exceeds \$600. Richard added that the additional income may put them in a situation where they end up losing assistance. It would be up to them to monitor. Brenda noted that we would do a simple form with a disclaimer at the bottom. No one will be required to ask for the stipend and they can identify when to stop the support. Jennifer wondered if there are any resources available to help participants determine if the stipend would push them over income qualifications for programs. Brenda shared that Cash Oregon (<a href="https://cashoregon.org/">https://cashoregon.org/</a>) offers free tax preparation and may be able to help, but they may not operate year round.</p> <p>Brenda added that CAB is taking the lead on offering these stipends to Council Members and that Social Services will roll this policy out to the others in our Division.</p> <p>Paul motioned to approve the proposal; Sonia second; stipend proposal was approved.</p>
<p><b>New Homeless Services Advisory Board</b></p>	<p>In follow up to our discussion last month Brenda shared information about a new Homeless Services Advisory Board in development. The Metro Supported Housing dollars added a significant budget increase to Clackamas County’s Health, Housing and Human Services (H3S) Department. With the new money the County established a new division: Housing and Community Development (HCD). Prior to that, Social Services provided a lead role in services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Social Services still provides a lot of direct service, including: Permanent Supportive Housing, Coordinated Access, Rent Assistance, and Housing Rights and Resources. Social Services is becoming more of a service provider with limited external contracting and less of a role in planning.</p> <p>With this shift, CAB can return to some of our roots as a program established as part of War on Poverty in the 1960s. We can be more of a voice of antipoverty writ large in alignment with our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The CAB reviewed the Policy Session Worksheet, which describes the robust system to support those experiencing homelessness. The Continuum of Care process connected to funding from the federal government (Housing and Urban Development) will be rolled into this new structure. There will be two bodies who will have responsibility across the county with the goal coordination and intentional weaving of funding sources to ensure equitable service across the geography. Metro funds can be used for services within the urban growth boundary, but we also have to look very carefully at rural parts of county and identify flexible dollars that can support rural Clackamas County.</p>

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	<p>There will be a relatively small executive committee to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), like CAB. Plus there will be a larger community advisory group not approved by BCC. The new structure will take the responsibility to support these groups out of county government with the hope that there will be freedom to provide feedback. The proposed organizational chart is in the Policy Session Worksheet.</p> <p>CAB will continue to have a say over Community Action funds received by Social Services, which is an array.</p> <p>There will be a procurement process with a Notice of Funding Opportunity open for applications. Once an entity is selected through this process, they will go about recruiting and hiring staff. It will be about six to nine months before we see applications come out for the new entity.</p> <p>Paul introduced Daniel Hovanas, CEO of Do Good Multnomah County. Daniel shared that they are seeking to give folks a shot to be clean and sober. Even if folks go to Detox, they might not have somewhere supportive to go after coming out. Having a village promoting clean and sober creates an opportunity to thrive. There is a Clackamas County neighbor with land (in unincorporated Clackamas County) with space to create this type of village.</p>
<b>Strategic Plan Next Steps</b>	<p>Brenda reminded the group that we have a two-pronged approach. 1) Pushing the information from the needs assessment out: the federal poverty line is insufficient in describing the level of poverty. Jennifer is working to add some more slides on demographics and family composition to her presentation.</p> <p>2) Listening to people in our communities to hear their perspectives on the services provided. Brenda wants to work with CAB to develop a process for these listening sessions. Brenda shared that there is a small budget of unrestricted funds that can pay for coffee and food. We could look at the possibility of using the stipend, as well. Jennifer shared that in past have also looked at providing childcare stipends.</p> <p>Adam recommended holding these outside of somewhere official. John agreed that sometimes a much less formal environment is better to get people to open up. There are advocates or champions within communities of people experiencing homelessness and/or addiction, but it's very fragmented. If we can get to service providers and ask to come to see the constituents, we might be able to come to where they are.</p>

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	<p>Jennifer wondered about accessing those caught between the federal poverty line and below the ALICE threshold who fall outside of assistance eligibility. How can we find folks who have almost given up on trying to get help? This might include people impacted by the cost of living increases who haven't had to ask for help before. She will draft 2-page version of the information.</p> <p>Sonia added that if families were on the edge they received assistance during COVID. But if you were on the edge then, you're underwater now. We're transitioning from the end of recovery from COVID to a new norm. It will be great for a lot of community members to see the data and to hear from them where we can offer the best support. Adam noted that ad debt increases the payments multiply increasing the impact.</p> <p>Brenda shared that PBS News Hour has a new series out on the safety net (<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/america-s-safety-net-1709593582/">https://www.pbs.org/video/america-s-safety-net-1709593582/</a>).</p>
<b>Member Updates</b>	<p>Paul wondered how we might be able to support home ownership. Sonia noted that there is an effort in Multnomah County to utilize buildings not currently being occupied in a different way, such as making properties available for purchase. What if there was a way to have partial ownership of a building with a lower buy in? It is cheaper to live as a home owner than as a renter. Paul thought this might look like a program to buy down interest rates that would help people below ALICE with a down payment so they can get into housing and reduce the numbers of people being forced into homelessness.</p> <p>John thanked the group for inviting him to this discussion. Brenda shared that someone will reach out to see if he has questions or are interested in membership. If his is interested, the Executive Committee will discuss his application and make a recommendation to the full Board at the next meeting. Recommendations for new members are sent to the BCC for approval.</p> <p>Adam had a conversation with MudBots (<a href="https://www.mudbots.com/">https://www.mudbots.com/</a>), a 3D concrete printing company out of Salt Lake City. This company builds 1000 square foot homes on as little as 10,000 square feet of property, primarily for workforce housing. They can have a house up in a matter of weeks that uses carbonic heating. Adam is trying to see if we could bring this technology.</p>
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	Richard made a motion to adjourn; Paul seconded; meeting was adjourned at 8:52am.

<b>ITEMS / ISSUES</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	April 3, 2024, 7:30am – 8:50am. Zoom: <a href="https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/j/83711142308">https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/j/83711142308</a>