



COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)
April 3, 2024 held virtually via Zoom
7:30 AM – 8:50 AM

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

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

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION
Meeting Called to Order Quorum is 50% +1	Sonia called the meeting to order at 7:34am. A quorum was present.
Adoption of Meeting Minutes	Sonia motioned to adopt the minutes from March 2024; Paul seconded; all in favor.
Added Item: Metro Supportive Housing Dollars Request For Proposals	<p>Brenda provided an overview of a recent Request for Proposals opened for use of Clackamas County’s Metro Supportive Housing dollars (https://www.clackamas.us/housingauthority/supportive-housing-services). The County has done something never done before. We invited cities to submit proposals for programs, projects, or services that would either prevent homelessness or help people experiencing homelessness exit that condition. We ran a procurement process a few months ago and received many applications that added up to much more than we have to spend.</p> <p>Daniel’s organization, Do Good Multnomah, submitted an application that was not approved filling a gap in the recovery oriented system of care. Paul had some concerns about the proposal not to fund this. Paul and Adam suggested that Daniel come to this meeting for discussion of the application. Daniel explained the application and then we discussed whether CAB wants to jointly make a statement about this decision.</p>

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	<p>The Do Good proposal is for 30 housing pods with a focus on being clean and sober. It would be a partnership with Coda (https://codainc.org/) and Iron Tribe (https://www.irontribenetwork.org/) which provide detox centers. There would be CADCs (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors) and peer supports on site. There aren't places like this. When you go to detox, you spend 14 days there then come out to a low-barrier shelter where drugs and alcohol are everywhere. This Village is an opportunity to give folks a fighting chance to get back into community and be active members of the community. This Village is a very intentional step that's a win win win for community, neighbors, and participants.</p> <p>Paul referenced an <i>Oregonian</i> article on the critical need for residential housing to sustain the programming needed to help people stay clean and sober. A retired fire captain has a property with all of the buildings on it, including a 1500 sq ft garage building, a formal building, and a house with all of the plumbing and electrical facilities in place. They would add 8x16 pods that would give lockable doors to participants. This would be a 24/7 supervised setting with counseling and case management to help people turn corners. It's close to transit. The orange line is walkable. It's just off of Oatfield Rd. [on Evergreen] outside of Milwaukie City limits. We don't have a place like this in Clackamas County. There was a recent death in Clackamas County where somebody was taken out of Providence Hospital and brought to Portland because we didn't have a place. When he arrived in Portland he was dead. Milwaukie didn't have a place inside city limits that would facilitate what the City needs. This is something that will help us identify with this revision of Measure 110 where we need an ability for diversion. If they're going to be enforcing the illegality of drugs starting September 1 and we don't have a place in Clackamas County that has housing. Among all of the other proposals to be discussed starting at 10am in the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), none of them have housing. Do Good is an experienced operator that cares and has the track record to operate it. What's the opinion of the CAB? Is this in our wheelhouse as something we think of as important?</p> <p>Brenda noted that the procurement for these funds required that the application come from a City. Legally, the County has to comply with the requirements initially put forward in a procurement like this. That's the main reason this did not get funded. There are other applications where the non-profit is taking the lead, but the application was submitted by a City. We all have a lot of respect for Do Good and the work that they do. In terms of CAB's response, there are a few options: The policy session with the BCC is a chance for Board and County Staff to discuss proposals. There is not an opportunity for public comment at policy sessions, but they are open to the public on Zoom. At a public meeting when Board approves a slate of proposals presented by County staff, there is opportunity for public comment. As <i>individuals</i> you are welcome to go to the meeting and say what you have to say. To speak on behalf of CAB, this Board needs to create a statement and we need to vote on it as an official motion. Then you can speak from this on behalf of CAB.</p>

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	<p>Daniel talked to Adam Brown prior to applying. Brenda encouraged him to reach back out to Adam and Vahid to see what happened there. Maybe they thought the City of Milwaukie would be involved.</p> <p>Paul noticed that Happy Valley applied for funds to be used by The Father’s Heart in Oregon City. All of the other cities were reaching out across their borders in order to try to facilitate the necessary programming.</p> <p>Sonia asked about the requirement for a City to sponsor the proposal. What’s the benefit of that? Why are we using that approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda answered that this is an innovation that the County is able to consider because of the influx of new funds. A former Molalla City Commissioner recommended giving money to the Cities. This is the first time the County has ever done this, but it’s not a requirement of the funding. <p>John spent time on the Board of Blanchet House, which is a clean and sober facility in Portland and in Carleton. I’ve seen these programs really really work. He hopes that we can find a way to encourage funding of this project. The need is great.</p> <p>Paul noted that a significant amount of money has now been made available by House Bill (HB) 4002 that can be used to fund beds. We have this opportunity now to bring this together ahead of anything else. This is about saving lives.</p> <p>R.E. wondered what’s possible. Is there leeway to open the option for this proposal to be revised with a City partner? What’s legal once the RFP closes?</p> <p>Leota commented that the proposal is awesome and we all want to save lives, but having been on the same end in applying for grants, there are guidelines. If this procurement said it had to be from a City, then it has to be from a City. Something else might come out that would fit perfectly for the housing component. It’s unreal that we would try to go back and make exceptions. You can’t do that. I can’t with a clear conscience say let’s go and try to do that.</p> <p>Paul wondered what would happen if we were to talk to the Police Departments and Sheriffs in all of the cities and ask if they need this type of facility to enforce the new revisions of HB 4002. They found a way to build a library in Oak Grove even though it is not a city and was outside of the County’s plan. How do we have facilities that can change and save lives? Paul would like something positive to be stated so that people know that this is a concern of the CAB.</p> <p>Sonia reiterated that we all want to save lives. She believes that Daniel has a compelling resource that our community really could use, especially during this time when the law is changing. What is needed from CAB is concrete feedback for Daniel on what other resources are out there and how he can connect to them. Making an exception to the Procurement</p>

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	<p>for one program could create some unintended negative consequences for organizations in the community. Sonia agreed with Leota that as much as she respects the program it would be difficult for her to support trying to find a way to alter the criteria and would not support issuing a statement from CAB at this time.</p>
Member Recommendation	<p>Brenda shared that the Executive Committee recommends the nomination of John Parker for CAB Membership. Sonia motioned; Paul seconded; all in favor. John is recommended for CAB Membership.</p>
Recruitment Update	<p>R.E. shared that the County has a new system (Airtable) that should be easier for applicants. There's a new form required to open the recruitment. R.E. will let the group know when the recruitment is open. The ABC website has been updated.</p> <p>Brenda added that we had three applicants for the current recruitment. The open positions are all for low income representation – personal experience or work or volunteer experience. We will have two openings for low-income sector. We will make sure the recruitment spells that out specifically. It's really important to have people with lived experience sharing their knowledge and experience. We have our new Stipend policy, so when we do our recruitment, let's make sure to mention that low income people have the opportunity to get paid for their time. This might encourage Membership.</p>
Return to Community Action Roots	<p>Brenda provided an introduction this month and we can have a further discussion on this in May. Community Action has an impactful history. 2024 is the 60th anniversary of the War on Poverty introduced by President Johnson in the State of the Union where he spelled out the series of programs that resulted in what we now see as our safety net that includes Head Start, nutrition programs, and job programs. Community Action is part of that history of addressing poverty. It's also the 50th anniversary of Community Action as part of County government in Clackamas County. Prior to 1974 Community Action was operated by a series of non-profits. We are one of four or five public Community Action Agencies in Oregon, so we're not common.</p> <p>R.E. sent draft of an introduction to the Strategic Plan. Brenda thinks it's important as we launch our Strategic Plan and Listening Sessions to note these anniversaries. This is also relevant to the pivot we've been talking about over the last few months. With the new Housing and Community Development Division (HCDD), most of the work around housing is not falling into Social Services anymore. We're still a direct service provider and do a lot of emergency response related to homelessness, but the contracting, planning and big picture work are now embedded in HCDD. There's a lot of</p>

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	<p>structure around the Metro money at the local and regional level. We have previously shared opportunities for CAB members to get involved in some of the other work that will be more laser-focused on housing.</p> <p>The CAB has an exciting opportunity to pivot back to Community Action roots and talk about poverty writ large. Houselessness an outcome of poverty, but as we know through our discussions around ALICE, a lot of folks are right on the edge. That creates stress and limiting opportunities for young people. There is an exciting whole universe of discussions, activities, and initiatives we can think about as we move into the larger issues around poverty.</p>
<p>Listening Tour Planning</p>	<p>Brenda was approached by an organization that supports Refugees from Afghanistan. She will share that we're planning to launch these Listening Sessions and see if we can work with them.</p> <p>Paul talked to some people who are on a Board of a mobile home park. The concentration of people there who are low income is 90%. It's possible to be sold to an entity that would potentially increase their rent. 90% couldn't afford any increase without taking food off the table. We should have representation coming from manufactured home parks that have a high concentration of need and hear what's happening in their world. Another one became a non-profit coop in Gladstone area that has their own independent board.</p> <p>Jennifer reminded the group that we have two prongs of outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected officials and community leaders • Listening sessions with people experiencing poverty to gather information on their experiences, barriers, challenges <p>Brenda stated that today's discussion is about the second piece. Going back to the three pillars of our our Service Equity Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that everyone understands the programs that are out there • When they choose to apply, they understand how to apply and it's easy • If they decide to participate, they feel like they belong in this program <p>Jennifer summarized that this would be about reaching out to groups to hear from them and to share information on our programs.</p> <p>Jennifer suggested we do some brainstorming around what some of those communities we would reach out to might be. Are we looking for full Board participation? How would the Board want to approach this? Do we want to have Board</p>

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	<p>Members available for certain groups? Would this be a Staff / Board Member hosted event where we can meet people where they are?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonia answered that we were talking about meeting people where they are to understand their specific issues and how we might connect with them. • Richard (via email, 04/01/24) advocates reaching out to Nunpa (AntFarm - https://antfarmyouthservices.com/) as he has good pulse on this community in the more rural areas of Clackamas County, from Sandy to Molalla. Jennifer added that Social Services has a good working relationship with AntFarm and has been doing outreach with Latino elders through our partnership with them. • Leota noted that seniors across the board is an imp pop to reach out to. Relying on social security checks puts a lot of people in poverty. Jennifer shared that the Senior Needs Assessment is in process right now. We have received about 600 surveys and are starting to look at focus groups with seniors out in the community this spring. • Adam suggested the Afghan refugee group and also the Muslim Trust (https://www.metpdx.org/) and Jewish Organizations. He noted that there are issues happening right now that are affecting those communities back home. Also any bipoc or marginalized communities, including people with disabilities. We have a pretty large Vietnamese community in Clackamas County. • Paul added the Gleaners (https://urbangleaners.org/) and Meals on Wheels (https://www.mowp.org/) and other organizations going into homes, particularly serving people around food needs. They would fall 100% in the ALICE category. Jennifer noted we used this strategy to get the community needs survey out through home meal deliveries. • R.E. recommended in chat: https://clackcokids.org/ Clackamas County Children’s Commission which provides Head Start programs. • Jennifer will also talk directly with Case Managers who are going into people’s homes and working directly with clients. This could be an opportunity for some of our staff working with clients to share experiences, as well. • Leota noted that Molalla has Town Hall meetings – 4 of them. It could be possible for cities to have a Town Hall and invite different groups where we could present, ask questions, and have surveys completed. Jennifer shared that for the purposes of the Area Plan the survey is closing soon; however, for special events like that we can still gather that data and incorporate it into our analysis. This could serve a double purpose – work with City Counsel ahead of time to inform them about what we’ve found out about poverty / hold a learning session first, then go into a Town Hall as a united front with city leaders. So both City leaders and CAB would be hearing from folks. Molalla would be a great place to pilot that. Leota will talk to the Mayor and try to get that on the agenda. • Joey suggested working with the Rental Assistance team. Many of those served by this program are right at 80% of AMI (area median income).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul added school Boards. Oregon City has a program to try to help interface between government, the school board, and people in need. R.E. added in chat that we could reach out to parents in Title I schools. Jennifer noted that several schools have resource centers. We could also reach out to the McKinney Vento homeless liaisons. • Leota asked whether low income people who own their home are beyond receiving assistance? When people have an asset, which could be worth \$75-100k even in an older mobile home. Brenda answered that generally most programs look at income, not assets. Joey added that if they have a lot of other income or money in a bank that comes up as a barrier but rent assistance can apply to a mobile home park <p>Jennifer asked: What kind of materials do we want to develop when we go out to these listening sessions? E.g. info on rent assistance. Are there high need areas where we have programming to address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam suggested a roadmap on how to navigate the programs. <p>Jennifer asked if you have other groups, please send her an email. She and Leota will work on getting the pilot planned and ready to go for Molalla.</p>
In Person Meeting Planning	Brenda would like to meet in person in June. CAB met in person in June and last September. Last June we met at the Clackamas Free Clinic. Let's all consider a community location where work related to poverty is happening where we could have a tour, have treats, and meet.
Member Updates	
Meeting Adjourned	Sonia moved to adjourn; Paul seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:54am.
Next Meeting:	May 1, 2024, 7:30am – 8:50am. Zoom: https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/j/83711142308