

**Michigan Commission on Community Action and
Economic Opportunity
Friday, August 16, 2019
Michigan Community Action**

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Commission Meeting Minutes

Members: Jill Edwards-Sutton (Chair), Fran Amos (phone), James Borchard, Joelle-Jude Fontaine, Matthew Purcell, Miguel Rodriguez, Robert Scolnik, Jessica Taylor, and Theresa Thompson
Staff: Paula Kaiser VanDam, Kris Schoenow, Janice Harvey, Melanie Sanford, September Ward, Frank Taylor

Guests: Susan Newhof, Erin Frisch, Rose Taphouse

I. Welcome and introductions

- Chair Edwards-Sutton called the meeting to order at 11:10 am and welcomed new commissioners
- Absent: Kelly Garrett, Luke Shaefer, LaTarro Traylor

II. Approval of May 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Chair Edwards-Sutton requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2019 MCCAEO meeting. Matt Purcell made the motion to approve the minutes; Miguel Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Erin Frisch, Senior Deputy Director of Opportunity, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Erin has Children Services and Economic Stability (Assistance, child support, county offices) with her area, Opportunity
- Outcomes – using tools of the department to alleviate poverty and providing family stability to move out of poverty
- Erin presented on the MDDHS strategic priorities: Getting things done, evidence, dignity, and inclusion.
- A priority will be giving kids a healthy start through maternal infant health, reducing lead exposure, reducing maltreatment, improving foster care
- Another priority will be serving the whole person: reducing opioid deaths, integrated service (behavioral health), food security, and housing
- MDHHS role will be a convener – focus on folks we are serving instead of programs
- Guiding principles: systematic change is necessary, cross enrollment to take advantage of all benefits
- MDHHS has partnered with Poverty Solutions in hosting recent focus group meetings at Community Action Agencies in Farwell, Detroit, and Marquette to discuss generational approach, benefits cliff, and work supports with those who are using services. Poverty Solutions will bring back recommendations to MDHHS from these focus group meetings.

- IV. Homelessness and Education – Rose Taphouse, Lansing School District Liaison and Ingham County McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinator (see presentation)
- V. BCAEO Update and Action Items – Kris Schoenow
- Over 300 people attended the summer Michigan Community Action/BCAEO Conference
 - Statewide database – FACSPRO will retire in 5 years – coalition will look at data system to move forward
 - BCAEO submitted a MEAP energy assistance grant proposal for \$16.3 million
 - CSBG funding – FY19 funding is \$26.2 million and is planning for same amount for FY20
 - BCAEO has set up a Share Point site for grantees with access to information needed
 - National performance indicator dashboards with outcomes and services; track targets to meet requirements
 - BCAEO has submitted their CSBG Annual Report and shared FY18 data from the report
 - Weatherization Assistance Program funding – FY19 is \$17.9 million
 - BCAEO is working with DTE for funding on a deferral pilot project for \$1.2 million to assist in weatherization
 - Expansion of services in Kalamazoo County – Community Action South Central became the intermediate provider in January 2019. Kalamazoo County transferred their CAA phone number to ensure a smooth transition. A public hearing was held on June 10, 2019 to collect information on the strengths and weaknesses existing at the agency during the change. Twelve participants made a public comment. Next steps include talking to MDHHS leadership and MCAEO Commission to make them permanent provider.
 - Status update for Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership – Settlement started in January 2016 and the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is to be completed by August 30, 2019. The settlement expires on October 30, 2019. QIP outlines improvements to be made at the agency. The agency has had many staff/leadership transitions over the past 18 months. BCAEO has participated in weekly face-to-face meetings to assist new executive director on meeting the tasks outlined in the QIP. There continue to be significant amount of outstanding findings and unresolved action steps in the QIP. During the last 18 months the agency has had a loss of grants, high staff turnover, and ransomware attack. Their financial systems are high-risk.
 - Next Steps – QIP ends August 30, meet with MDHHS Leadership, will make a decision whether to de-designate.
- VI. Public Comment
- Judge Greg Pittman (MOCAP Board Chair) and Arturo Puckerin (MOCAP Executive Director) spoke to commission on behalf of MOCAP. Judge Pittman shared:
 - Since the settlement agreement began, the entire board has vacated along with majority of staff so there is no institutional knowledge with the CAA.
 - QIP was absolutely needed as the agency never stopped serving clients but was off-track on priorities.
 - When starting the QIP, the board was fully engaged.
 - Of the \$234,000 repayment obligation, \$50,000 payment was immediately made to

show good faith.

- In November 2017, 51% of areas were clear in QIP; 81 areas of concerns to be addressed and 42 of the 81 were completed.
- Kris, Paula, and Melanie have been tremendous in helping get back on track with QIP.
- Not one day did MOCAP close their door to providing services.
- Ransomware hit and new leadership was brought in at the same time.
- We believe that if there is a belief that progress isn't being made, it is erroneous.
- MOCAP leadership meet weekly with Melanie face-to-face.
- When QIP areas have been submitted, BCAEO staff evaluates the areas and if they meet the needs of success. Helping MOCAP to understand what is needed has been successful.
- There are areas of the QIP that are complete.
- MOCAP feels that all areas will be met by the August 30 deadline.
- The MOCAP board has been working on a strategic plan, they will share a draft of the plan.
- In the course of the QIP by way of the settlement plan, it has been made clear to the MOCAP board that it lost its way, stopped providing services they should be providing and was chasing grant dollars. Mission became second as they were going after grant dollars.
- MOCAP will do their best to provide best service for programming currently provided.
- MOCAP needs to maintain strong internal controls.
- Arturo feels like the agency has benefitted from the transparency and feedback to the QIP that the weekly meetings with BCAEO has provided. The lack of progress/growth was due to interagency communication. Since we've been meeting, action steps have sped up.
- Despite issues with internal structures, client services has gone uninterrupted.
- Essential to use QIP to grow, serve clients better.
- Agency will be more proactive using a new marketing approach.
- Recognize that significant development has been made in last 6-7 weeks.
- Judge Pittman shared that there was a public hearing with comments from stakeholders and clients; stated that they are servicing clients.
- MOCAP would appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with BCAEO and to get the full picture of what is going on in Muskegon.
- Miguel Rodriguez commended the Judge for being supportive and the time he has spent.

VII. Commissioner Discussion / CSBG Consultation on MOCAP's CAA Status

- Commissioners had consultation around next steps for MOCAP. QIP ends August 30, 2019. A public hearing took place on August 12, 2019. BCAEO will meet with MDHHS leadership to consult with them on next steps on whether to de-designate them as a Community Action Agency.

VIII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.