

**Michigan Commission on Community Action and
Economic Opportunity
Thursday, June 16, 2022
9:00 am-3:00 pm
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency
1574 E. Washington Road, Farwell**

Commission Meeting Minutes

Members: Justin Hodge (Chair), Carolyn Bloodworth, Jill Edwards-Sutton, Shamayim Harris, Miguel Rodriguez, and Ashley Slack
Staff: Chong-Ana Canfora (MCA), Lew Roubal, Paula Kaiser VanDam, Kris Schoenow, Janice Harvey, Melanie Sanford, Mel Losey, Dustin Gilliam, Ray Judy, Maddy Kamalay, Lisa Ritter, Nyla Hughes

Guests: Susan Newhof, Brad Banks, Marlene Harrison, Claire Kessler, Aaron Kraft, Ed O'Neil, Eva Rohlman, Justin Walls, Bill Reder, Chad Hathcock, Mark Polega

Absent: Joelle-Jude Fountaine, Kelly Garrett, Tiffany Mayers, Theresa Thompson, Ravi Yalamanchi, Milinda Ysasi

- I. Welcome and introductions
 - Chair Edwards-Sutton called the meeting to order 9:07 am.
 - Tributes to Jill Edwards-Sutton for serving as the MCCAEO Chair; handing the chair position over to Justin Hodge
 - Roundtable introductions by in person attendees
- II. Approval of March 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes – There was not quorum so minutes were not approved. They will be approved at the September meeting.
- III. BCAEO Update and Action Items – Kris Schoenow
 - Kris shared a BCAEO update via hard copy packet and invited commissioners to review the packet and contact her if they had questions.
- IV. Weatherization Assistance Program Overview – Maddy Kamalay (BCAEO), Justin Walls – Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, and Aaron Kraft – Washtenaw County Office of Economic Development (see power point presentation for more information)
 - Weather Assistance Program (WAP) is for low-income households and increases energy efficiency of their homes
 - Federally the program supports 8,500 jobs
 - WAP program has provided energy assistance to 35,000 homes each year in the U.S.; 1,000-1,500 in Michigan
 - Through weatherization improvements and upgrades, these households save on average \$283 or more every year
 - WAP program provides measures for mechanical, health & safety, building shells, and electrical baseload

- WAP Expansion – increase of \$20 million for Michigan this program year
- Experiencing a stimulus through IJJA/BIL, will begin this summer/fall and run for 5+ years; Michigan will receive \$183 million.
- Barrier: SIR (Savings to Investment Ratio)
- LIHEAP funds may be braided with DOE WAP funds.
- Important for LIHEAP funds to outnumber DOE funds in the WAP.
- Michigan has a very low proportion of LIHEAP funds in our WAP compared to other states.
- An increased LIHEAP/supplemental funding proportion in the Michigan WAP is essential for a functioning program.
- LIHEAP in Michigan goes more towards utility assistance.
- Justin Hodge – what can we (MCCAEO) do? Take this issue to leadership at MDHHS and MCA. Jill mentioned that MCA Legislative Committee is working on the issue.
- Deferral Reduction efforts in Michigan were shared.

V. Weatherization Client Testimony – several clients shared their experience with the WAP program and how it helped them.

VI. Commission Discussion and Next Steps

- Building trust with clients
 - Shamayim – consistency, you’re in the neighborhood, provide programming, included in conversation
 - Commitment of time
 - WAP – consistency; inclusion through the outreach process
- Topics:
 - Access to water/wells (LIWAP)
 - Plumbing repairs
 - Brad Banks (LARA) – Great Lakes Water Authority
 - Connecting data (water) with utilities
 - Water arrearage – shouldn’t go to taxes/foreclosure for lack of payment
 - Wells/septic
 - Rising costs of building materials
 - Affordable housing in the state
 - Clients buying from the Land Bank; work done before Land Bank releases to home owner
 - Whole house – continuation of services not just weatherization
 - Maddy – Wayne Metro has a program regarding housing; WAP is final process in the program after other issues are addressed
 - Paula – Poverty Task Force FY22 Recommendations - #27 – Water Quality & Affordability
 - MSHDA Housing State Plan – roll out soon; have them present at next meeting?
 - Chong-Anna – MCA Legislative Committee is working on LIHEAP issue
 - Need to braid funding
 - MCA and other representatives with key stakeholders
 - LIHEAP structured
 - Home tax credit
 - WAP – smallest slice of pie

- Workgroup meeting in July to discuss weatherization long term; amount of people getting help
- LIHEAP Extension Bill
- Workforce (expansion)
 - Supplemental funding will help
 - Infrastructure funding will last 5 years
 - Hiring for positions (university/college)
 - Contractor stipends to receive training
 - Cohorts of trainings
 - Retrofit installers (6-week curriculum)
 - Energy Auditors (6 months to certify)
 - Working with EGLE – grant through infrastructure bill to fund cohort
 - Communication – training needed; pipeline with energy partners to get them into positions
 - Connect with high school students for training; career for those that don't go to college
 - Need a good crew leader

VII. Public Comments – None

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.