

**Michigan Commission on Community Action and  
Economic Opportunity  
Friday, September 30, 2022  
10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Capital Area Community Services  
1301 Rensen Street, Lansing**

**Commission Meeting Minutes**

Members: Justin Hodge (Chair), Katie Anderson, Carolyn Bloodworth, Dwan Dandridge, Tiffany Mayers, Ashley Slack and Milinda Ysasi  
Staff: Kris Schoenow, Janice Harvey

Guests: Susan Newhof, Brad Banks, Kim Trent

Absent: Jill Edwards-Sutton, Kelly Garrett, Shamayim Harris, Miguel Rodriguez, Ravi Yalamachi

- I. Welcome and introductions
  - Justin Hodge called the meeting to order 10:17 am.
  - Introductions of Commissioners and welcomed new commissioners Katie Anderson and Dwan Dandridge
  
- II. Approval of March 11, 2022 and June 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Chair Hodge asked for a motion to approve the March 11, 2022 meeting minutes. Carolyn Bloodworth made the motion to approve and Ashley Slack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Hodge asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Milinda Ysasi made the motion to approve and Carolyn Bloodworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- III. Presentation on the Poverty Task Force Recommendations – Kim Trent, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
  - Please see Kim Trent’s Power Point Presentation for full presentation.
  - The report addresses the social determinants of health
  - Areas of focus includes Income and Social Protection; Education; Unemployment and Job Insecurity; Food Insecurity; Housing, Basic Amenities and the Environment; Early Childhood Development; Social Inclusion and Nondiscrimination; Access to Affordable Health Services of Decent Quality
  - Task Force has identified 29 recommendations designed to help lift people out of poverty
  - Kim shared several references to the ALICE report. Commissioners have asked for a presentation from MAUW on the new ALICE report.
  
- IV. Presentation on the Energy Waste and Reduction – Brad Banks, Michigan Public Service Commission
  - Please see Brad Banks’ Power Point Presentation for full presentation.

- V. BCAEO Update and Action Items – Kris Schoenow
- Kris shared a written update on the BCAEO programs and gave a high-level overview of the programs and shared funding allocations for FY2023 for the programs. She shared that there are currently 40 staff members with an additional 11 weatherization staff to be hired due to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).
  - Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership (MOCAP) De-Designation: Kris shared that MOCAP has been de-designated as a Community Action Agency as of August 12, 2022. OCS concluded that BCAEO took appropriate actions with regards to MOCAP’s de-designation, in accordance with the CSBG Act, applicable regulations, and CSBG IM-116. F Services in Muskegon and Oceana counties have been provided by Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency.

VI. Commission Discussion and Next Steps

- Topics that Commissioners would like to explore
  - Financial Empowerment
  - Support Bank/Unbanked
  - Addressing predatory lending
  - Affordable housing crisis/Eviction Diversion
  - Support for foster kids coming out of system
  - Land banks (state and local)
  - Children’s Savings Account
  - Tri-share child care support (1/3 state/employer/employee)
  - Mental health
- Milinda shared that Grand Rapids is trying to establish a housing Land Bank (Kent County ended theirs)
- Housing – community land trusts are a great way to affordable housing
- Increasing LIHEAP will help with weatherization (15%)
- Susan Newhof shared that in recent community needs assessment from CAAs that housing was a big issue. Possibility of using large buildings that are now vacant due to working remote for affordable housing.
- Dwan shared there is a good program in Detroit that rehabilitated a school and it is fully occupied now.
- Tiffany shared a program in Flint – Glenn Wilson, Coolidge Park Elementary School that is a mixed-use building with affordable housing.

VII. Public Comments – None

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.