

**Michigan Commission on Community Action and
Economic Opportunity
Friday, September 11, 2020**

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – VIA ZOOM

Commission Meeting Minutes

Members: Jill Edwards-Sutton (Chair), Carolyn Bloodworth, Joelle-Jude Fontaine, Kelly Garrett, Tiffany Mayers, Matt Purcell, Miguel Rodriguez, Bob Scolnik, Luke Shaefer, and Melinda Ysasi
Staff: Kris Schoenow, Paula Kaiser VanDam, Janice Harvey, Melanie Sanford, Chong-Anna Canfora

Guests: Kim Trent, LARA, Governor’s Poverty Task Force
Josh Rivera, MDHHS
Katie Zierter, MDHHS

Absent: Jessica Taylor, Theresa Thompson

I. Welcome and introductions

- Due to COVID-19 all in person meetings were canceled per Governor’s order. Chair Edwards-Sutton called the meeting to order via Zoom at 1:05 pm

II. Approval of September 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Chair Edwards-Sutton requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2020 MCCAEO meeting. Miguel Rodriguez made the motion to approve the minutes; Kelly Garrett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Governor’s Poverty Task Force – Kim Trent

- Kim shared a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the Governor’s Poverty Task Force
- The taskforce is made up of 19 department directors; advisory council includes 3 legislators and 3 residents
- The goal of the task force is to reduce the ALICE rate to ensure Michigan families have access to the support they need
- Task Force workstreams are Safe and Secure, Strong Beginnings, Removing Barriers, and Providing Opportunity
- Next Steps: Issue groups will do analysis on Benefits, Criminal Justice, Economics, Education, Health and Family. Task Force will connect with external stakeholders to get their feedback. Task Force will present their recommendations to the Governor in December

IV. MDHHS Economic Stability Administration (ESA) – Policy Advisory Council – Josh Rivera, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Josh Rivera shared a PowerPoint Presentation on the ESA Policy Advisory Council
- The Policy Advisory Council goals include:
 - Offer a forum for program stakeholders to share their on-the-ground expertise

to gain insight into program operations, advise on policy direction and strategy, and support key initiatives through coordinated outreach and engagement.

- Ensure ongoing communication between ESA and program stakeholders and prevent, when possible, working in silos.
- Help ESA establish sound human services safety net.
- Josh shared the responsibilities of the Council and asked Commissioners to let him know if they were interested in serving on the Council and to share stakeholders that would benefit from discussions with ESA.

V. BCAEO Update and Action Items – Kris Schoenow

- Water Assistance
 - BCAEO received \$25 million in CRF funding to create a residential utility relief program to provide direct payment assistance for water assistance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
 - Funding will be available August 1 through December 31, 2020.
 - Data match process to identify the active food assistance recipient water customer with arrearages.
 - Funding will be sub-granted to CAAs
 - Customers will be allowed up to \$700 for water and \$700 for wastewater.
- CARES Funding
 - BCAEO received \$36 million in CARES funding and will work with CAA partners to distribute through CSBG funding; funding period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
 - CAA dedicated \$5.3 million for rental assistance.
 - Requested additional CRF funding - \$41.5 million
 - \$25 million for water assistance program
 - \$10 million for water repair and plumbing program
 - \$2.5 million for Q-CARES kits
 - \$3 million for emergency assistance program
 - \$1 million for migrant worker program
 - \$5 million for digital divide assistance program is still pending
 - Effective period: August 1 – December 30, 2020

VI. Public Comment - None

VII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm