

CAAB Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

Via Zoom

Meeting was called to order by Michelle Jefferson at 7:33pm.

Michelle Jefferson made the requisite motions establishing quorum, that each member's voice can be heard by other members, and that business conducted is necessary as required by FOIA regulations. All motions were seconded & carried.

In attendance: Melandee Jones-Canady/Lorton; Elethia/Reston; Michelle Jefferson/Fairfax County; Hari Kurup/Falls Church; Michael Mahrer/Falls Church; Michele Menapace/SE Fairfax; Ken McMillon/Providence; Gene Pettit/Falls Church; Whitney Richardson/Reston; Phil Rosenthal/Fairfax Station; Holly Seibold; Heather Thomas; Waleska Watkins; Alice Yan/Herndon; Isaac Orea Montero/Fairfax; Ben Zuhl/Dranesville; Adwoa Rey/Alexandria; Alicia Doe/Lorton; Jim Edwards-Hewitt/Fairfax; Debbie Kilpatrick
Absent: Cookie Hymer Blitz, Hawa Hassan, Morgan Jameson, Marcia McDevitt, Shari Zamarra, Willie Williams

Member Sharing: Ken McMillon has joined a manufactured housing board, anticipating engagement on affordable housing. Waleska updated status of replacement for Dipti Pidikiti-Smith. Michelle Jefferson will be inviting staff to provide update on 222 call status. Ken Rosenthal shared that he participated in firefighters' collection of backpacks for back to school.

John introduced Lloyd Tucker to provide an update on limited hours at the senior centers, as CAAB discussed last month. Today, the centers opened full hours except Pimmit Hills: 8a-4pm. Lloyd explained the rationale for service-hour limitations and offered additional information about the senior centers' operations, including vaccination status of center users; health & safety concerns; transportation & meal access; more.

Melandee Jones-Canady reviewed the recommendations put forward from the committee charged with considering ideas for the CAAB Vision, Mission and Strategies. During discussion the question of how the CAAB is defining poverty was raised. The strategic planning committee will review this issue in the second phase of its work. Motion to approve Vision, Mission, & Key Strategies by Michele Menapace was seconded. Motion carried with three nays.

John Ruthinoski, Michelle Brizzi and Vincenza Githens presented the CSBG FY 2021 4th quarter report. John Ruthinoski reported that Cornerstones' Kids and Parents Engage project appeared to have a very low percentage of students who improved their grades, but this was only because parents were very slow in getting copies of report cards to them. The percentage of students whose report cards they did receive was higher than their target outcome goal. Phil Rosenthal asked if NVFS ability to serve so many additional clients was due to other funding they received. Vincenza reported that it was not. He also asked about the large amount of funding that was allocated to the Early Learning Center for very few outcomes. Michele Brizzi responded that the narrative report still listed the original amount and that most of this funding had been transferred to the Stepping Stones program.

Michele Brizzi reported that the CCFP RFP had been released and that it contained two major changes this year. First, the RFP was split into two solicitations, one for Emergency Housing and Food proposals and one for all other proposals. Secondly, all proposals must be submitted electronically this year.

John Ruthinoski make several announcements: 1. New authorizing legislation for CSBG was introduced in Congress that proposes a number of changes. CAAB members may hear more about this in the future. 2. CAAB members will be receiving a survey seeking input on the Fairfax County Strategic Plan. 3. The "Stuff the Bus" food drive has returned and will begin on September 11th, CAAB members will receive details. 4. CAAB Members who have not completed the One Fairfax Policy acknowledgement should do so before the deadline.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM