



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:30pm
Meeting held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic
By ZOOM video/audio platform

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson, who proceeded with doing the member roll call.

Members in attendance with locations: Nermin AbdelWahab, Fairfax, VA; Matthew Bell, Alexandria, VA; April Hall, Reston, VA; Hawa Hassan, Fairfax, VA; Kevin Hickerson, Centreville, VA; Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz, Oak Hill, VA; Morgan Jameson, Fairfax, VA; Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax, VA; Maria Isabel Leiva Alfonso, Falls Church, VA; Ann Macpherson, Fairfax, VA; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church, VA; Marcia McDevitt, Reston, VA; Ken McMillon, Falls Church, VA; Michele Menapace, South East Fairfax, VA; Alex Rodriguez, Herndon, VA; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station, VA; Heather Thomas, Centreville, VA; Alice Yam, Herndon, VA; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax, VA; Benjamin Zuhl, Falls Church, VA

Members in attendance who joined after roll call: Alicia Doe

Absent: Jim Edwards-Hewitt; Mary Ann Floto; Caroline Hockenberry; Hari Kurup; Isaac Orea-Montero; Whitney Richardson

Guest(s): Shayna Bronson

The motion that all members present were able to be heard was made by Michelle Jefferson, seconded by Phil Rosenthal, and passed with no objections. The motion to allow CAAB business be done via an electronic meeting due to the COVID-19 emergency was made by Michele Jefferson, seconded by Phil Rosenthal, and was carried without objection.

Minutes – October 4, 2022

The motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Alex Rodriguez, seconded by Phil Rosenthal and was carried without objection.

CAAB Member Information Sharing

- Chair Michelle Jefferson mentioned that the County will be piloting a universal basic income project. More information will be shared with CAAB members once it is available. She also encouraged CAAB members to complete and share the survey put out by the Consolidated Community Funding Pool, which will help in identifying targeted community needs. Members stressed the importance of providing feedback and ensuring that the survey is disseminated to people who have direct experience in dealing with service gaps. The survey link was shared with CAAB members via email ([Community Feedback Survey on Funding Categories for the CCFP FY 25-26 Cycle \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)). The survey closes on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.
- Michael Mahrer shared that the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is now called the English Empowerment Center.
- Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz indicated that there may be a rent stabilization bill introduced in the 2023 General Assembly session. She will provide more information to CAAB members as it becomes available.
- Patricia Arriaza shared that the Fairfax County Delegation will hold a public hearing on Saturday, January 7th. CAAB members will have an opportunity to provide testimony in support of the issues laid out in the Board of Supervisors Legislative Agenda and the Human Services Council Issue paper. More information will be shared via email and a discussion will be had at the January CAAB meeting.

Fairfax County 2022 Needs Assessment

Patricia shared information from the County’s 2022 Needs Assessment Storymap. The County’s Needs Assessment is comprised of three parts – economics, health, and transportation. While the results of the full assessment are not yet available, the County decided to publish the Economic Factors report, which can help stakeholders address emerging community needs.

Highlights from the Needs Assessment 2022 include:

- Steep inflationary increases on the costs of goods and services (i.e., food, healthcare and housing)
- Costs for transportation, food, health care, housing and tuition/child care all saw steep increases between 2021 and 2022
- Lower income households are spending more, particularly in the areas of health care and housing
- Food insecurity affects some areas of the county more than others (specific census tracts with greater need are identified)
- Lack of English language proficiency limits workforce competitiveness in working age residents

There was a concern that the literacy data did not accurately reflect the number of people served by programs funded by the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. CAAB staff will follow up with the Department of Budget and Management. Inviting someone from the Department of Budget and Management data analytics unit who can speak with the CAAB about the needs assessment process and respond to specific questions about the results will be planned for a future CAAB meeting.

The Economic Factors report can be accessed on the County website at [Needs Assessment 2022 \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

Membership and Elections

The CAAB elections for officers will be held in February – the current officers will be put forth to continue for a new term. The Head Start representative is still pending; because of time commitments, the Head Start slot may be filled by two people. The Black Chamber of Commerce has indicated that they will be nominating someone. Current membership continues to be 27 - there are 2 regional representatives to fill (one of them is the Head Start slot) and the remaining slot is in the private provider sector.

CAAB Strategic Planning

Ms. Jefferson emphasized the importance of keeping the vision and mission of the CAAB front and center. The new vision and mission were developed in 2020, with the CAAB working to ensure that the new language was accessible for community members and populations served. As a result of its strategic planning efforts, the CAAB recommended that it be moved from the Department of Family Services to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Ms. Jefferson shared that Neighborhood and Community Services is going through a realignment and making changes. The CAAB executive committee will meet with NCS leadership to discuss how the realignment aligns with the work of the CAAB. More information will be shared in the February CAAB meeting.

1st Quarter FY23 CSBG Program Progress Reports

Patricia Arriaza walked CAAB members through the 1st quarter FY23 quarter CSBG program outcomes and narrative reports. Staff from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management (DPMM) - Vanessa Calderon and Vincenza Githens - were also present to answer questions from CAAB members. Based on the review of the reports, the following items will be followed up on by contracts staff:

- Several programs indicated they are experiencing challenges in recruitment and staffing – programs will be asked to provide more detail into the challenges they are experiencing.
- Artemis Hore reported no clients met the performance outcome in this quarter.
- Kids and Parents Engage indicated they were not able to expand their program because they were unable to meet the Fairfax County Public Schools background check requirements. Contracts staff will follow up to understand how the FCPS background check requirements differ from the background checks that the program does for its employees.

Responses to the above questions will be presented to the CAAB at the January meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.