



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

Memorandum

To: CAAB Members
From: Michelle Jefferson, Chair
Date: April 27, 2023

Subject: CAAB Meeting – May 2, 2023

The next CAAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:30pm in Rooms 9 & 10 in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 220035

Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs Overview

Kenneth Saunders, director of OHREP will present an overview of the agency's activities.

Office of Economic Opportunities, VA Department of Social Services

Matt Fitzgerald, program manager, Office of Economic Opportunities will join the CAAB to discuss the Office's priorities for the coming year. The Office of Economic Opportunities at VDSS provides guidance and support to the County for its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) work. OEO is also the office which monitors the County's compliance with the CSBG program and contract requirements.

CAAB Member Sharing

As a reminder, Member Sharing was established for CAAB members to report the "word on the street" - issues that affect the low-income community about which the CAAB should be aware; ten (10) minutes are allocated to this agenda item.

Membership and Election Committee Report

An update on the actions taken to fill vacancies will be given. The application for a new regional representative (Sandra Barksdale) will be presented to the CAAB.

Attachments:

May 2023 Meeting Agenda
April 2023 Meeting Minutes
OHREP Presentation Slides



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings of the FCRHA will be held at the
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 9 and 10
(12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22030)
on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, July 20, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7 p.m.



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Conference Rooms 9 & 10
May 2, 2023
7:30 PM

AGENDA

TIME	ISSUE	INFO/ACTION	PRESENTER
7:30 PM	Call to Order		Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Approval of Minutes	Action	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs	Info	Kenneth Saunders, Director
	Upcoming Priorities for Office of Economic Opportunity, VA Dept. of Social Services	Info	Matt Fitzgerald, Program Manager Office of Economic Opportunity
	Member Sharing	Info	CAAB Members
	Membership and Elections Report/New Board Member Appointment	Action	Shari Zamarra, Membership & Elections Committee Chair
	July Meeting	Action	CAAB Members
9:30 PM	Adjourn		

Next CAAB Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
7:30 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 7:30pm
Fairfax County Government Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson.

Members in attendance: Nermin AbdelWahab; Ken McMillon; Heather Thomas; Caroline Hockenberry; Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz; Michelle Jefferson; Maria Leiva; April Hall; Kevin Hickerson; Morgan Jameson; Michael Mahrer; Marcia McDevitt; Michele Menapace; Phil Rosenthal; Alice Yam; Shari Zamarra; Benjamin Zuhl

Absent: Alicia Doe; Alex Rodriguez; Matthew Bell; Mary Ann Floto; Jim Edwards-Hewitt; Ann Macpherson; Whitney Richardson; Alice Yam

Guest(s): Mark Buenavista, Director, Design, Development, and Construction Division; Vin Rogers, Director, Policy and Compliance Division

Minutes – March 7, 2023

It was noted that Shari Zamarra’s last name was misspelled under the Membership and Elections Committee section. The motion to approve the meeting minutes with the noted correction was made by Michele Menapace, seconded by Ben Zuhl and was carried without objection.

Department of Housing and Community Development Overview

Mark Buenavista and Vin Rogers from the Department of Health and Community Development gave an overview of the department’s activities (see presentation slides). DHCD also serves as administrative staff for the housing authority. DCHD staff shared that the Housing Choice Voucher has a wait list and is currently closed. The CAAB and others in the community are able to advocate for policy changes to the Housing Authority by attending the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority meetings which are held on a monthly basis. Any proposed changes would have to be done through amendments to the Housing Authority’s Administrative Plan.

CAAB Member Information Sharing

- Michele Menapace – Human Services Council presented budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Alcorn asked how to get feedback related to nonprofits and the challenges they are facing. The Board of Supervisors was informed that the CSBG funded programs submit quarterly reports in which they detail the challenges they are experiencing – the reports are a good source of information to understand the needs of vendors in the community. CCFAC is having a public comment period on at its April 11 meeting, as well as NOVI (Northern Virginia Idea Exchange).
- Marcia McDevitt – Alliance for Human Services has been meeting with members of the Board of Supervisors. The alliance is taking budgetary positions, including county staff salaries and nonprofit salaries. Recruitment and retention of staff is a problem that county agencies and non-profits in the community are experiencing.
- Ben Zuhl – Inside Scoop had the manager for field operations for the national low income coalition, as well as John Foust.
- Morgan Jameson – World Pride 2025 is coming in June; expecting 3-5M people.
- Ken McMillon shared that the Pan Am shopping Center is being redeveloped into affordable housing.
- Nermine AbdelWahab shared that she is leaving Legal Services of Northern Virginia.
- Michelle Jefferson shared that she, Nermin and Heather attended an engagement session on fair housing hosted by the Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHREP). OHREP has been invited to present to the CAAB at a future meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
OFFICE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS & EQUITY
PROGRAMS**



Director Kenneth Saunders



<https://youtu.be/QHPcxxMRSgl>

OHREP'S MISSION

- Individual complaint investigations
- Fair Housing education and outreach
- Fair Housing Testing
- Enforcement of Fair Housing Laws



SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY

- The OHREP is designated as Fair Housing Assistance Programs (FHAPs)
- Enforcement powers substantially equivalent to HUD

THE OHREP ENFORCES

- The Federal Fair Housing Act
- The Virginia Fair Housing Law
- The Fairfax County Human Rights Ordinance

WHO IS PROTECTED

FEDERALLY PROTECTED

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Familial Status

FAIRFAX COUNTY

- Elderliness (55+)
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Military Status
- Source of Funds

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIONS DOES OHREP ENFORCE?



REFUSAL TO RENT OR SELL

Refusal to negotiate or otherwise deny a dwelling



DIFFERENT TERMS/SERVICES

Providing different terms services or facilities



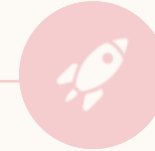
REFUSAL OF ACCOMMODATION MODIFICATION

Providing different services or facilities



STEERING

Steering to a segregated neighborhood



DISCRIMINATORY ADVERTISING

Includes statements made in connection with advertising

ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

A 5-year plan prepared by 3rd party contractor providing goals and strategies to affirmatively further fair housing

- **2016-2020:** A Fairfax County-specific plan was prepared
- **Currently:** A multi-jurisdictional Regional Plan is in final review; which includes:
 - 7 Regional Goals
 - Additional local Fairfax County-specific goals
 - Review of progress on Fairfax's 2016-2020 plan

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In March, the OHREP facilitated two community listening sessions for feedback on the proposed eight Fairfax-specific goals

PROPOSED OHREP GOALS

- Increase community awareness of Fair Housing rights by developing and providing new Fair Housing training and outreach activities.
- Enforce the Fairfax County Human Rights Ordinance through testing-initiated complaints that identify areas of concern.
- Increase the accessibility of fair housing services for individuals with disabilities and for whom English is not their first language.

OHREP'S PROGRESS TOWARD PAST GOALS

Outreach on Housing Choice:

- “My Neighborhood” and “Predatory Lending” video campaigns
- Bus transit campaign (including Spanish language advertisements)
- 250,000 mobile-message campaign to zip codes of predominantly African American and Latino communities

OHREP'S PROGRESS TOWARD PAST GOALS

Fair Housing Testing:

- 122 tests between June 2019-March 2021
- March 2022 published testing report
- Testing currently ongoing

OHREP'S PROGRESS TOWARD PAST GOALS

Outreach to Real Estate Professionals

- Fair Housing Task Force
- NVAR
- Promotion of diversity materials

OHREP'S PROGRESS TOWARD PAST GOALS

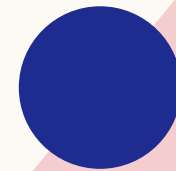
Outreach to Individuals with Disabilities

- Reasonable Accommodations the focus of 2022 Fair Housing month webinar
- Disability ToolKit widely available and actively dispersed publicly

OHREP'S PROGRESS TOWARD PAST GOALS

Website Useability

- All tasks related to increasing the searchability of “housing discrimination” have been accomplished



CONTACT

Kenneth Saunders, Director

Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights/housing-discrimination