

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting – February 17, 2022

PRESENT:

Karen Bargy (remote)
Marna Robertson (remote)
Art Jeannot (remote)
Grace Ronkaitis (remote)
Shirley Roloff (remote)
Larry Levengood (remote)
Rev. Gerald Cook (remote)
David White (remote)
Lindsey Walker (remote)
Anthony Ansorge (remote)
Brandy Keeney (remote)
Truman Bicum
Gwenne Allgaier
Sam Getsinger (remote)
Pam Niebrzydowski (remote)
Marc Milburn (remote)
Chuck Corwin (remote)
Phillip Haner (remote)

ABSENT:

Tonya Schroka (E)
Bryce Hundley
Debbie Bishop (E)
Peachy Rentenbach (E)
Jeff Miller
Ralph Stephan (E)
Judy Nichols (E)
Bethany Parent

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 P.M. by Vice-Chairperson Rev. Gerald Cook. Roll call was taken, and a quorum established.

Motion by David White, supported by Phillip Haner to suspend the rules of the NMCAA by-laws requiring the meeting Chairperson be present at Board meetings, for this meeting only. Motion carried.

AGENDA

Jerry Cook requested approval for the meeting Agenda.

Motion by Marna Robertson, supported by Pam Niebrzydowski, that the meeting agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 20, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors were presented for Board action.

Motion by Larry Levengood, supported by Marna Robertson, that the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Board of Director meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deb Ballard has resigned from her Board of Director position as Private Sector Representative for Missaukee County.

Kat Byers, current Head Start Policy Chairperson, was presented for election to the NMCAA Board of Directors. Kat has been a member of Policy Council for three years and has a child in kindergarten and twins in Head Start. She is attending school for a Human Services degree.

Motion by Brandy Keeney, supported by Grace Ronkaitis, to approve Kat Byers as a private sector representative for the Central Region, representing the Head Start Policy Council. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

POLICY COUNCIL REPORT

Kat Byers, Policy Council Chairperson, presented the Policy Council minutes from the meeting held on February 10, 2022.

Motion by Phillip Haner, supported by Brandy Keeney, that the Policy Council minutes from February 10, 2022, be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Kerry Baughman, Executive Director, explained that the Head Start Policy Council group works with the NMCAA Board of Directors to make decisions regarding the Head Start program. Policy Council promotes family involvement and offers strategic direction for the program.

The Head Start Non-Federal Match (NRM) tracking by dollars was shared with the Board. The federal government is committed to covering 80% of the actual costs of Head Start program services. It is expected that local communities raise the other 20%.

Upcoming monitoring reviews include: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) – March 15, 2022, Head Start Focus Area 2 – week of March 13, 2022, Bureau of Community Action – starting March 25, 2022, and NeighborWorks – week of May 30, 2022.

Invitation to attend the NMCAA Head Start Policy Council Meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Staff will review and prepare Policy Council members and interested Board members for the Head Start Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review.

Motion by Gwenne Allgaier, supported by Pam Niebrzydowski, to accept the Executive Director's report as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Meredith Gafill, Controller, presented the Agency Financial Statements including the NMCAA Grant Summary, Fiscal Activity, Revenue & Expenses, and NMCAA Balance Sheet and bank statements for January 2022. There will be a 20-minute training session before the March Board meeting for in-depth review of the NMCAA Grant Summary Document.

Motion by Brandy Keeney, supported by Lindsey Walker, to approve the Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP) SOLAR EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

Kris Brady, Community Services Director, explained that NMCAA has submitted a concept paper entitled "Expanding Access to Solar Energy and Green Technologies in Rural Northern Michigan" to respond to the 'Single Family and Manufactured Housing' topic area. After the concept paper is reviewed, NMCAA will receive an 'Encourage/Discourage' to submit a full application for funding. If selected, the funding request will be for \$1,319,625.

The Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO) will be awarding \$1.5 million in total grant funds to provide water & plumbing repair assistance for a New Healthy Home Pilot Program, Social Determinates of Health (SDOH). Up to 3 grants will be selected with each up to \$499,000.

Motion by Lindsey Walker, supported by Kat Byers, to accept the Social Determinates of Health application as presented. Motion carried.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF) 2022-2023 APPLICATION

Sarah Hughes, Homeless Prevention COC Program Manager, presented the renewal of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant for 2022-2023. The grant will begin after October 1, 2022. The grant amount totals \$693,015.

Motion by Karen Bargy, supported by Marna Robertson, to approve the SSVF grant application as presented. Motion carried.
Grace Ronkaitis abstained from voting (conflict of interest).

NMCAA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The recently completed Community Needs Assessment (CNA), identifies the need to support seniors (people aged 65 or older) in our service area. The need is highest for dedicated affordable housing, transportation, and services for personal care, cleaning, shopping, etc. Technology availability is also an issue for seniors. These areas will be of focus when addressing future opportunities for funding and collaborating with community partners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Brandy Keeney announced that the Governance Committee met earlier today. The Committee recommends a revision to the NMCAA By-Laws Article IX, Section K that would strike the language "in-person" where it exists, allowing the Director serving as Chair to do so remotely.

Motion by Grace Ronkaitis, supported by Pam Niebrzydowski, to accept the NMCAA By-Law revision as presented. Rollcall vote was requested.
Ayes (6): Gwenne Allgaier, Jerry Cook, Brandy Keeney, Pam Niebrzydowski, Grace Ronkaitis, Lindsey Walker
Nays (9): Karen Bargy, Chuck Corwin, Art Jeanott, Philp Haner, Larry Levengood, Marc Milburn, Marna Robertson, Shirley Roloff, David White
Motion Denied

Discussion continued and Governance Committee will consult counsel for bylaw review.

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OTHER BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

H.R. 5129 Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act 2021
House Education and Labor Committee

Key Points

- Reauthorizes CSBG Act for 10 years
- Authorizes \$1 billion per year for the first five years
- Permanently requires all states to adopt 200% of poverty income eligibility
- Authorizes Broadband Navigation Projects
- Aligns voter registration provisions with Head Start
- Strengthens tripartite boards

Continuing Resolution (CR), which is funding the government at FY2021 levels,
expires February 18, 2022.

Super Saturday Success! February 12,2022

- Tax Prep
- Food Boxes
- COVID Tests
- Diapers
- Lunch and more

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned
at 2:15 P.M.

Next meeting will be:

March 17, 2022, 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Grace Ronkaitis, Secretary

Betsy Rees, Recording Secretary