

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

**PRESENT:**

Karen Bargy (remote)  
Grace Ronkaitis (remote)  
Shirley Roloff (remote)  
Rev. Gerald Cook  
Lindsey Walker (remote)  
Anthony Ansong  
Brandy Keeney (remote)  
Truman Bicum  
Kat Byers  
Debbie Bishop  
Peachy Rentenbach (remote)  
Sam Getsinger  
Pam Niebrzydowski  
Marc Milburn  
Chuck Corwin  
Judy Nichols (remote)

**ABSENT:**

Marna Robertson  
Art Jeannot (E)  
Tonya Schroka (E)  
Larry Levensgood (E)  
David White  
Bryce Hundley  
Gwenne Allgaier (E)  
Jeff Miller  
Ralph Stephan  
Bethany Parent

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 P.M. by Vice-Chairperson Rev. Gerald Cook. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not established.

**AGENDA**

Jerry Cook asked if there were any additions to the meeting Agenda.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Any changes to the February 17, 2022 minutes can be emailed to Kerry Baughman, Executive Director.

**MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**POLICY COUNCIL REPORT**

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Kerry Baughman, Executive Director, announced that NMCAA has been selected to receive CSBG – Discretionary funding for 2022. A mini-grant award of \$10,000 will support the tax preparation program and second \$50,000 award will help low-income customers with asset building among two generations within their household.

The Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO) has reviewed the proposals for the Social Determinants of Health Water and Plumbing Repair pilot funding. NMCAA was one of three organizations selected and will be receiving this funding to improve the health of low-income households in our communities.

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The extensive Head Start Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review Schedule for the week of March 14<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. While the experience of the week was very positive, the final monitoring report will be shared when received. Special thanks to Policy Council and Board members for their participation in the review.

Lack of childcare is the #1 reported barrier to work according to the 2021 NMCAA Community Needs Assessment. Data regarding gaps in the availability of early childhood education indicates that 22% of parents and caregivers with young children (0-5) report needing child-care or preschool for one of more children. NMCAA is engaged in a number of high-level efforts to address the childcare shortage, particularly the issue of recruitment and retention of childcare workers.

The first NMCAA Donor Newsletter has gone out! The newsletter was distributed to donors, highlighting accomplishments of NMCAA and thanking them for support and contributions.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Meredith Gafill, Controller, presented the Agency Financial Statements including the NMCAA Grant Summary, Fiscal Activity, Revenue & Expenses, and NMCAA Balance Sheet.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Tony Anson reported that the Governance Committee met earlier today to review proposed changes to the NMCAA By-Laws related to Open Meetings Act (OMA) compliance. Attorney Rebecca Millican, of Olson, Bzdok & Howard, joined both the committee and the Board meeting to review and discuss proposed revisions. The committee decided to continue to work on the verbiage for the by-laws and review additional changes next month. The committee also reviewed the Board Self-Assessment and identified the top three focus areas: Fund Development, Board Orientation and Training, and Communication & Outreach.

#### **SENIOR NUTRITION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

The Senior Nutrition Investment Committee met earlier and reports that the balance of the fund as of February 28, 2022, is \$317,262. This reflects a decrease of 4.81% for 2022. There are no recommended changes.

#### **INCOME & ELIGIBILITY TRAINING FOR HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START**

Alicia Temple, ERSEA Manager, presented the Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) training. Head Start requires training for all governing bodies, Policy Council, management, and staff who determine eligibility on applicable federal regulations and program policies and procedures. The training included: Definition of the Programs, Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibility Requirements, 2022 Child Development Poverty Income Guidelines, and Enrollment Priority Criteria. The NMCAA policy for disciplinary actions resulting from document falsification was reviewed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

FY 2022 omnibus bill \$1.5 trillion

- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding at \$755 million, an increase of \$10 million, and *includes the provision allowing for eligibility to be 200% of FPL.*
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding at \$334 million which includes \$313 million for the core program, \$6 million for training and technical assistance and \$15 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund.

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- Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding at \$3.8 billion, an increase of \$50 million.
- Head Start funding at \$11 billion, an increase of \$289 million.

**Upcoming Events**

- Michigan Community Action (the statewide network) will be recognizing Community Action Volunteers, Clients, and Legislator of the Year at our annual event at 1:00 PM ET on Thursday, May 19, 2022, in the Capitol Rotunda.

- Save the Date!

July 26 – 28, 2022

**Boyne Mountain Resort**

***Community Action, Community Care:  
Perseverance, Innovation, and Transformation***

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 P.M.

Next meeting will be: April 21, 2022, 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Grace Ronkaitis, Secretary

Betsy Rees, Recording Secretary