

St. Clair County Community Action Agency

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, August 13, 2021

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Call

BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Floyd, Dennis Korte, Barbara Cempura, Dorothy Meyer, Vanessa Chapman, Mary Miller, Tracy Williams

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Margaret Simmons, Eugene Verdu, Gerard Hasenstab, Dr. Dr. Sulbrena Day, Norman Geolat, Mercedes Collado, Terry Beach, Toni Muhammad

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: None

ALTERNATES: None

STAFF: Rick Stubblefield, Jennifer Little, Jennifer Johnson, Nancy Wilson, Lial Field

QUORUM: No

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Janice Floyd.

Rick Stubblefield took roll call.

Rick Stubblefield asked in the event there are items that require signature if passed: "Do we have your authorization to sign your name electronically on items that are approved?"

Response:

Janice Floyd – yes
Dennis Korte – yes
Barbara Cempura – yes
Dorothy Meyer – yes
Vanessa Chapman – yes
Mary Miller – yes
Tracy Williams – yes

Ms. Floyd asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no public comments.

Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken on the June 11, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes.

FISCAL REPORT

Jennifer Johnson presented the Fiscal Report. Rick Stubblefield noted Ms. Johnson has been working on closeouts and grant applications in addition to monitoring.

There were no comments or questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. LIHEAP/PIPP REPORT

Rick Stubblefield stated in Tracey Hall's absence, he would include additional LIHEAP updates in his Executive Director's report.

There were no comments or questions.

B. WEATHERIZATION REPORT

Lial Field presented the Weatherization report. He stated 88 homes were completed in PY2021; 5 new jobs are with the contractor; 3 additional jobs are ready to go; staff are working on 2 additional jobs in the office. Mr. Field stated Weatherization is looking to hire an additional Energy Auditor; the vacancy is posted on the County website. Rick Stubblefield added the program is looking to hire someone quickly as the next series of trainings start early fall. Lial Field noted the state training takes one year; BPI takes an additional six months; in total it takes approximately a year and a half to become fully certified.

There were no comments or questions.

C. CSBG REPORT

Nancy Wilson presented the CSBG report. She noted four scholarship applications have been approved; recipients are each receiving a \$1250 award. Mrs. Wilson has received the required paperwork back for two; the paperwork is being forwarded to fiscal for payout. She stated one is submitting their paperwork in the coming week and the fourth has not yet responded. Scholarship recipients attend Illinois State, SIUE, North Carolina A&T, and the University of Phoenix. Mrs. Wilson stated two subgrantees expended all 2021 funds and have requested additional funds if available. She also noted the annual report was included in member's packets for both CSBG and CARES Act funding.

There were no comments or questions.

Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken on the Program Reports.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Rick Stubblefield stated the LIHEAP Program will open September 1st. The program will be a ten-month program this year. He noted the Percentage of Income Payment Plan, PIPP, will run from September 1st through March 31st or until funds are exhausted; the Furnace program will run from September 1st through April 30th or until funds are exhausted. Mr. Stubblefield stated customers may request paper applications by phone; if anyone would like application information, he asked they email Tracey Hall. He noted paper applications will also be available for pickup in the lobby. An application that can be completed online is being explored. Mr. Stubblefield stated Ms. Hall is going to work with General Assistance offices, townships, and municipalities to assist their residents with completing the applications. He noted Community Lifeline in East St. Louis is very interested in partnering with LIHEAP.

Mr. Stubblefield stated CSBG monitoring is scheduled for the end of September. He does not anticipate any issues but noted it will be interesting due to CARES act funding, program expansion, and eligibility changes. He expressed how those funds will be monitored is unknown.

Mr. Stubblefield state the Low Income Water Assistance Program, LIWAP, is expected to start sometime in the fall; the grant application is due August 20th. The program will run parallel with LIHEAP; eligibility will be the same for both programs. Mr. Stubblefield stated it is not a special grant like CARES but an on-going grant like LIHEAP and CS. He explained customers can apply once for water and once for wastewater during the grant period; the combined assistance is capped at \$1500. Assistance can be used for disconnection or reconnection; it can be used for fees; assistance can be provided for current bills in disconnection status or for arrears and past due balances. Mr. Stubblefield stated applicants must have a minimum \$250 in arrears to receive benefits.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the IHDA Rental Payment Program is currently in the CURES process for landlord applications. There are approximately 1,000 applications in the CURES process. Applications in CURES are missing documentation or did not submit proper documentation; it could be on the landlord or tenant side. Mr. Stubblefield stated just under \$5 million has been distributed to St. Clair County landlords to date; an additional \$12 million is in the CURE process. The tenant applications represent an additional \$6 million in requests; those applications are expected to move forward in the next month. He added IHDA is looking to start a mortgage assistance program in the fall in addition to a second round of rental assistance. Mr. Stubblefield stated he will be working with banks and lenders to make them aware the program is coming.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the CAA is going to be a major sponsor for the "Love a Senior Day" on October 8th at the Belleville Fairgrounds. The event is being hosted by the Uncle Gene Foundation, Gene Verdu's Foundation. LIHEAP, CSBG, and Weatherization will all participate. Application assistance will be provided at the event.

Barbara Cempura asked when the water application was due. Mr. Stubblefield responded August 20th and clarified that is the due date for IGD to submit the grant application to the state. Mr. Stubblefield stated he anticipates St. Clair County will receive just under \$1 million for the water program.

There were no further questions or comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday October 8, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Janice Floyd adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.