

St. Clair County Community Action Agency

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, June 11, 2021

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Call

BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Floyd, Dennis Korte, Barbara Cempura, Mary Miller, Tracy Williams, Mercedes Collado, Toni Muhammad, Terry Beach

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Margaret Simmons, Eugene Verdu, Gerard Hasenstab, Dr. Dr. Sulbrena Day, Dorothy Meyer, Norman Geolat, Vanessa Chapman

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: None

ALTERNATES: None

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

QUORUM: Yes

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Margaret Simmons.

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
Mary Miller – yes
Tracy Williams – yes
Mercedes Collado – yes
Toni Muhammad – yes
Terry Beach – yes

Mrs. Simmons asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no public comments.

A motion was called to approve the CAA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2021. A motion was made and seconded (Barbara Cempura/Toni Muhammad). Motion carried.

FISCAL REPORT

Jennifer Johnson presented the Fiscal Report. She noted the LIHEAP HHS and State grants will close at the end of the month as well as the Weatherization DOE grant. Ms. Johnson stated there is a pending modification for approximately \$392,000 for the CSBG grant; that includes rollover funds from last year, the additional allocation for 2021, and an additional budget of \$30,000 for an operational improvement project.

There were no comments or questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. LIHEAP/PIPP REPORT

Tracey Hall presented the LIHEAP report. She stated the LIHEAP program closed May 31st. Ms. Hall stated the program year started on July 27, 2020 and was the longest program year IGD has had to date. Ms. Hall noted more than \$7,000,000 was spent on direct client assistance for the PIPP, Furnace, and LIHEAP programs. 8,844 payments were made to customers in the LIHEAP program; there are currently 662 participants in the PIPP program. The program is expected to reopen early September. Ms. Hall anticipates increased funding for next program year.

There were no comments or questions.

B. WEATHERIZATION REPORT

Lial Field presented the Weatherization report. He stated 70 houses have been completed to date; contractors are currently working on 14 homes; 8 homes are ready to be finalized. Mr. Field stated the State DOE monitor was here last week; the DOE grant ends June 30th.

There were no comments or questions.

C. CSBG REPORT

Nancy Wilson presented the CSBG report. She noted staff continue to process applications as quickly as they can while focusing on maintaining program integrity. Mrs. Wilson stated 2 scholarship applications have been received to date; she is hoping to receive more as several application packets have been mailed out over the

past few months. Mrs. Wilson continues to work on the Organizational Standards monitoring; it is due June 30th.

There were no comments or questions.

A motion was called to approve the reports as presented. A motion was made and seconded (Dennis Korte/Mary Miller) Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Rick Stubblefield informed members of the county-wide computer issue and noted the IT department has done a fantastic job of ensuring everything remained secure. IT is working to bring county systems back online. He stated IGD was without the MIP system which is the department's accounting system; it is back up and all bills have been paid.

Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD is working with a partnering entity to make the homeless hotline available 24 hours a day and ensuring a live person will be available to take calls.

Mr. Stubblefield noted Lial Field was with the State Weatherization monitor last week; he noted the Weatherization group has done a great job and there were no major concerns in the exit interview.

Mr. Stubblefield reminded members IGD partnered with IHDA on a Department of Treasury-funded rental assistance program. He explained IHDA had the existing staff, infrastructure, and experience to administer the program as they have run similar programs in the past. Mr. Stubblefield has been monitoring the numbers; as of last Friday, St. Clair County was the 4th highest served county in the state behind Cook, Dupage, and Will counties. Behind the 3 Chicago-area counties, St. Clair County had the highest number of submitted and completed applications. Applications were initiated by the landlord and then completed by the tenant. Mr. Stubblefield stated St. Clair County was initially allocated \$7.7 million; by partnering with IHDA, applications submitted totaled approximately \$19 million, applications completed totaled just over \$11 million. The program can provide up to 12 months of arrearage and 3 months rent going forward, with a cap of \$25,000 in assistance.

Mr. Stubblefield stated there are conversations at the state level concerning the LIHEAP program closing the end of May based on the need that remains due to the pandemic and the amount of funds that remain for assistance. The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, IACAA, is petitioning the legislature and the state to change LIHEAP to a 12-month program. They are hoping for at least 11 months. Mr. Stubblefield noted there are indications that will become a reality. He also stated there is likely to be a water

program that works similar to the LIHEAP program in the near future; it will work parallel to the LIHEAP program and will likely be administered out of IGD at the direction of DCEO.

Janice Floyd asked if funds would be available to assist with air conditioners this year. Mr. Stubblefield responded he was unsure; he has not been given any direction there will be funds for air conditioners. Tracey Hall added LIHEAP has never had a program for air conditioners and noted that has been an Ameren initiative in the past.

There were no further questions or comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday August 13, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Margaret Simmons entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded (Dennis Korte/Tracy Williams) for adjournment. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.