



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, June 11, 2020

6:30 PM

Electronic Meeting

Please use the link below to join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/91975125449?pwd=cnpCWnZLWmtiSFIIUmxsL2dZR3INUT09>

Or give public comment via phone, 888 788 0099 Enter Meeting ID: 91975125449

I CALL TO ORDER

II INTRODUCTIONS

III PUBLIC COMMENT

n/a

IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved as presented

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board Minutes, May 14, 2020

Approved by the Board and forwarded to the City Council

VI BUSINESS/UPDATE

a CARES Act Funding Update (Teresa Gillotti)

T. Gillotti: The Federal CARES act provides funding to support housing, human services and low-income residents through federal and state formula allocation grants that flow there the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED).

We receive two large sources of funding: the Community

Development Block Grant – COVID (CDBG-CV) and Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID (ESG-CV)

The funding from CDBG-CV is \$1,267,964 and is used for rent/mortgage/utility assistance to low-moderate income residents, expanding shelter related to COVID, and administration. We may receive another round of funding, but that is unconfirmed for now. The funding from ESG-CV is \$643,403 and is used for shelter expansion, diversion and eviction prevention, rapid rehousing, housing support services, and administration. We received a second round of funding for \$1.7 million, but that could change. We want to wait and coordinate funding so money goes a longer way. There is additional funding that is part of our regular CDBG funding, and we have set aside \$116,000 for emergency COVID response.

Other funding sources are from MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant (MESG), Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS), and FEMA.

The funding from MESG is for prevention and diversion from homelessness, rapid rehousing, and administration for \$843,265. The funding from DHHS is for \$802,491 and comes through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Barrier Busters will be in charge of the funds. We are keeping a broader net that is related to the pandemic. The three main uses are for direct assistance to residents, contracts for broader/systems planning for CARES fund, contracted services, and salaries.

Lastly, we receive funding through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. It is split up and given to partner organizations such as Shelter Association and Food Gatherers.

We are working on providing supporting housing as more shelter is needed especially with social distancing measures. It is expensive to continue securing hotel rooms, and I want to make sure we can get people housed long-term. We are also trying to make sure we don't just provide temporary shelter, but permanent housing.

A. Carlisle: An example of barriers for providing assistance is that we currently need to wait until the eviction process starts to provide aid, and we're trying to help earlier.

G. Pratt: When people need help, how do they know how to ask for it?

M. Williams: A lot of funds that will go to individuals will be through Barrier Busters, and we've been expanding our partners to churches and neighborhood associations. We are mass marketing to providers and directly to Washtenaw County residents so they know that this resource is available. Organizations can also apply for funding to help their people.

D. Blanchard: Are there possible loans that people would be able to apply for?

M. Williams: We don't have loans, but with every request that comes in, we ask the case managers of the requests for sustainability actions like applying for unemployment or other actions. The moratorium has been extended until June 30 so that helps us a bit.

D. Blanchard: Teresa, what do you see as HHSAB's role in this process?

T. Gillotti: The funds are going through the county and other governing programs like Urban County. For MSHDA ESG funds, they will go through Continuum of Care (CoC). The CSBG grant will go to the BOC. In this case, we have less of a role. We're excited to expand partners for services that aren't always the most traditional places. We know there's always folks that might not know of services so we want to raise awareness to all people.

D. Blanchard: Are there any other state funds that we can look into?

T. Gillotti: There are separate ESG funds that go to state, but we're not sure how that'll be implemented.

CARES Act Funding Update (Teresa Gillotti)

b Expanded Shelter Updates (Teresa Gillotti)

T. Gillotti: There was some information out on social media for concern that the hotel was closing, but it is not. What we are trying to figure out is how to manage social distancing regulations. According to the state, we are in stage 4 of the plan reopen, so we're in a different place than earlier in pandemic. But now, we are at a place where we can create protocol to possibly find other forms for

shelter. We are trying to work on getting people housed and trying to save money now in case of resurgence from the second wave of COVID along with general winter needs. But the key point is that the Delonis Center and Hotel are still open for shelter.

c Coordinated Funding Update (Morgan Williams Boydston)

M. Williams: I will be presenting on the data from Coordinated Funding (COFU) from the 2018-19 year. Overall, the programs that were funded had 27,985 program participants and 74% of participants were from low scoring areas according to Washtenaw Opportunity Index.

For early childhood programs, the most salient point was that 322 children with high needs had access and were participating in high quality early learning programs. We were also encouraged by the 113 caregivers and parental supports who engaged in activities and encouraged learning.

For school aged youth programs, 136 students were previously chronically absent, but improved their attendance to get out of it. Often times, it's due to the lack of transportation than a lack of motivation. There might also be a lack of utilities or clean clothes. Also, 637 youth that participated in out of school programs reported increased feelings in positive well-being. 282 youth had at least one adult who was able to support them through the program. This is a huge win.

For safety-net health programs, 833 individuals gained confidence in navigating health care and something system. Also, as a result of that, new pilot programs/expanded programs have been able to help more than 500 people. We were able to expand services and increased access to health services.

For nutrition programs, there was 736,453 pounds of produce that were distributed to low income families, seniors, and individuals.

For Housing and Homelessness programs, there were 1043 households that received assistance for housing costs. There were also 304 households which moved into permanent housing after receiving assistance from the emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.

Lastly, for the older adults programs: 539 participants reported increased self-sufficiency, and 453 participants felt less socially isolated. I do think that there'll be impact from COVID for next year's data. The older adult population was one of the hardest hit as a result of COVID.

A. Foster: At the bottom center of each panel, it shows that the goals for individuals and families residing in the zip codes of 48197 and 48198 were all unmet. Is there a reason for why this is?

M. Williams: We wanted to be honest and let the community know that we couldn't meet it. We wanted to make sure that we were serving those who needed services most. There are a few possible reasons for why we weren't able to meet our goals. First, while there are a lot of non-profit organizations, they aren't always situated in the community that need the services. Second, in full transparency, we didn't really measure and hold people accountable as much as we could have. There are a lot of reasons for why it's hard to target priority populations and difficult to meet goals.

T. Gillotti: Also, while I love CoFu model, the funding we receive from the City of Ann Arbor needs to be used for services in Ann Arbor so that is difficult to help with 48197 and 48198.

Z. Ackerman: Where is this policy established?

T. Gillotti: I'm not exactly sure, but it's always brought up for renewing CoFu funding.

Board discusses limitations for CoFu funding use

T. Gillotti: We have tons of data that show we should be more specific in serving areas than just saying 48197 and 48198. Certain neighborhoods need more assistance than others.

Coordinated Funding Update (Morghan Williams Boydston)

d Barrier Busters Update (Morghan Williams Boydston)

M. Williams: I wanted to go over some Barrier Buster requests. We

are still combing through the data. As you can see, 81.3% of services went to those who identify as people of color. Of the non-white population, there were a lot of folks that lost employment due to the pandemic and the shelter in place. A lot of folks reached out for rental/utility assistance. We highlighted the needs in the county as state/federal funding require citizenship. There is lot of need in Ypsilanti Township, and many requests come from there. We gained more partners in Barrier Buster and also received additional funding from United Way for those who are undocumented. Also the City of Ypsilanti became a partner for first time, and received \$75,000 from them.

Moving forward for COVID, we already allocated \$100,000 from CSBG for rental and eviction assistance. We also want to figure out how to provide funding to as many people as possible for assistance with things like groceries, transportation, daycare costs, and more.

G. Pratt: Where's the upstream in eviction process? When should people expect to ask and expect help?

M. Williams: If they lost their job due to COVID, they should immediately contact a Barrier Buster agency and work with a case worker immediately.

VII CITY COUNCIL (Council Member Update)

Z. Ackerman: I have some updates from City Council.

- Anna Foster, Anna Erickson, and Amanda Carlisle were reappointed to HHSAB. For
- There was a PUD that was passed, and \$88,000 will be added to the affordable housing fund from it.
- City Council unanimously approved the A2 Zero Carbon Neutrality plan
- This coming Monday, the Independent Police Oversight Commission (IPOC) will be speaking to City Council. There is also a resolution by Councilmember Nelson that our IPOC would gain access to the LEAN system and more conversation about giving IPOC the access to do a sweep of staffing, budget, and more for the police department to help City Council in planning comprehensively.
- There is voting to release \$1.25m to Coordinated Funding.
- There is voting to allow extra flexibility to how the county uses

COVID assistance funding.

- There are a couple for-sale neighborhoods in AA that have affordable housing in them. The city has right to first refusal. With the current policy, any low-moderate income household has to wait for CC to take action. We are voting to allow city administrator to make decision to expedite the process.

A. Bannister: From the Ward 1 perspective, there was controversy for re-election. The main point was that 19 people were on waitlist for HHSAB. But Teresa will be bringing in 3 of them to fill the board.

Board discusses how applicants were overlooked for HHSAB when there were seats

A. Foster: I just want to put this out there, if we don't want to renew people for the sake of bringing in new people, I wouldn't recommend taking out one of the most experienced members: Anna Erickson

Board discusses rhetoric used for HHSAB reappointment.

A. Carlisle: I am not a loyalist to the Mayor or a political appointee.

A. Bannister: My words were for the systemic problem I saw.

E. Pollack: I would appreciate it if councilmembers on the HHSAB would look at the membership and what the representation is. We need people like Amanda and Anna because of their direct knowledge. When you have people who represent a certain point of view with institutional knowledge, you don't want to lose that perspective because it's valuable of how we go ahead with decisions and funding. It would be remiss for the mayor and council to not consider that.

A. Erickson: We don't have a lot of power, but we do discuss important things. Affordable housing policy is very complicated. I've been here for 10 years and an MPH, but my knowledge is still just this deep. I agree that increasing diversity on the board is important, but it's very hard to get up to speed on minutia on particulars for affordable housing and human services funding. Experience + new voices are both important.

A. Bannister: I have some other updates

- I want to encourage everyone to attend the meeting on June 15 as the IPOC chief will give a 10 minute speech.
- I met with someone about the homelessness tents, and that policy mentioned before is only for those whose tents are abandoned.
- As Zack mentioned, we unanimously passed the carbon neutrality plan. We are still interested in density in piloted/specified/transit oriented areas.
- For discussion on new sidewalks on Jackson Rd, Council has reapproved ballot language to put it in voter's hands to see if there should be new mobility millage so that adjacent homeowners aren't on the hook for a new bill for the sidewalk.
- The summer festival has asked for \$28,000 from Council. The City has allotted \$59,000 in funds to help subsidize for city events so that'll be an interesting conversation.

VIII GENERAL UPDATES

G. Pratt: When does \$88,000 from the PUD go into the affordable housing fund?

Z. Ackerman: We have to wait until they construct.

Foster: We've had community members reach out and encourage us to discuss the poverty tax exemption. If you are making below 2x the federal poverty guidelines on income and have less than \$25K outside of your home, you can apply for a property tax exemption. It gets reviewed 3x annually. So, community members suggested to potentially draft a resolution to increase the ceiling on that form. Another suggestion was to encourage publicizing this at council or board meetings in addition to more advertising.

Board discusses drafting resolution for encouraging publicizing property tax exemption for individuals experiencing poverty.

Whereas – the City of Ann Arbor has a standing Poverty Tax exemption for individuals experiencing poverty and

Whereas few individuals take advantage of this each year, possibly due to lack of awareness of the program

Resolved that the HHSAB recommends that the City of Ann Arbor pursue advertising to increase accessibility and awareness through

a commitment of resources appropriate communications which could include:

- Advertisement
- Adding to water bills
- Tax statements
- Tax assessments
- City's Social media
- Hard copies at clerk's office, library and other locations
- Notification of local news sources including Mlive, WEMU, Michigan Radio
- Council member newsletters, and social media

A. Foster moved to approve the resolution; E. Pollack seconded.
Motion passed unanimously

IX PUBLIC COMMENT

X ADJOURNMENT

D. Blanchard moved to adjourn meeting; G. Pratt seconded. Motion passed unanimously
G. Pratt, chair, adjourned meeting at 8:30 pm.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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