

MINUTES

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board (HHSAB)
July 11, 2024 from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Members will meet on Zoom at the link below.

Zoom link: <https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87074256804?pwd=vLLBtjnQgLw793CU8sT2qt5DrKaoja.1>

Meeting ID: 870 7425 6804 | Passcode: 577364

Members Present: Amanda Carlisle, Brenna McMahon, James Daniel, Jean Leverich, Karen Wanza, Peter Slutzker, Rob Boley, Chris Watson (non-voting/City Council liaison), Linh Song (non-voting/City Council liaison).

Members Absent: Anna Erickson, Anya Ganger, Ellen Rabinowitz, Faith Redwine-Otieno, James Downing.

Staff Present: Andrew Kraemer (County OCED), Tara Cohen (County OCED).

Guests: None

I. Convene Meeting (Brenna McMahon, Chair)

Brenna convened the meeting at 6:39pm and took a roll call, with each person stating their location:

Brenna McMahon – Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Rob Boley – Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Amanda Carlisle – Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Linh Song – Philadelphia, PA
James Daniel - Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Jean Leverich – Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Peter Slutzker – Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Karen Wanza - Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County
Chris Watson - Ann Arbor, MI, Washtenaw County

Staff: Tara Cohen – Ypsilanti, MI, Washtenaw County; Andrew Kraemer – Pittsfield Township, MI, Washtenaw County

II. Welcome/Announcements – No announcements.

III. Public Comment – None.

IV. Approval of Agenda (ACTION)

Motion by Peter Slutzker; Seconded by Rob Boley. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2024 (ACTION)

Motion by Amanda Carlisle; Seconded by James Daniel. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. | Location: 200 N. Main, Ann Arbor (public Zoom option)

VI. Business/Updates

a. Presentation: Washtenaw Continuum of Care Data Review (Andrew Kraemer, OCED)
Andrew Kraemer, CoC Data and Evaluation Specialist at OCED, presented quarterly data from April – June 2024 on homelessness trends in the County. Some questions and discussion throughout:

Jean: What can we do on the advocacy side? There is a \$4.5 million deficit for basic services just to keep what exists now.

Amanada: County Commissioners (BOC) have asked for data from the CoC Board. They will be presenting to the BOC. Last year we presented gaps and needs for winter shelter program [and were successful in securing funding from the BOC]. But we're looking for structural dollars.

Brenna: How are things going with SOS referrals from HAWC (for assessment)?

Andrew: Right now SOS is fully staffed and is catching up on referrals.

b. Discussion: Outreach/Public Engagement

- Tara reminded the group that in lieu of meeting in August, HHSAB workplan included the opportunity to provide "Outreach and Public Engagement on Affordable Housing."
- Last year, HHSAB members hosted a space at Ann Arbor's PARK(ing) Day in September, with some of the planning happening in August. Tara shared that this year Park(ing) Day is September 22-24 but she doesn't know if Ann Arbor is participating. She noted that it's up to group members to decide to participate, or if they want to do a different type of outreach effort, to be led and implemented by group members.
- CM Song said they could engage university students around the topic of affordable housing. She offered to reach out to Professor Rob Godspeed in Urban and Regional Planning department at UM, to let students know about upcoming HHSAB meetings, and/or to discuss what's on the ballot this November.

Updates

c. Ann Arbor Affordable Housing Fund Policy

- Tara stated that the HHSAB's recommended revisions were approved by City Council on June 18th, and next steps will be for HHSAB to review the detailed application processes (targeting the September meeting.)

d. [A2 Affordable Housing Waitlist](#)- Tara provided the following updates:

- OCED collaborating with AAHC Housing Choice Voucher program staff to offer a virtual education session for property managers. To be held later this month or in August.
- Only 1 current vacancy across the 4 properties' (47 units total)
- This summer, OCED will attempt to contact everyone on the waitlist (approximately 200 names) to verify information and confirm whether they wish to stay on the list.

e. HHSAB Membership/Recruitment

- Tara noted that 12 of 14 required seats are currently filled, with two (2) at-large seats vacant. She encourages everyone to share this information if they know someone who may want to apply for an open seat. Of note, long-time member Anna Erickson has been switched from at-large to the Professional/academic in social services sector seat, since at-large seats can be filled more quickly.

f. HUD PRO Grant Update

- Tara provided updates on behalf of Jennifer Hall (AAHC) who could not make the meeting. She noted that the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti joint application was not successful, but the grant leads requested a debrief meeting with HUD to find out how to make a more competitive application. She shared that they will likely be applying again this year, as more funding has been allocated by HUD to accept another round of applications.
- Tara mentioned that the original PRO application was going to provide funding to update the 2015 Housing Affordability and Economic Equity Analysis. CM Song then commented that this work is already being funded by 3 foundations (Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Song Foundation, and Herrick Foundation); \$200,000 in private funding has been put under contract with the same firm (czb) that produced the original report in 2015. Tara said that OCED would reach out offline to get an update and make sure all key entities are looped in, as the County and City staff were not aware of this plan to her knowledge.

- g. Renters' Commission Update – No one in attendance to provide update. Tara noted she will reach out to Geoff Lowes to see if he or anyone else from the RC will resume their attendance at HHSAB meetings.

VII. City Council (Council Member Update)

CM Song shared the following updates:

- Unarmed response - reallocating ARPA funds away from this, there have been 2 failed RFPs. More complicated than anyone anticipated. Will continue to figure out other funding.
- Those ARPA funds must be allocated by end of 2024 and spent by 2026. Dollars being split across a few projects - Barton Dam, Emergency operations center (under public health & safety category), Ambulance, Bicentennial Park improvements, SafeHouse (under DV support).
- At September meeting, there will be an Update on TC-1 on Washtenaw Ave, and will discuss the rebate from the County mental health millage.
- 415 Washington site is looking for a developer again (property has Chimney swifts and is located in the floodplain).
- Kline Lot – Council voted to put the property in hands of a broker in order to get multiple proposals for development; Council is looking for a positive impact on affordable housing stock.

CM Watson shared the following:

- City Administrator Dohoney recently stated he's going to visit another city that has Unarmed response program.
- The next Council meeting will include a site plan approval near Nixon Rd tip near US-23, for a multi-level market rate housing development. This project was enabled by getting rid of parking minimums. Parking lot there is not being utilized so now able to build this project on top of the lot.

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VIII. **General Updates** - CM Song shared that Senator Jeff Irwin has secured \$1.2 million for refugee resettlement efforts and rapid re-housing.

IX. **Public Comment** – None.

X. **Adjournment (ACTION)**

Motion by Amanda Carlisle; Seconded by Jean Leverich. Motion carried.
Adjourned at 8:16pm.

DRAFT