

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
Board of Directors Annual Meeting – October 19, 2023

PRESENT:

Bill Hefferan
Art Jeannot
Grace Ronkaitis
Josh Chamberlain
Rev. Gerald Cook
David Anolick
Anthony Ansorge
Truman Bicum
Debbie Bishop
Peachy Rentenbach
Sam Getsinger
Kyra Summers
Marc Milburn
Evelyn Machia
Chuck Corwin
Bethany Parent

ABSENT:

Marna Robertson (E)
Tonya Schroka
Lindsey Walker
Ashlea Walter (E)
Brandy Keeney
Kat Byers (E)
Jamie Kramer (E)
Pam Niebrzydowski (E)

Lunch was served and the meeting was called to order at 12:41 P.M. by Chairperson Peachy Rentenbach. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

AGENDA

Peachy Rentenbach requested approval for the meeting Agenda.

Motion by Jerry Cook, supported by Grace Ronkaitis, that the meeting agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 21, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors were presented for Board action.

Motion by Sam Getsinger, supported by Bethany Parent, that the minutes of the September 21, 2023, meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

POLICY COUNCIL REPORT

The Policy Council minutes from the meeting held on October 12, 2023 were presented for approval.

Motion by Debbie Bishop, supported by Bethany Parent, that the minutes of the October 12, 2023, Policy Council meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Kerry Baughman, Executive Director, presented a Fiscal Year 23 Snapshot.

Highlights for the year include:

- Diaper Bank Award MDHHS for \$550,550
- School Success Partnership Pilot
- Homeless Prevention Master Leasing Presentation
- Early Head Start Infant/Toddler Center in Mancelona
- Financial Management 20th Anniversary Super Saturday Event
- HUD Rural Set Aside Grant for Homeless Prevention – New \$300,000 grant
- Transition Retirement Plan to Vanguard 401(k)
- Approval of a 5.6% COLA for all staff
- Invested \$90,000 in two Homestretch Projects in Grand Traverse and Benzie counties
- New Infant/Toddler classroom at Traverse City High School
- NMCAA Strategic Plan approved
- Managed growth of programs: Housing & Energy Efficiency Services 1.45M in FY19, \$2.9M in FY22. Homeless Prevention \$1.9M FY19, \$9.1M in FY22.

There were seven new members added to the Board in FY23: Evelyn Machia, Annemarie Conway, David Anolick, Ashlea Walker, Bill Hefferan, Kyra Summers, and Josh Chamberlian. Thank you to all Board members for a year of great work!

The October Annual Meeting Program focused on addressing food insecurity. Per Feed America, in Michigan there is a 11.7% food insecurity rate. In Roscommon County the rate is 17.1% which shows our rural areas are at very high risk. The percentage of residents over 60 years is growing and, in our service region, the ranges from 27% - 41% of the total county population.

Motion by Chuck Corwin, supported by Marc Milburn, to accept the Executive Director's report as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Peachy Rentenbach reported that the Development Committee met with Melissa Thompson, NMCAA's new Engagement Manager, earlier this month. The FY23 goals and results were reviewed and 75% of the goals were achieved. The total goal was \$488,365 and a YTD total of \$365,042. These gains are reflective of the planning that went into the goals for FY23. Next month, Melissa Thompson will meet with the Board. The FY24 Development Goal is \$594,365. As always, we are aiming to have a 100% participation in Board giving. The size of the gift does not matter, it is about having participation by all.

Motion by Art Jeannot, supported by Sam Getsinger, to accept the Development Committee report as presented. Motion carried.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Peachy Rentenbach reported that the Investment Committee met earlier today with Kevin Kelly to review the Senior Nutrition investments. The balance of the fund is \$294,132 as of October 19, 2023. This reflects a 2.5% increase for the year. No changes are recommended at this time.

Motion by Evelyn Maciha, supported by Debbie Bishop, to accept the Investment Committee report as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

NMCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 2024

The Governance Committee presented the 2024 Executive Committee Grid and Slate of Officers for 2024. The slate includes:

Art Jeannot	Chairperson
Peachy Rentenbach	Vice-Chairperson
David Anolick	Treasurer
Debbie Bishop	Secretary
Jerry Cook	Northern Rep
Grace Ronkaitis	Central Rep
Pan Niebrzydowski	Southern Rep

Motion by Tony Ansonge, supported by Bill Hefferan, to approve the January 2024 Slate of Officers as presented. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS

Christina Barkel, Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, presented a collaborative approach to addressing food insecurity which includes partnering with the Northwest Food Coalition, Food Rescue and Goodwill Northern Michigan. They do this by conducting local food market research, building relationships with farmers, and negotiating food pricing. Providing healthy, fresh, and a variety of local foods to food pantries, supplies those in need with additional fresh food options. In 2014, 13% of pantries had fresh fruit and vegetables for pantry clients. In 2021, 68% have fresh fruits and vegetables which is a 104% increase in 7 years!

The Senior Nutrition Meals on Wheels program served 24,377 Congregate meals and 164,533 delivered meals in FY22. There were 781 active seniors at the 10 congregate site locations and 1,117 homebound seniors served in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Wexford, and Missaukee counties. Recently Grand Traverse County has expanded their Meals on Wheels support and approved \$125,000 for 2024 and 2025. This vital community service could not be possible without the 25+ volunteers that deliver meals to our seniors! Volunteer Karen Burdick was introduced and she shared her volunteering experience over the last 5 years. Karen was part of our first MOW podcast and is dedicated to supporting our senior neighbors with wholesome meals.

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM MASTER LEASING

Sarah Hughes, Homeless Prevention Director, and Grant Card, Homeless Prevention Operations General Manager, presented an overview of the Master Leasing strategy. The focus of the master leasing project is to provide Rapid Re-Housing and potentially Permanent Supportive Housing using funds that are available from eligible funding sources. Participants living in master leased units will need to meet the eligibility criteria of the designated funding sources(s). The Master Leasing strategy expedites access to rental units, provide access for people traditionally excluded from the rental market, maximizes resources and program/funding potential, and expands/improves relationships with landlords and property owners. The current plan is to Master Lease 5 units. There are currently 224 Homeless Prevention clients so the need is great. After this first successful units, the plan will be to expand to 15 units. If there are questions after reading the business plan included with the Board packet, please share with Sarah Hughes at shughes@nmcaa.net in the coming weeks. Sarah will be on the November agenda seeking approval to enter into a master leasing agreement for five units as a pilot with the goal of expansion.

FINANCIAL UPDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Meredith Gafill, Controller reviewed the September 2023 financials. FY23 is in the process of being closed out. The FY24 budget was presented for approval.

Motion by Art Jeannot, supported by Chuck Corwin, to approve the NMCAA FY24 Annual Budget subject to the side-by-side comparison with FY23 actuals next month. Role call vote unanimous. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURE FY24

Kerry Baughman presented an Authorization of Signature Resolution which will allow the Executive Director, Kerry Baughman, to sign all contracts, reports, grant requests, and grant modifications as required for the fiscal year, October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Motion by Evelyn Maciha, supported by Betany Parent, to accept the 2023-2024 Authorization of Signature Resolution as presented. Motion carried

OTHER BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Thank you, Peach Rentenbach, for being the Board Chair the last 4 years. Your leadership and support are greatly appreciated. Thank for your service to NMCAA and wanting to stay on as the Vice-Chairperson!

MCA Legislative Committee Updates 10/18/23 meeting

Water Affordability Legislation- A package of Water Affordability Bills are being introduced in the MI Senate to ensure access to water for low-income households. Senate Bills 549-554

- Ensures that water bills for low-income households do not exceed 3% of that household's income
- \$2/meter monthly funding factor on water bills
- Protection from water shutoffs for Michiganders whose health conditions require access to water
- Decriminalize water reconnections after shutoff due to financial hardship, changing this act from a five-year felony to a civil infraction

Thank you to Marc Milburn and the Roscommon Board of Commissioners for time on their agenda this month to present on NMCAA programs!

Northwest Michigan Housing Summit 2023 will be held on October 26th and 27th at the Park Place Hotel, Traverse City NMCAA is a sponsor, so stop by our table if you are there.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Next meeting will be: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Respectfully Submitted

Grace Ronkaitis, Secretary

Betsy Rees, Recording Secretary