

**Olmsted County Human Services Division
Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB)**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
Room 161, 2117 Campus Drive S.E.

A. Call to order

Chair Alexander called to order the regular meeting of the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) at 7:04 a.m.

Members Present

Susan Ahlquist, Alex Alexander, Melissa Brandt, Patrick Gannon, Patrick Keane, Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden, JoMarie Morris, Commissioner Stephanie Podulke, Randy Schmidt, Walter L. Smith III, Tierre Webster, Shirley Westbrook.

Members Absent

Judy Ohly, Justin Stotts.

Staff Present

Paul Fleissner, Sarah Oachs, Corrine Erickson, Graham Briggs, Ben Griffith, Dan Jensen, Jenna Gilbertson, Michael Garner, Leigh Durbahn, Diane Paradise, Bea SanMiguel-Molina.

Staff Absent

Amy Shillabeer, Amy Thompson.

Guests

Julie Tackett, Kashanti Taylor, Jinglin Li, Lara Pfrimmer.

B. Agenda Changes for Regular Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to change the agenda and table Pathways Toward Prosperity & Well-being for another time to give County Administrator, Heidi Welsch and Deputy County Administrator, Pete Giesen the opportunity to update CSAB.

Motion carried.

C. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve March 13, 2019, CSAB meeting minutes. Motion carried.

D. Chair Announcements

Chair Alexander reminded everyone about the CSAB Public Forum is next month on May 8th from 7 – 8 am. The event details have been published in the Post Bulletin newspaper and online paper, Olmsted County website, Facebook, mailings have gone out to contracted organizations and community partners, Gov Delivery is set to send out notices to subscribers, and Med City Beat has been contacted. Chair said a possible new member will going before the County Board soon his name is Guy Sing. There are still two members at large vacancies and a potential candidate for the United Way Representative is being considered. Olmsted County is implementing some changes in the membership of volunteer boards and commissions, so CSAB

wrote a letter to the County Board to better understand the conflict of interest criteria and recruitment of new members.

Staff Announcements

Heidi said the County Board conducted an inventory of all advisory boards and made some changes last May to create consistency. It has been a learning opportunity, but one of the changes was to look at the recruitment and screening process of new members. The County Board will continue to decide the appointment of members. Another change was to have staff and advisory boards study topics approved by the County Board, but the Board will continue to welcome feedback on an emerging issues. For example, unsheltered homelessness is a significant issue to the County Board and staff will now work towards the work plan tasks and CSAB will weigh in their perspective. CSAB will also continue to hear about the work being done in the other areas of Human Services. Conflict of Interest (COI) has not been a concern in the past but moving forward the County Attorney's office is working with the County Board and Administration to develop more precise criteria. The County Board does not want someone, representing an organization on an advisory board, that is receiving funding from Olmsted County. A clear COI definition will help protect staff from creating biases and allow the community to see advisory boards as being fair. The two candidates not appointed to CSAB would have had brought valuable perspectives, but there was an apparent COI. Current and past examples were given on COI. The recruitment efforts have always fallen on staff or advisory board members. The County Board and Administration will now be more intentional with advertising and recruiting of new members with a more open process. County Board communication efforts need to improve. A question was asked, what is the process to recruit young professionals, under represented population to receive experience, who have no experience, or no awareness of how to apply to an advisory board? The process needs to be streamlined in Administration and on the technology end. The new Olmsted County website will help the process. A general discussion took place on how the member direction of the CSAB has leaned more towards leaders and people who have a closer connection County leadership, but the focus will now change to reach citizens that do not have this connection. The non-profit sector has a valued perspective, and Paul is working with Scott Moloney from Family Services Rochester to build a better integrated human services network between the public and non-profit organizations. They are considering bringing in Susan Dreyfus from Alliance for Strong Families and Communities and have other non-profits join the conversation. Another comment was made on how evolution is essential and the CSAB is commissioned by the County Board, but the changes in the recruitment process are significant to keep viable boards. County Board's goal is to have a diverse, dynamic advisory board with citizens as members not just service providers. This is so the County Board can be able to make the best decisions possible.

Paul indicated the Crisis Center received bonding dollars. They have established a governance model with the help of the Coalition to Community Health Integration (CCHI), and this is projected to break ground in the fall. Pathways Toward Prosperity & Well-being (PTPW), which includes Dakota County, has received a Kresge Foundation grant that is funding a position to move forward, and they are also in line for a second grant. There is legislation in both house and senate in the amount of one million dollars to help fund the unified benefits set for PTPW. They have also received the official letter from the federal government saying they have assigned researchers to support this program. This department has never done a random control study, but they are looking forward to the challenge.

Graham reported the County Board voted to pass a change to the County ordinance age to dispense or sell from 18 to 21 a couple of weeks ago. He thanked the two County Commissioners to support the change. This change will help save lives.

Corrine stated Family Support and Assistance's (FSA) is in audit season. They are preparing for two reviews the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) review, that happens once every three years, and a review on how the department protects federal tax information. In Pathways to Public Employment, they are working with the leading teams on how to structure the work. Also, in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), the entire team came together, and the waiting list is currently empty.

E. Decision/Working Items

Approval of Public Forum Documents

Paul said the concept of "Housing as Health Care" has been implemented in several states and Minnesota is initiating steps toward this move. The Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority (OCHRA) has been working with the State to fund the 30-unit Crisis Center, Jeremiah Program, building new programs like master leasing, landlord risk mitigation, and a smaller voucher program. In 2013, the Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment done by Maxfield Research indicated the need for housing for people and families with less means would increase. A key concern recently has been unsheltered homeless. This not unique to this area, many cities are experiencing similar situations. This winter there was an unprecedented number of people sleeping in the skyways. Staff looked at short term solutions like expanding the Salvation Army Warming Center season to stay open until March. A team from Adult & Family services visited the people in the skyways and staff found they had previous encounters with most the individuals. HRA is looking at a project of 25 to 30 permanent supportive housing unit, but this isn't going to solve the problem. They are looking at creating a system to identify the right housing fit for the individual.

Cathy Ten Broeke, Director to Prevent and End Homelessness for the State of Mn, spoke at the Mayor's forum about a systemic, strategic approach. A community coalition has come together, and they are looking for a neutral party to explore options to be considered. They expect the community to come together and view proposals. Other things that will be evaluated will be the city ordinances, short and long term plans. Also, homelessness is not illegal, and all these efforts will help all individuals in the spectrum of homelessness, and the unique makeup of this community will make it challenging. CSAB will be crucial with the feedback they give to the County Board.

F. Emerging Items & Updates

County Board Announcements

Commissioner Kiscaden thanked Public Health staff for the help on changing the County ordinance age limit of tobacco sales from 18 to 21 years old and congratulated FSA for the empty waiting list in CCAP. Complete Count campaign is underway, and the goal is to have an accurate account all Olmsted County residents on the next census.

Commissioner Podulke said the County Board has supported programs like early childhood intervention programs, from the encouragement CSAB given, and those suggestions have made an impact. Many programs within Human Services are state regulated and mandated but would like to continue to get the reports and updates from the different areas on how these mandates are met or have the opportunity to learn about the missing elements needed to meet the terms. Listening, as a County Board member, on CSAB is essential and valued.

Other

None.

G. Adjournment

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Bea SanMiguel-Molina.