

Commission on Community Action Agencies
Minutes
June 2, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.
Airport Holiday Inn – 6111 Fleur Drive – Room 289 – Des Moines, Iowa

Commission Members participating:

Kelly Busch – Chairperson	Tom Quiner	Marc Lindeen
Robyn Ormsby	Mary Whisenand	Anna Brown (arrived 9:00)

Ex-Officio Member participating:

San Wong (arrived 9:00)

Commission Members not participating:

Brian Lauterbach	Anna Hilpipre
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DHR Staff Participating:

Bill Brand	Gwen Howe	Jerry McKim	Marcia Thompson
Greg Pieper	Lorie Easter		

Others in Attendance:

Lana Ross

I. Call to Order

Ms. Busch called the meeting to order at approximately 8:45.

II. Introductions

Introductions were made, quorum was established.

III. Approval of the February 26, 2015, Meeting Minutes – Ms. Busch

Ms. Busch asked for any changes or additions to the minutes of the February 26, 2014. There were none. No discussion. Mr. Lindeen moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Whisenand seconded the motion. A present voted aye. The minutes were approved.

IV. Approval of the Agenda – Ms. Busch

Ms. Busch asked for any changes or additions to the corrected agenda. Changes to the agenda will include meeting with the ICAA Board at 10:45 then adjourning our meeting after the lunch with the ICAA Board. There was no discussion. Ms. Whisenand moved the revised agenda be approved. Mr. Quiner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was approved.

V. ICAA Activities Report – Ms. Lana Ross

Ms. Ross welcomed Commission Members to the ICAA Conference and told them they were welcome to stay for any portions they were interested in. She explained the legislative issues. The Legislature hopes to finish by the end of this week. The overall budget has been agreed to; we should know what it is next week.

The ICAA Board of Directors supported an application to an anonymous donor to allow the association to establish a new division which will be marketing and research division.

This summer there are 20 public allies working in ten week summer ally program establishing 12 month outreach and education campaigns for 5 areas: Food and Security, Women's, Infants, and Children Programming, Economic Security, Early and Healthy New Beginnings, and Energy Efficiency and Affordability.

The ICAA Board will be discussing possible items for their 2016 Legislative Agenda and moving forward with the new organizational standards at the luncheon today.

VI. Administrator's Report – Bill Brand

Mr. Brand introduced Ms. Wong and Ms. Easter. He included some information and presenters at the ICAA Conference. He gave the Commissioners more information about the merger concerning the Des Moines Community Action Agency and Red Rock Community Action Program which is anticipated on October 1, 2015. Ann Bacon has been hired as the new Executive Director for Red Rock Area Community Action Program.

On the federal front the House and Senate are in the initial stages of talks on the budget. Also reauthorization of CSBG and Weatherization are upcoming.

On the Iowa scene we are anticipating the implementation of the new CSBG standards, the state will be submitting a new plan to the feds on CSBG as well, which will contain new accountability standards and performance measures, which will need to be approved by the Commission in August. The plan has not been sent from the feds as of this date. Bill further explained ROMA and the new standards. Iowa was asked to present at Weatherization training in Illinois. Mark Lindeen will be receiving a Governor's Volunteer Award this summer.

Marc Lindeen believes that Community Action should market itself better so people don't view it as just another welfare program. Measuring outcomes was discussed. Tom Quiner says he thinks people want to know if we are moving people from dependence to independence. Marc asked about if mental health training is provided to our community action employees. Loris Easter said there is a Mental Health First Aid class that a lot of FaDSS and outreach staff go through. Local partnerships are also very important to the success of the community action agencies.

VII. Bureau Chief's Reports

1. Weatherization Bureau – Gwen Howe

The Weatherization State Plan was approved by the Department of Energy. Statistics for the weatherization program for 2014 were provided. Iowa now has 27 Quality Control Inspectors. Only one agency doesn't have a quality control inspector and they are contracting with surrounding CAA's to supply that QCI service. Our office has two QCIs. Training needs and solutions were explained.

The new QCI home inspections have started, they are more time consuming. The Slice report for 2013 should be available soon.

2. Energy Assistance Bureau – Jerry McKim

Mr. McKim explained his visit with our congressional delegation in Washington and outlooks for changes and funding to next year's LIHEAP program.

He discussed some of the data collection changes he has made and will make for next year, changes in regulations regarding social security cards were discussed and undocumented persons, the drop LIHEAP participation since 2012, changes in the medical waiver, and the proposed change of the income level from 150% to 175% of the federal poverty level and its possible impacts/consequences.

3. Community Services Bureau – Greg Pieper

Mr. Pieper had prepared a report for the meeting which was e-mailed and distributed earlier which included information on CSBG funding and reauthorization 2016 Community Action Plan & Application, CSBG-IS Annual Report, Client Needs Assessment (to be used during the next year), CSBG Program On-site Reviews, Organizational Standards, CSBG Fiscal Monitoring, and CSBG State Plan and Application. He also included the new Client Needs Assessment form, an information sheet on the 2014 Community Services Block Grant in Iowa, and statistics on the Program Participant Characteristics and CSBG Agency Funding Report. These items were explained.

VIII. Appointment of Nomination Committee – Kelly Busch

The nomination committee will work on the appointment of the chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary for the Commission for the next year. Ms. Busch asked for volunteers. The Committee will be Tom Quiner who will serve as chairperson and Marc Lindeen. They will bring the nominations to the August Commission meeting.

IX. Appointment of the Legislative Committee – Kelly Busch

The 2015 Legislative Committee was Robyn Ormsby, Mary Whisenand, and Kelly Busch served as the 2015 Legislative Committee. Ms. Ormsby and Ms. Whisenand offered to serve on the Legislative Committee again. Anna Brown volunteered to serve. The Legislative Committee will be Robyn Ormsby, Mary Whisenand and Anna Brown. The Legislative Committee will bring their recommendations to the November Commission meeting.

X. Update on the Human Rights Board – Anna Brown

The last Human Rights Board meeting was highlighted with the roll-out of the Department of Human Rights new web-site. The Board struggles with marketing and getting out more information on the Department which they believe the new improved web-site will help with. The DHR Board priority is minority contact in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System. A group is working on a strategic plan for Iowa to deal with the disproportionate number of minorities in the criminal and juvenile justice system.

XI. Next Meeting August 11, 2015 – Location to be announced at a later date.

XII. Lunch and Meeting with the ICAA Board

Additional persons attending the meeting included: Chad Jensen, Marci Rafdal, Jane Drapeaux, Ron Ludwig, Arlene McAtee, Dick Sievers, Dick Goerd, Mary Ann Humpal, David Barnes, Barb Grant, Ann Bacon, Sharon Ford, Brian Dunn, Jamey Whiney, Joel Dirks, and Jean Logan.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Brand thanked ICAA for inviting the Commission to join the ICAA Board at this conference. This is a chance for the CAA directors to build awareness with the Commission so they can better support the Division and the work that we do. Ms. Ross stated that we would like to have some similarities in our legislative agendas between the Commission and ICAA so it was thought that was a good time to begin that conversation. Lana would like to have their legislative agenda complete by October 1st so she can start talking to legislators in the fall.

Items suggested were:

- Ask for \$1,000,000 increase in FaDSS funds to increase # of families participating, work with families longer, and reduce the waiting lists.
- CAA Infrastructure/ Other One Time Needs - money for Community Action Agencies \$1.7 million or \$100,000 for each of Iowa's 17 CAA's .Other suggestions \$2.5 million or \$3.4 million would be \$200,000 or \$5.1 million would be \$300,000 per agency per agency.
- IDA's – Last year we asked for \$250,000, the Credit Union Foundation asked for \$500,000 – don't know what we will get. Decided to go with what CUF asks for.
- Broadband? Affordability/Accessibility for low-income persons.
- FIP levels? Maybe we shouldn't make waves – could make it worse – money comes from same pot as FaDSS.
- Federal issue of reauthorization of Weatherization
- Heads up – Regulatory issue - Energy suppliers are moving to fixed rates hurting those low-income persons trying to reduce usage through wx.

Implementation of New Organizational Standards

The new organizational standards were discussed.

XII Adjournment

Ms. Whisenand moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Quiner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Thompson