



Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) Business Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom Call



Date: 8/12/2021 **Time Convened:** 6:05 pm **Time Terminated:** 7:22 pm **Recorder:** Mele Tupou

Conference Call attendees: Renee Zeimer, Monisha Merchant, Devlyn Sewell, Ajit Kaushal, Sam Houston (Arrived at 6:10 pm), Brendan Foley, Noe Gudino, Mandy Nelson, Cloudell Douglas (Arrived at 6:20 pm), LaTonia Peoples-Stokes

Absentees: Desire Medlen (excused)

Staff: Aaron Alarcon-Bowen, Christina Reich, Nancy Sparks (excused), Mele Tupou

Quorum: Yes

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY
Review desired outcomes and ground rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zeimer called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Kaushal read the desired outcomes.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None Present
<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 10th 2021 EOC Business Meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed the draft June 10th 2021 Business meeting minutes with no changes. <p>A motion to approve the June 10th 2021 Business meeting minutes with no changes was made by Kaushal and seconded by Nelson.</p> <p>The motion passed with EOC members voting as follows: Ayes: Kaushal, Zeimer, Houston, Peoples-Stokes, Sewell, Foley, Nelson, Gudino, Merchant Nays: Abstentions: Absent: Medlen, Douglas (<i>entered the meeting after this agenda item</i>)</p>

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2021 Onsite Monitoring Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mission and ➤ Overarching statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: → Schedule Site Visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reich reported that the Executive team wanted to bring forth the Mission statement: <i>The mission of the Economic Opportunity Council, the Community Action Agency of Contra Costa County is to arm the community with hope, knowledge, resources and voice. Through our advocacy, inclusion, and influence we promote pathways out of poverty to unbar the doors to full participation and self-sufficiency.</i> • Reich explained the mission statement is who the EOC is and the new overarching statement will guide their work as of 2022. Reich continued to say in the current Community Action Plan (CAP) the overarching issues talk about transportation, access and integration. • Tupou mentioned she reached out to the subcontractors to get information about the onsite visit and their availability. • Reich stated the Community Services Bureau Director, Alarcon-Bowen will also be a part of these visits as an observer and to meet the subcontractors. • Peoples-Stokes shared her thoughts about attending virtually as she has some health issues that may not be suitable for an onsite visit. Foley and Merchant also agreed and would like to visit virtually. • Kaushal and Nelson shared they would like to visit in person. • The following members agreed to visit the following subcontractors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peoples-Stokes- Bay Area Community Resources and Loaves and Fishes ○ Gudino- Monument Crisis Center and White Pony Express ○ Kaushal- Monument Crisis Center and Monument Impact ○ Foley- Opportunity Junction and Lao ○ Merchant- Bay Area Legal Aid and Student Intern Program ○ Nelson- STAND! And Opportunity Junction ○ Douglas- Lao and Greater Richmond Interfaith Program ○ Sewell- Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
<p>Fiscal Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 2020 CSBG Closeout expenditure report → 2020 CSBG CAREs expenditure report → 2021 CSBG June expenditure report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reich introduced Morris who is the Fiscal Accountant for the Community Services Bureau (CSB) that deals with all contracts for CSBG funding. <p><u>2020 CSBG Closeout expenditure report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris reported that the state has notified CSB that this contract successfully closed out at 100%. • Morris praised staff for their help and getting this contract fully expended. <p><u>2020 CSBG CAREs expenditure report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris reported although this contract has only been 9% expended, there are large demands that just arrived for processing. • Reich explained to the group to keep in mind these contracts were very much delayed and Tupou has been working diligently with the providers to get these demands submitted and processed. • Reich also mentioned the water debt relief contracts were just finalized and pushed out as of this past July, so those demands are also coming in.

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	<p><u>2021 CSBG June expenditure report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris reported this contract has only been 19% expended. Fiscal is processing them as soon as they are being submitted. The figures are only about a month in a half old, but the numbers have increased as the demands are coming in. • Reich explained the subcontractors have just received these contracts as of July so they are starting to spend. • Morris explained the auditor’s controller office is a little behind but payments are going out. • Reich explained three agencies (Lao, Monument Crisis Center and St. Vincent de Paul) who serve all the areas of the county were awarded the water debt relief information, which Tupou will send out to the group as a next step.
<p>Organizational Standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reich explained for the last two years and due to the pandemic, the state has stated if there are no changes, Kathy Gallagher can certify a statement saying we are forwarding them showing they have remained the same for this year. • Reich explained when it is time to do it again, staff will show the group what we have done and an overview of the organizational standards.
<p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CSB Director</u> • <u>EOC Chair</u> • <u>CSB Staff</u> • <u>EOC Members</u> 	<p><u>CSB Director</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alarcon-Bowen shared that CSB is very busy these days and that he is very thankful for the work the members have contributed to the bureau. • Alarcon-Bowen explained many posts on social media has been about Head Start and starting immediately, twice a week the CSB Facebook page will have posts featuring the Economic Opportunity Council highlighting the advocacy and work the group is doing. Anything regarding Economic Justice will be shared. • Alarcon-Bowen also shared they are ready to attend the Community Action Partnership Annual conference, with Zeimer attending virtually at the end of the month. • Alarcon-Bowen mentioned he is planning to call Supervisor Glover and follow-up about the potential candidate for the District V vacancy. <p><u>EOC Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zeimer explained she would be attending the 2021 Community Action Partnership conference remotely so that she can also share the information with other members as well. • Zeimer talked about Louis Cason who passed at 90 years old. Carson was the head of the Riverside County, San Bernadino Community Action Agency. Zeimer explained that Carson was highly talked about in the local newspaper of Riverside County. She worked with the community and built partners with organizations. She was the first person to insist that the county should open cooling centers. • Kaushal stated he met her a few times and she worked tirelessly and she will be missed! <p><u>CSB Staff</u></p>

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	<p>Board Vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reich explained staff offered a potential application to fill the District V vacancy, so staff is hoping this will push them to move the process forward and quickly. <p>211 Resource Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reich explained the 211 resource guided is shared with the group with updates. Tupou worked with a clerk to make sure the updated version gets in the hands of the community and members. <p>Water debt relief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reich explained Tupou received the final information from all three subcontractors to share with the community. Reich explained they just received notice about one million dollars have been funded to LIHEAP for the water debt relief this fall. <p>Executive Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reich explained the Executive committee elections are coming up in September and we are asking members to keep in mind who they would like to vote for. <p><u>EOC Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Next Steps:	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will send out Water Debt relief flyer to the group Alarcon-Bowen will reach out to Glover regarding the District V representation on the board. Staff will be making updates to the onsite monitoring visit schedule.
Evaluate the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We did it! Good timing. Thumbs up. Adjourning meeting in Louis Carson's memory!