



**Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) Business Meeting Minutes**  
Location: Zoom Call



**Date:** 4/14/2022      **Time Convened:** 6:07 pm      **Time Terminated:** 7:28 pm      **Recorder:** Desiré Medlen

**Conference Call attendees:** Renee Zeimer, Devlyn Sewell, Desiré Medlen, Monisha Merchant, Ajit Kaushal, Brendan Foley, Sofia Navarro, Alison McKee.

**Absentees:** Cloudell Douglas, Noe Gudino, Mandy Nelson, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes.

**Staff:** Christina Reich, Mele Tupou, Amrita Kaur, Michael Morris.

**Quorum:** Yes

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY
Review desired outcomes and ground rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Zeimer called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.</li> <li>Medlen read the desired outcomes.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None present.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review and Approve Amended Agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zeimer called for an approval of the amended agenda to include discussion on the updated Economic Opportunity Council Bylaws.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion to approve the amended April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Business Meeting minutes was made by Sewell and seconded by Foley.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed with EOC members voting as follows:</b>  <b>Ayes: Foley, Mckee, Merchant, Sewell, Zeimer, Kaushal, Navarro, Medlen.</b>  <b>Nays: None</b>  <b>Abstentions: None</b>  <b>Absent: Douglas, Gudino, Nelson, Peoples-Stokes.</b></p>

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ EOC Applicant Interview</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview new applicant Anthony Segovia. Applicant did not join meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Weatherization (Wx) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nelly Ige (LIHEAP) and Alex Delgadillo (Wx) introduced themselves.</li> <li>• Delgadillo explained the role of Wx is to serve low-income households with weatherizing homes and replacing items such as hot water heaters, HVAC, and windows.</li> <li>• Ige shared a PowerPoint explaining LIHEAP and Wx works, who is eligible, and where funding comes from.</li> <li>• HEAP assistance helps low-income households with utility bill payments.</li> <li>• ARPA funds are dedicating to past due accounts.</li> <li>• Delgadillo stated eligibility for Wx is similar to LIHEAP and works on a sliding scale, depending on income. Wx assess the home to prioritize repairs according to an available budget.</li> <li>• Heaters and water heaters are the most replaced items.</li> <li>• The Department of Conservation handles the weatherization part of the home.</li> <li>• Ige discussed the existing budget and current dispersing of funds.</li> <li>• Sewell asked if hot water heaters are being replaced with gas or electric heaters as gas is being phased out. Delgadillo responded that most replacements are gas because switching to electric would require much more work to convert existing systems.</li> <li>• Ige discussed new funding coming through to help low-income households to pay past due water bills.</li> <li>• Kaushal asked how people apply for the programs. Ige responded that people could call the LIHEAP number directly.</li> <li>• Mckee asked if they ever have trouble expending all the funds. Ige said they usually spend everything, apart from some items because of COVID-19 protocols. Delgadillo added Wx worked through the COVID-19 shutdown to aid customers.</li> <li>• Ige added that more need than previous years has come about due to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, EOC Business Meeting minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group reviewed the draft March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Business Meeting minutes with no changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion to approve the draft March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Business Meeting minutes was made by Foley and seconded by Kaushal.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed with EOC members voting as follows:</b>  <b>Ayes: Foley, Mckee, Merchant, Sewell, Zeimer, Kaushal, Navarro, Medlen.</b>  <b>Nays: None</b>  <b>Abstentions: None</b>  <b>Absent: Douglas, Gudino, Nelson, Peoples-Stokes.</b></p>
<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ EOC Bylaw Amendments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reich explained the previously approved Economic Opportunity Council Bylaws were reviewed by the State of California. The state found them to be lacking in the democratic process in the low-income sector.</li> <li>• Staff fixed this by adding new state approved verbiage to the Bylaws that any new low-income representatives on the EOC will be elected by a low-income resident’s group in a set geographic area.</li> <li>• Reich clarified in the past the EOC had more low-income members which circumvented this process.</li> <li>• Medlen asked if the new democratic process would make bringin on a new member more arduous. Reich assured new members would have their approval delayed about a month with the process in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>A motion to approve the amended EOC Bylaws was made by Kaushal and seconded by Foley.</b></p> <p><b>The motion passed with EOC members voting as follows:</b>  <b>Ayes: Foley, Mckee, Merchant, Sewell, Zeimer, Kaushal, Navarro, Medlen.</b>  <b>Nays: None</b>  <b>Abstentions: None</b>  <b>Absent: Douglas, Gudino, Nelson, Peoples-Stokes.</b></p>
<p><b>Fiscal Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2020 CSBG CARES expenditure report</li> <li>➤ 2021 CSBG February expenditure report</li> <li>➤ Wx/LIHEAP report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morris presented 2020 CARES Fiscal Report. February was a light month for expenses under the CARES contract.</li> <li>• Reich added that St. Vincent de Paul has spent all their funds. Many other subcontracts have sent in expenses for March and April that are not reflected in the February report.</li> <li>• CARES contract has also been extended through the end of August so there is no danger of not spending enough of the funds.</li> <li>• Morris added March’s statement will reflect another \$105,000 worth of paid demands. Along with another 25 demands that need to be paid.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morris presented the CSBG Fiscal Report. Like CARES, CSBG's March statement will have more money paid out.</li> <li>• Morris presented the Wx/LIHEAP Fiscal Report. Morris clarified the contracts discussed by Ige in the Wx/LIHEAP presentation will be on the March report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSB Director</b></li> <li>• <b>EOC Chair</b></li> <li>• <b>CSB Staff</b></li> <li>• <b>EOC Members</b></li> </ul> <p>➤</p>	<p><b><u>EOC Chair</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zeimer shared on Tuesday the Board of Supervisors had their big budget meeting. EHSD has a brand-new director. Reich said staff will be inviting her to a meeting in the future.</li> <li>• STAND Together occupied some of the meeting, which provides a lot of immigration services. A new report from the New American Economy stating taxes paid by immigrants were about \$492 billion. Immigrants (both documented and undocumented) paid \$330.7 billion in federal taxes and \$161.7 billion in state and local taxes in 2019. Although undocumented immigrants pay taxes, they are ineligible for some programs that are funded by those taxes.</li> <li>• CSBG Modernization Act HR-5129 March 19<sup>th</sup> received bi-partisan committee approval to go to the House floor for a full vote.</li> <li>• Zeimer thanked Congressmen Mark DeSaulnier for his leadership on HR-5129. Zeimer announced DeSaulnier and David Bradley will be at the EOC's Service Providers Roundtable on May 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>CSB Director</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Aaron Alarcon-Bowen could not attend and did not provide a report.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>CSB Staff</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tupou reiterated DeSaulnier and Bradley will attend the roundtable. The Ellenwood site has been secured and food planning is in the works. Businesses services is finding a tech person for the event. Outreach Subcommittee will need to meet again soon to discuss logistics.</li> <li>• The Board of Supervisors Community Action Month will start at 9am on May 17<sup>th</sup>. More information for EOC members will be coming soon. Amanda is working on the movie to present at the meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>EOC Members</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaushal attended DeSaulnier's event and thanked him in person for his work on HR-5129. DeSaulnier confirmed his attendance to the roundtable.</li> <li>• McKee announce in-person reading time at the Contra Costa public libraries are resuming in June.</li> <li>• Sewell asked McKee to elaborate on the collaboration between the library and the parks department that allows people access to day entrances at state parks.</li> </ul>

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY
<b>Next Steps</b>	<u>Next Steps</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSBG Staff will provide LIHEAP application to the EOC members to share with the community.</li> <li>• McKee and Ige will connect to discuss LIHEAP community outreach at the public libraries.</li> <li>• Staff will send Bylaws to Board of Supervisors for full approval.</li> <li>• Staff will invite new EHSD director to a future EOC meeting.</li> <li>• Staff will set up an Outreach Subcommittee Meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluate the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We did great.</li> </ul>