KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

May 24, 2018

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee was held at the J. T. O’Connor Senior Center, Knoxville, Tennessee at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Ms. Virginia Anagnost
Mr. Doug Burton – representing Mr. Gerald Green
Mr. Chris Caldwell – representing Mayor Tim Burchett
Mr. Buz Johnson
Ms. Katharine Killen – representing Dr. Martha Buchanan
Sen. Becky Massey
Ms. Kathy Mays
Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie
Ms. Martha Olson
Ms. Judy Poulson
Judge John Rosson
Mr. Thomas Strickland
Mr. Derek Tate
Mr. Ronald Thompson Sr.
Ms. Lula Williams
Mr. Charles Wright

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Commissioner Charles Busler
Dr. Clifford Davis – representing Mr. Bob Thomas
Ms. Polly Doka
Ms. Rachel Honeycutt
Rev. John Gill
Ms. Ashley Ogle – representing Mr. Ben Bentley
Ms. Rebecca Parr
Mr. Terrell Patrick
Ms. Avice Reid - representing Mayor Madeline Rogero
Dr. Sandra Twardosz
The meeting was opened with a moment of silence, Ms. Virginia Anagnost, board chair, presiding.

I. MINUTES (MAILED)
Ms. Anagnost asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 26, 2018 board meeting. She noted a sentence on page three (3) should read, “Ms. Kathy Mays moved…” The minutes were approved with the correction.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Tank Strickland presented the Administrative Committee report from Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

The Administrative Committee met on May 16, 2018 and makes the following report.

The committee approved the Personnel Actions on the attached sheet. The committee reviewed the report of the Office on Aging Invested Funds. No action is required at this time. The committee reviewed the Homeless Services Financial report as of April 30, 2018. The committee reviewed the Head Start and Early Head Start program information and financial reports for the month of April 2018. The committee received a report on the local budget requests. Funds requested to support a staff salary increase are included in the budgets proposed by the city and county mayors. A Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is expected, but has not yet been received. As soon as the city and county budgets are approved, and the COLA information is received, a recommendation will be made regarding the amount and effective date of the salary increase. The committee was advised that an agreement is pending between TVA, KUB, and CAC to provide for the implementation of Home Uplift Energy Project. Home Uplift Energy Project will be funded by TVA. CAC will receive $1 million to weatherize homes through the period ending September 30, 2019. Full board approval is recommended. This will be a separate agenda item. The committee was advised that the Tennessee Department of Labor plan to realign the workforce areas has been approved. Knox County will be incorporated into the sixteen (16) counties that comprise the East Tennessee area as of July 1, 2018. Existing contracts will be extended through September 30, 2018. This will be a separate agenda item. The committee reviewed the recommendations from the Council on Aging for the Allocation of Older Americans Act funds. Full board approval is recommended. This will be a separate agenda item. The committee was advised of plans to apply for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds from United Way in the amount of $108,000. Full board approval is recommended. This will be a separate agenda item. CAC will receive a dividend in the amount of $33,921 related to our Workers’ Compensation, General Liability, and Property insurance coverage from The Tennessee Municipal League Pool.

Mr. Strickland moved to approve the Administrative Committee report. Mr. Buz Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
III. O'CONNOR SENIOR CENTER PRESENTATION

Ms. Sue Massingill, Manager of the O'Connor Center, recognized new staff member Sandy Hicks at the Daily Living Center and highlighted a number of activities occurring at the O'Connor Center. The newest program offered is Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) which is a strength, balance and fitness program. Last month the center hosted an Art Gallery Open House featuring unique paintings, woodwork and photography. The O'Connor Band and the Singing Seniors continue to expand not only in size but also in their outreach to the community. Last July, both the band and singers performed at the Mighty Musical Monday, at the Tennessee Theatre, to a standing room only audience. Ms. Massingill informed the board that next Tuesday, May 29, 2018, there will be a Memorial Day picnic featuring the O'Connor Band. All board members were invited. Ms. Massingill informed the board that there is a softball league for seniors which has grown to 40 participants. Ms. Massingill informed the board that the City of Knoxville will be upgrading the restrooms to be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Ms. Anagnost thanked Ms. Massingill for her report and for the lovely reception for the CAC Board in recognition of the Older American Act.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Senator Becky Massey presented highlights from this past Tennessee legislative session. Senator Massey focused on two areas: Healthcare and Eldercare issues. The largest piece of healthcare legislation is TN Together which focuses on three major components to attack the state’s opioid epidemic. The three components are prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. While working with healthcare professionals, there has been an emphasis on decreasing the supply and dosage of prescription opioids while increasing awareness through education. TN Together provides more than $26 million in funding (State and Federal) for treatment and recovery services for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder. There has been an increase of state funding to attack the illicit sale and trafficking of opioids through additional law enforcement agents and training.

Senator Massey said there were many bills affecting seniors in this year’s budget. For example, the state budget increased the allocation for senior dental services by $85,000. A new law passed this year helps persons with disabilities have as much independence in their decision-making as possible when a court is considering conservatorship or other actions to protect their best interests. Senator Massey informed the board about the Elder Abuse Act of 2018. This bill revises existing provisions and identifies new offenses regarding the abuse of elderly and vulnerable adults. Ms. Martha Olson thought the amount for senior dental services seemed very low. Senator Massey explained that those funds are used to leverage additional funds.
V. \hspace{1cm} WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

Ms. Windie Wilson, Director of Workforce Connections, referred board members to the handout in the board packet. The changes have been confirmed by the State Workforce Board. The first map was a depiction of the current 13 Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA). The second figure in the handout was the same map of Tennessee depicting the new LWDA's after realignment (beginning July 1, 2018). Ms. Wilson explained that up to now, Knox County has been designated as a single county LWDA, whereas after realignment, Knox County will be incorporated into a 16-county regional LWDA. Several steps will be implemented in the realignment process. The mayors of 16 counties will choose a Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO), and the CLEO will designate a fiscal agent. Existing Local Workforce boards will be dissolved, and a new Local Workforce Board for the larger local workforce area will be established. The new Local Workforce Board and the county mayors will determine staffing and administrative organization. The Local Workforce Board and the fiscal agent will procure one-stop operator(s) and career services provider(s), and new service provider contracts are expected to be in-place by October 1, 2018. Ms. Wilson indicated that it is unclear exactly what role CAC will play in the new realignment. More information should be available once the county mayors have met and made initial decisions. Ms. Wilson will report any new developments to the board.

VI. \hspace{1cm} LOCAL BUDGET FUNDING UPDATE

Ms. Barbara Kelly presented information regarding the local budget. The funds requested for staff increases have been included in the proposed city and county budgets. Since the board packet was mailed, information regarding the 2018 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Head Start/Early Head Start Grant was obtained. Ms. Nancy Thomas, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start, informed the board that the proposed budget provides a 2.6% COLA increase in the hourly rate of pay for each of the 198 Head Start/Early Head Start positions. This budget also addresses an increase in operational cost. The program transitioned to the latest version of the Creative Curriculum during the 2017-2018 school year. In an effort to have an assessment instrument that works in conjunction with the curriculum, the program plans to transition to the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment in the fall of 2018. The additional Head Start Training and Technical Assistance funds will be used to assist educational staff in the transition from the current child assessment to the new child assessment.

Judge John Rosson moved to approve the 2018 COLA Narrative & Budget Justification. Ms. Lula Williams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. \hspace{1cm} ALLOCATION OF OLDER AMERICAN ACT FUNDS

Ms. Laura Berry, treasurer of the Council on Aging, presented the recommendations for the Allocations of Older Americans Act funds for $222,286 effective July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. This is an increase in funds from 2017-2018. The following programs will benefit from allocations from the Older Americans Act funds: Office on Aging, Project LIVE,
Transportation, O'Connor Transportation, Catholic Charities, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Homemaker Services, Senior Information & Referral and the Council on Aging.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie moved to accept the recommendation for the Allocations of Older Americans Act funds. Mr. Charles Wright seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. FUNDING GRANTS/APPLICATIONS

Mr. Jason Estes, Director of Housing and Energy Services, informed the board about the $1 million TVA Home Uplift Energy Project that was awarded to CAC Housing and Energy. Mr. Estes said the focus of this project is to provide health benefits to approximately 126 participants’ homes through weatherization upgrade services in the five communities where the funds were allocated. Participating in this program will improve the energy efficiency of the homes and the health and well-being of the participants during the period ending September 30, 2019.

Ms. Judy Poulson moved to accept the TVA project. Mr. Ronnie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Kelly reviewed the items from the summary that was included in the board packet.

- Urban Agriculture received $10,000 from The Thompson Charitable Foundation to support the installation of a demonstration kitchen at CAC Beardsley Farm. The kitchen will be installed in the educational building at the farm and will make it possible to offer cooking demonstrations and classes using the farm’s produce.

- Neighborhood Centers, Homeward Bound, Energy and Community Services, Office on Aging, and Urban Agriculture submitted an application for $108,000 to United Way for Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds. Funds will be used to provide food items to area pantries, nutritional supplements, rent, mortgage, utility, and motel payments.

Councilwoman McKenzie moved to accept the grant to the Beardsley Farm demonstration kitchen and approve the application as presented for the United Way EFSP funds. Mr. Derek Tate seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Kelly reviewed the sheet containing the ninety (90) Summer Food Program sites that will be open this summer for children. Mr. Thompson voiced concern over the operation of an existing site in South Knoxville. Ms. Kelly told the board that she would get additional information and follow up with the director of the food program.
Ms. Kelly informed the board that Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is adding Saturday hours for the acceptance of applications in June.

Ms. Anagnost referred the board members to the packet cover for additional opportunities for board participation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

[Signature]

Buz Johnson  
Substitute CAC Board Secretary