



Community Action Agency Advisory Board (CAAAB)

Meeting Minutes

July 27 2023

Location: PGHA - Community Room 340 Gulf Ave., Punta Gorda, FL	Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Facilitators: Colleen K. Turner, Secretary/Staff	Recorder: Laurie Kimball - Staff

Attendees:		Agency:		Attendees:		Agency:	
Brian Armen	P	Faith-Based Leader		Cara Reynolds	P	Charlotte County School Board	
Joseph Tiseo	A	Board of County Commissioners		Mark Kuharski	P	City of Punta Gorda	
Lynn Dorler	P	Boys and Girls Club		Angela Hogan	P	Community at Large	
Dianne Munson	P	Community Advocate		Paula Wilman	P	Punta Gorda Housing Authority	
Paul Polk	P	County Property Appraiser		VACANT	A	Low-income Community	
Noami Guy	P	GCP – Low-income Community		Ileashea Howard	P	Career Source Center of Southwest FL	
Colleen K. Turner	S	Charlotte County Human Services		Tracy Damon	G	Guardian Ad Litem	
Glinda Pruitt	S	Charlotte County Attorneys Office		Stephanie Lucy	G	United Way of Charlotte County	
Althea Connor	S	Charlotte County Human Services		Anthony Williams	G	Bethel St. Mark	
William Thompson	S	Charlotte County Human Services		Nell Malat	G	Citizen	
Laurie Kimball	S	Charlotte County Human Services		Joe Malat	G	Citizen	
Camalita Aldridge	G	Area Agency on Aging for SW Florida					

Key = P(Present), E(Excused), A(Absent), G(Guest), S (Staff)

ITEM	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome and Roll Call	The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Polk at 1:00 pm. A quorum was established with a majority of members present.	
2. Public Input	None.	
3. Minutes	<i>The April 27, 2023 minutes were approved, as presented, by motion of Mark Kuharski, seconded by Dianne Munson - unanimous vote.</i>	Ms. Turner will post on County website and submit to DEO for the record.
4. Community Action Agency - Purpose of Meeting	Ms. Turner gave a short overview of what a Community Action Agency does and explained it is a federally mandated board that guides and advises the community on the work and expenditures of CSBG funds. She described the local tripartite board composition, role of members, evaluation process, ROMA model and need to nominate a representative for the Low-Income Community.	Powerpoint presentation was included in member packets.

<p>5. Nomination for Low Income Representative</p>	<p>Ms. Turner and Ms. Pruitt explained the rules of CAAAB's democratic voting process. They asked for nominations from the floor, (nominees must be present) and Nell Malat, Resident, nominated herself for the position. Ms Malat explained her background in education and senior care giving, and although she does not live in a low income neighborhood, she has worked for many years with children and families who have needed assistance with housing, household & school needs and/or fighting abuse. She stated that she has a passion for advocating for affordable housing so that people would have the opportunity to live and work in a community that they want to live in. No other nominations were made and the election was conducted by ballot, 20 ballots were submitted and Ms. Malat was elected unanimously to represent the low income community.</p>	
<p>6. Election of Officers</p>	<p>Ms. Turner reported that the board also needed to consider the election of officers, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. Ms. Pruitt recommended that they table the election until revisions to the By-Laws are completed. Pastor Armen made the motion to table the election until the October meeting and Ms. Wilman seconded, motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the length of board terms. Pastor Armen proposed amending the By-Laws to 3, 1-year terms, upon advisement of legal counsel. Mr. Dorler seconded, motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>7. Long Term Hurricane Recovery</p>	<p>Ms. Hogan gave an update on Florida Commerce's Draft CDBG Disaster Recovery Plan and explained that larger entitlement counties will be receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in funding. Charlotte County, however, has unofficially reached the 200,000 population threshold, but it has not been recognized by the US Census which puts us in a difficult position where we must compete for remaining dollars through an online application process. She said that the public comment period is still in process and encouraged members to follow the link to the live-streamed public meetings on August 3rd or 4th if they want to make any comments.</p> <p>Chairman Polk spoke about Florida Commerce's prioritization of counties and suggested member refer the Action Plan which clearly shows that Charlotte County was heavily impacted by the storm.</p>	<p>Link to the State Action Pan for Disaster Recovery: www.FloridaJobs.org/Hurricane-lan</p>

<p>8. Program Funding</p>	<p>Ms. Turner reported on Human Services Department projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHIP funding is continuing to be used for housing rehabilitation, regular work and some new construction. • The SHIP Insurance Deductible program has been extended to June 2025. • CSBG extended its funding range to include disaster aide. • ARPA Funds have been recently awarded to the Gulf Coast Partnership and Early Learning Coalition for homeless prevention and child care programming, and been used to create the Disaster Intervention Program. • LIHEAP and LIHWAP funding is available for energy and water assistance. • COADFL.org - is now the official portal for all Charlotte County Disaster requests, applications received, vetted for eligibility and referred as needed. • Seawall Assistance Grant - The County will be receiving \$1 Million in State funding to assist with seawall repairs for low income property owners. Staff negotiated a sliding scale match program and there are currently 6 individuals interested in the program. <p>Mr. Thompson reported on Aging and Adult Services programing and explained current funding levels, changes in grant periods and increases in vendor rates.</p> <p>Ms. Turner reported for Veteran Services and said that while at the recent Florida Association of Counties annual conference, organizers assembled and donated 300 backpacks for homeless Veterans in Charlotte County. The division is contacting local agencies to get the backpacks to to Veterans in need.</p> <p>Ms. Connors reported on a new civil citation pilot program in which she is working with youth and their families as part of a pre-arrest diversion program.</p>	
<p>9. Aging, Disabled and Veterans AdHoc Committee</p>	<p>Ms. Wilman announced that the Committee has completed its first project, the creation of a resource guide for elderly and Veterans. They will host a kick-off social event at the Family Services Center on September 28th from 11:00am - 1:00pm to distribute the booklets. The committee is hoping to have quarterly social events to provide a social setting for seniors and veterans who may feel isolated. The committee is also pursuing a storage location where surplus medical equipment may be stored and distributed to people in need.</p>	
<p>10. Announcements</p>	<p>Mr. Kurharski announced that he is running for re-election to the Punta Gorda City Council and he will be having a strong focus on affordable housing. Ms. Wilman officially congratulated and welcomed Nell Malat as the CAAAB's newest member.</p>	

11. Adjournment	There be no futher business, Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm. Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aging, Disabled Adults and Veterans Services Ad Hoc Committee – August 10, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Loveland Blvd Large Conference, Room.• Next CAAAB Meeting - October 26, 2023 1:00-2:30 pm, 21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte - Teaching Kitchen.	
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