



MINUTES

Alameda County – Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)

Administering Board Teleconference

2022-2023 CAP Plan Public Hearing

Monday, June 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Granicus Recording Link: <https://oakland.granicus.com/player/clip/4298>

Board Members Present: Gladys Green (Chair), Monique Rivera (Vice Chair), Andrea Ford (Treasurer), Sandra Johnson (Secretary), Laura Guevara, Mitchell Margolis, David Walker, Alicia Rossetti, Samantha Columbus, Njeri McGee-Tyner, John Michael Baratta, Mayor Libby Schaaf (Lisa Ruhland), Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love), Councilmember Treva Reid, Councilmember Treva Reid (Rosa Velazquez), Councilmember Nate Miley (Angelica Gums), and Supervisor Wilma Chan (Sarah Oddie)

Board Members Excused: Councilmember Noel Gallo (Emilia Ordaz-Salto) and Sean Callum

Staff: Estelle Clemons, Dwight Williams, Vanessa Floyd-Rodriguez, and Melissa Francisco

Guests: Michael Munson (City of Oakland, KTOP), Hannah Wegner, An Liu, Jaskiret Rai, Don Raulston (City of Oakland, EITC), Rashida Washington (Alameda County Administrator's Office), Oscar Garcia, Meemee Khine, Kevin Hickey, Sharon Cornu, Maeve Brown, Ami Rowland, Diane Jesus, Tiana-Joy Smith, Sara Voit, Tu Vuong, Katie Derrig, Brooklyn Williams, Assata Olugbala, Lara Maxey, Royle Roberts, Gidalthi Gonzalez, Alison DeJung, James Lande, Anissa B. Villarreal, RocQuel, Anina Tweed, Alexandra Gallegos, Tammi Tilford, Tracey Williams, Judy Jackson, and Louise Hill

A. Call to Order/Recite AC-OCAP Promise

Vice Chair M. Rivera called the June 14, 2021 Administering Board Teleconference to order at 5:33 p.m. The AC-OCAP Promise was recited.

B. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum/Approval of Agenda

Roll call was performed by staff. A quorum was established at 5:37 p.m.

MOTION: To approve the June 14, 2021 Administering Board Agenda.

M/S/Carried: S. Johnson / A. Ford / Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. Approval of Draft May 10, 2021 Administering Board Minutes - Attachment C1

MOTION: To approve the Draft May 10, 2021 Administering Board Minutes with corrections to the attendance.

M/S/Carried: M. Rivera/G. Green/Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Community Action Partnership (CAP) Updates (E. Clemons)

1. Board Update

A. New Board Member Orientation (T. Love and L. Guevara) – Monday, July 12, 2021, at 4:15 p.m.

B. 2021 Board Retreat, October – Doodle Poll to be sent to board for Saturday dates in October. The date of the Board Retreat has not been determined. Staff is waiting until August to determine if staff and board members may gather in-person for the retreat.

2. AC-OCAP Programming

A. AC-OCAP Update

The 2020 CSBG contracts were fully expended and closed out May 31, 2021. The CSBG 2021 contracts have been executed, thanks to staff D. Williams, allowing grantees to spend their monies immediately. V. Floyd-Rodriguez, the newest member of the CAP Team, executed and is now assisting with the administration of the CARES contracts. Money has entered the pockets of participants through nonprofits, with two hundred and fifty City of Oakland Head Start families already claiming their \$500 one-time grants.

B. 2021 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program Outcomes

The EITC program served a total of 60 individuals at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site located at Downtown Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Avenue, and the Get Your Refund online hub. The program was able to pivot to a mostly virtual platform thanks to a partnership with the University of California Berkeley VITA. Staff M. Francisco supported EITC Coordinator D. Raulston in completing more than 50 minimum tax returns. CAP is eager to continue working to expand and improve the program for the city.

C. Bank On Oakland (BOO) and Guaranteed Income Update

Bank On Oakland 2.0 is a relaunch of community programming previously offered by CAP. BOO operated for five years, beginning in 2009, and established 19,000 safe, affordable bank accounts. On June 10, 2021, the first Executive Committee Meeting with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was conducted. The BOO 2.0 Inaugural Banking Partners Meeting will be held on June 21, 2021, to discuss a soft launch and how resources will be provided to the unbanked. More information will be forthcoming.

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, E. Clemons and D. Williams participated in a Guaranteed Income Outreach volunteer opportunity. Flyers were distributed for **Oakland Resilient Families**, one of the largest guaranteed income pilot programs in the country. The program is now taking applications for its East Oakland group. The pilot will offer \$500 per month to 600 low-income families for 18 months, beginning with this initial group of 300 in East Oakland. Follow this link for further information: [City of Oakland | Oakland Guaranteed Income Pilot Now Accepting East... \(oaklandca.gov\)](https://oaklandca.gov)

D. 2022-2023 CAP Timeline and Community Action Plan Comment Period: May 24 – June 23, 2021

The timeline was displayed on the teleconference screen, noting the comment period ends June 23, 2021. Following the recording of the low-income testimonies, the Executive Committee will meet to approve the CAP Plan.

3. Conferences/Travel:

NCAP Annual Convention, Hybrid | Boston, MA, August 30 – September 3, 2021

S. Johnson, S. Oddie and A. Rossetti travel requests were approved and, M. Baratta was approved for virtual participation. The Chair, M. Green and E. Clemons determined S. Johnson should attend as an officer, to act as a proxy to vote for the association's next president.

2021 National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Conference, Virtual, September 27-28 and October 4-5, 2021

Board Members were encouraged to save the date for the virtual NCAF Conference.

MOTION: To accept E. Clemons Community Action Partnership Updates.

M/S/Carried: M. Rivera / R. Velazquez / Motion Carried Unanimously.

E. Future/Proposed Agenda Items

July – October - Grantee Presentations

September – Barbara Leslie (Oakland Chamber of Commerce)

F. Committee Report(s)

Executive Committee "Special Meeting" – Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 5:30pm.

The Special Meeting is required to obtain approval from the Executive Committee before the 2022-2023 Community Action Plan is submitted to the State on June 30, 2021.

G. Open AC-OCAP Public Hearing

The Purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear public comment of the Draft Anti-Poverty 2022 – 2023 Community Action Plan for the Community Block Service Grant (CSBG) – **Attachment G1**

MOTION: To approve the opening of the AC-OCAP Public Hearing.

M/S/Carried: M. Rivera / S. Johnson / Motion Carried Unanimously.

H. Presentation: Alameda County Community Profile and Needs Assessment – AC-OCAP

E. Clemons presented the 2022-2023 Community Action Plan. The presentation can be downloaded at www.ac-ocap.com

I. Public Testimony from the Community on Needs of Alameda County Low-Income Residents

Aaron Smith, Civicorps

Written Comment (Displayed on Teleconference Screen): Oakland has welcomed new residents with a fervor, but not accommodated the most vulnerable in our city. There are millions in revenue generated from exorbitant taxes and new developments, and relatively miniscule amounts spent on temporary and transitional programs for homeless and disenfranchised. There are record numbers of growing homeless, but neglect to expand shelters for adults and transition aged youth. We have spent millions on beautifying the lake, the city streets, creating bike lanes, but where are the lanes for black and brown business development or direct investment into the communities affected by inequities the most? We need tons more affordable housing; we need industrial spaces once reserved for the marijuana industry to be converted into housing and rehabilitation centers. We need to shift the pattern of benign neglect and get active with the abundant resources, especially from the new developments in Oakland, and start to spend more to curb this challenge.

Maeve Brown, HERA

Written Comment (Displayed on Teleconference Screen): Hi, Dear AC-OCAP staff, we appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on your 2022-2023 plan.

Under Item #10, "Causes of Poverty", we would like to add that institutionalized racism and sexism continue to contribute to disparities in income, health, education, and other attainment in Oakland and Alameda County. That is not unique to our region but is a microcosm of our national history. Breaking free of poverty is challenging as barriers continue to exist and to make it hard to escape poverty. The current pandemic pushed many households that were struggling already-- homeowners and renters alike-- into an even more vulnerable position. Seniors who were working minimum wage and under the table jobs to make ends meet post retirement lost that employment with the onset of pandemic related lock-down orders. Tenants also lost employment and could not pay rent, which had a ripple effect across the already vulnerable households of low-income homeowners who were renting to tenants, and small landlords (renting rooms, or owning up to 4 units) who provide some of the most affordable housing in the region (and nationally). <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/owners-and-renters-62-million-units-small-buildings-are-particularly-vulnerable-during-pandemic>. The pandemic pushed struggling or marginally stable households into poverty.

We applaud the continued identification of income and asset building as priorities, along with the other seven categories identified by AC-OCAP. These are a fundamental element of achieving and maintaining household stability. We would add that credit building and fair housing legal services are also important components of ensuring fair access to housing for impoverished residents. We appreciate OCAP as an essential partner and leader in our city and county for analyzing local needs and supporting prioritized strategies for poverty alleviation.

Public Hearing Chat Comment: I would like to note that we are in a tremendous amount of flux as we exit this pandemic and have had a significant exodus from our city of people who had to make other life choices. I hope there's a chance to update figures/data next year.

Public Hearing Comment: It's been a good meeting and it just occurred to me that the tiniest thing that I would say is there's just so much stuff that's in flux. That is, as we roll into this next year, it's always hard doing the data gathering and I appreciate Mike's [Baratta] comments and comments of other folks about data. And I love that you are a data driven person, Estelle Clemons. Which is awesome, because then there's something really concrete about this conversation, right? Yeah, there's so much to learn, there's so much movement, literal, physical movement. People have left our city and our region because they had to make big life change choices, when it wasn't clear that they were ever going to be able to handle going to school remotely, or maybe they were just going to stop going to school for a while. It wasn't clear that they were going to be able to get employed again in the region. When life throws us a curveball that's way beyond: can I pay my rent? Way beyond that it's more like, okay, I can't live here anymore. What is there for me in the city? Anyway, I hope that there's support, funding and energy for doing more data gathering. Let's say like eight or nine months from now, because I think it's going to be a really different looking city. We still have major poverty issues to work on, but things are going to be different. Anyway, thank you for your work.

Jordane Tofighi, International Rescue

Written Comment (Displayed on Teleconference Screen): Alameda County is designated as a refugee-impacted county by the State of California, indicating existing high resettlement numbers, and with the changes in policy under the new federal administration, a significant increase in refugee arrivals is projected for fiscal year 2022. The International Rescue Committee (IRC)

in Oakland is the only refugee resettlement agency in Alameda County, and while we are scaling up programs to meet this anticipated increase in arrivals, we anticipate continued challenges for the refugee community stemming from the high cost of living in the Bay Area and the continued economic fallout from COVID-19. In light of these circumstances, and given that Oakland is a Sanctuary City, IRC hopes to see an increased focus from AC-OCAP on supporting economic empowerment programs tailored to the needs of low-income refugees and immigrants who arrive in the Bay Area with few assets beyond their resilience, ingenuity, and determination to succeed. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for the opportunity to share a comment.

Assata Olugbala

Public Hearing Comment: All the documents that you provided for the public to review states funding priorities are determined through data analysis and data collection of Alameda County low-income residents, and that's where I take issue. You don't have enough data on African American people. You don't have the data that shows that the decline of African American population from 28% to 23% is the only group, racial group/ethnic group is declining, because of gentrification.

When you talk about education, you don't mention that African American students are the highest number of suspensions, dropouts, absenteeism. The state has mandated that OUSD [Oakland Unified School District] has to do something with the high number of African American students who identified as emotionally disturbed in special education.

When you talk about poverty, you don't break down the numbers of African Americans in Oakland. Because that's almost 14% of unemployment for African Americans in Oakland. You did mention the homeless are 70%, and that has been since 2016 with no improvement. I know you've been working for 50 years, and I have to make this statement: nothing has change for African Americans. Nothing, 80% of evictions, 70% of the homeless. In Alameda County we are 11% of the population and 47% of the homeless, you didn't mention that. Graduation rate, you gave the graduation rates for African Americans in Alameda County, but the graduation rate for students in Oakland is 73%, not 77%. The dropout rate is 15.3%, not 7.4%, as in Alameda County. Then you talk about income in Oakland, that's very --the difference between Latinos and African Americans, is a \$20,000 difference, when you look at income. You didn't break down by race, who's receiving SSI public assistance, food stamps, and supplemental assistance.

When you talked about juveniles, felony juvenile arrests, that's majority African American. You don't put it in your data. Homicides, majority African Americans. So, I want to see all the data that supports the needs for African Americans.

You don't have to give any data and you don't give any data on refugees, unaccompanied minors, or undocumented. You don't give any data, but you give support. You don't have no data that gets numbers around that need group, but you give support. So, it's not always based on data. There is no way to produce data on an undocumented community in order to protect them from ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and other things that could violate their opportunities to be here.

We don't have data collection that is substantive. So, I'll just finish up with, there is not enough going on to support any growth for the African American community. And there's no data that would push that forward, that is all encompassing. And you, even during your presentation, try and make it seem like things are not so bad, it's bad. It's bad. And until we get to the point where we're going to actually deal with this, in an open and fair way, it's not going to change. And it's not changing here, it's not changing at the City Council, not changing with the police department, and not changing with OUSD. So, I'm disappointed. And that's one reason I told you, I didn't take the census. You're not going to get my numbers, to get money, and not use it for my people. Thank you for the time.

Brooklyn Williams, New Door Ventures

Public Hearing Comment: All right, thank you, good evening everyone. Brooklyn Williams, I am the East Bay Program Director for New Door Ventures. We do employment readiness for transitional ages 16 to 24, and I've a couple of comments this evening. I appreciated the presentation and the issues raised so far; the comments made so far. I have two things, one that I'd like to see is a different sort of age breakdown or age configuration. To widen the idea of what really, truly encompasses the concept of youth. Obviously, we work with 16-to24-year-olds, which are referred to in our field as transition age youth. Transitioning from youth to adulthood, but also transitioning in and out of different various systems. And so, I think it's helpful, for example, the age breakdown of 18 to 34, that's a wide age breakdown and it doesn't account for where they are in their life and what kind of support they might need. I would like to see all of our systems use more of a transition age youth as an indicator, as a way to bring young people or bring those age groups together. It's the same conversation I've had with the Department of Violence Prevention, how do they define youth, right? If we're just talking about youth being 18 and under, I think it's not really encapsulating the transitional period, what they need, the special needs of that age group. And in our juvenile justice system, that system is adjusting to that so, in other words starting to look at 18-to24-year-olds still as transition age youth and not penalizing them in the same way that adults are held accountable, because

their brains are still growing. The brain science behind that has been out for a while now, so I would like to see the transition age youth group used more in that age breakdown and incorporated into all of our systems. So that's one thing.

The other thing that I think would be helpful, just from, from my perspective, and I think in our field, specifically around employment. I loved the addition of the entrepreneurship as a nuance, but I think there's a lot of nuances in what we do. And I think that the value of collaboration is a good one to hold. I would like to see funders, whether they be from the state, or the county, or the city, or private even, to try to encourage collaboration with end strategies amongst grantees, if you will. So that we really can leverage resources even more. I'd like to give one example of that before I finish my comments. So, in workforce, we're all kind of grouped in the same strategy, whether we're doing employment readiness. Which are just kind of basic employment readiness skills, how you show up to work, how you read and fill out timesheets and those types of things that are transferable to any career. But then we also have career exploration where young people are exploring different careers trying to see what fits for them, and then we have certification programs, and apprenticeship programs that really get folks out of minimum wage and into a livable wage. And that is a process that takes a lot of development and a heavy lift. And I think that with end strategies, there needs to be more collaboration amongst providers. The way that I see it, is something I call light the way, it's a series of lights. You have a floodlight, that's basic employment readiness. Which leads to a flashlight, which is career exploration. Which leads to a laser, which is certifications and apprenticeships. And in our field, right now, I think a lot of folks are putting money towards and focusing on that last light, which would be the laser, which really helps to lift people to livable wages and out of poverty and it's really important step, but it's the last step. And I think that first step, that first light of employment readiness, is a necessary one that can't be skipped. You can't circumvent that, and so what you'll see are a lot of programs that do very specific career pathway work, who realized that the young people coming to their programs still need a lot of development when it comes to basic employment readiness. How do you show up to a job, how do you show up on time, how do you manage your time, how do you communicate, how do you deal with conflict. And so, I like to make sure that there's a focus and concentration on those heavy lifts at the floodlight level, at the employment readiness level. Another analogy I use, is it's like asking someone to write a five-paragraph essay and they're still working on sentence structure. And our education system is built that way, to have grades, and to have markers for learning. And our workforce in development, the way we look at it, I think needs to be scaffolded in a similar way. And I'd like to see our funders encourage collaboration among those various steps and make sure that they're equally valued, because they're all very necessary to help lift our young people out of poverty and into living wages. Thank you.

Royl Roberts, Alameda County Human Relations Commission

Public Hearing Comment: Hello, good evening. My name is Royl Roberts and I'm actually here this evening as a part of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission. First off, I just want to thank your board and everyone that works with you. I understand how [inaudible, speaker disconnected from meeting]. [Reconnected] I was first just thanking you all for the work that you do, but I think I got cut off, but the gentleman [Mike Baratta] that just spoke. Really lifted up the last point that I was going to make about the unincorporated areas and the attention that they deserve, because I saw some really high percentages there. But just thank you all for your work, and this, this has been very informative.

Mike Baratta, AC-OCAP Board Member

Public Hearing Comment: The group is starting to get a little more familiar with, where I live, Cherryland and Ashland, and our needs. I usually go to city data.com for my numbers and they have updated there's to the last census, to the 2020 census. And in that 2020 census, they spoke about the median income for all residents of Ashland and Cherryland. 37% of Ashland is below 200%, 26% of Cherryland is below 200%, but the real numbers that are startling – among African Americans in Ashland, 44.6% are below 200%, and in Cherryland 49.3% below 200%. So, there is the inequity that one of our previous speakers was talking about. It is very real in our community. The struggle is daily, and I see the effort that AC-OCAP is engaged in, and I think they're all in the right direction. And I just hope that my community and everybody's community can get some lift from programs that are hopefully, coming our way. And it's not just isolated segments of the community. It really is the spirit of the entire community that suffers when we have foster kids at high levels. It tells us when we have incarceration at high levels, and it tells us that families are struggling. So, I know everybody's aware of that. I just wanted to point out city data.com has current numbers and they break it down really well, if anybody is interested. Thank you.

Sharon Cornu, St. Mary's Center

Public Hearing Chat Comment: Sorry that I have to log off, but we need to close the building. I wanted to share that as challenging as the year behind us was, the coming year, maybe more so, we will see a new state and federal investment in programs and services that have been gutted by two generations of an austerity worldviews, and we'll have to struggle to lift up equity as a new practice in services. To be clear, disinvestment, high hurdles, narrow eligibility are written into the core of structures of many programs and

services. Making the change while developing larger, stronger, more accountable systems will take focus and attention. Thank you to the AC-OCAP board and staff for all your work and we look forward to continuing the partnership during this challenging time.

J. Close AC-OCAP Public Hearing

MOTION: To approve the closing of the AC-OCAP Public Hearing.

M/S/Carried: S. Johnson / A. Ford / Carried Unanimously.

K. Attachments

- C1** Daft May 10, 2021 Administering Board Minutes
- D2D** CAP Timeline
- G1** 2022-2023 Draft Anti-Poverty Community Action Plan for CSBG

L. Announcements

Oakland Rotary – None.

United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) - None

Alameda County Social Services/All IN/ Board of Supervisors (BOS) (S. Oddie, BOS) Alameda Public Health is offering updates for the community and employers on reopening. [Beyond the Blueprint | COVID-19 | Alameda County Public Health \(acgov.org\)](#)

City of Oakland (R. Velazquez, District 7)) – Akoma Market celebrates Father’s Day & Juneteenth: June 20 at Liberation Park. June 23, 6:00 – 7:00pm [Transportation Safety Town Hall](#)

Board Members/Others – None.

M. Open Forum: A. Olugbala recommend future agenda items, including hearing from the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Commission Advisory Board, the African Americans Reparations Task Force, the Day Labor Program, and the Commission on Homelessness.

M. Adjournment – Next Teleconference : July 12, 2021

MOTION: To adjourn the June 14, 2021 AC-OCAP Administering Board Teleconference at 7:30 p.m.

M/S/Carried: S. Johnson / A. Ford / Motion Carried Unanimously.