



**PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Advisory Board (CAAB)**

Tuesday, **January 26, 2016**, 5:30 p.m.
Kino Service Center
2nd Floor, Classroom 221, 2797 E. Ajo Way 85713

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Paul A. Appleby, CAC, Etc. LLC
Annabelle Nunez
Imelda Pines
Willie Blake, Jr., Kino/Western Hill II
Diane Brown, Private Sector Representative
Cynthia J. Nahsonhoya, Low Income Representative
Roy Tullgren, Gospel Rescue Mission
John Vasquez Bedoy, Board of Supervisor Richard Elias

Members Absent

Lori Bable, UA
Gloria J. Valenzuela, Hiaki High School
and Cenpatico Integrated Care

(10) Guests and Pima County Staff Present

- I. Called to Order, 5:41 p.m., John Vasquez Bedoy, Chair
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - All
- III. Alternative Education Options Presentation - Arnold Palacios, Program Manager, Las Artes, Arts and Education Center presented information about the many years that he has been involved with alternative education for youth and adults. He was a Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) teacher for 18 years and taught alternative education during his final years. He was a principal at a college prep charter school and another one for disadvantaged youth who were at risk and behind in their credits.

Pima County's alternative education is diverse and offers many types of options for students. If you look at the state of education in Arizona and the troubles, it is a result of many years of low funding for public education in Arizona. This impacts the CAA directly because of the people who CAA works with and who are at risk and may need credentials to move forward. The idea of alternative education is very important for these people whether they have limited English speaking skills, drop outs, laid off, or unemployed.

CAA works all over the County and in Ajo, a recent survey showed that 57% of the woman who did not receive at least a GED or high school diploma, are living in poverty in Ajo and the men are at 30%. Arnold stated that when there is not a door or a bridge to offer opportunities, there will not be opportunities and this will impact an entire community and the workforce.

Childhood trauma will also affect how someone will or will not succeed in education and there is a training program at the juvenile detention center. Working with youth and adults through CAA is very important. There are five important points that alternative education should include:

- Respect for the person;
- A balance of what is offered at the institution;
- Decentralization of authority;
- No interference with economic, cultural and political system; and
- A safe place that provides an opportunity to learn.

In our community, there are four districts that offer:

- Charter Schools
- Adult Basic Education
- High School Equivalency (HSE) - also known as the G.E.D.
- Home School

The response to how we are educated is also a response to crisis in our community such as TUSD losing 1,000 students within the last year. That translates to an average of \$7,000 for each student so TUSD may have lost \$7,000,000 from what they are trying to do.

Small class sizes are important for alternative education classrooms such as 15 to 20 students. All charter schools are public schools and there are more than 600 in Arizona.

Pima County funds two alternative education institutions. One is Pima Vocational High School and the other is the Las Artes, Arts and Education Center. Las Artes' classroom sizes are 15 students for one teacher.

It is important for the CAA to offer alternative education options to people who need it and who are in the populations being served with CAA funds.

- IV. Action Item – The CAAB approved the November 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Willie Blake motioned to approve, Cynthia Nahsonhoya seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- V. Staff Report - Rosemary Cora-Cruz, Community Services Manager, Pima County Community Services, Employment and Training (CSET), provided the following information:
 - A CSBG Agency and Funding Update – all agencies are doing well except for Arivaca Coordinating Council (ACC) who recently needed to fill some vacancies including their office manager who resigned. The office manager has been replaced and they also now have a new president and vice president. The new staff are taking over the accounting functions rather than using the paid accounting services that had been handling their accounting. Pima County is holding their November and December 2015 payments until the ACC can

demonstrate that they will be able to handle their future funding and accounting. They are continuing to provide meals and their staff does have background clearances.

The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) did start to provide services but did not use the correct forms. Something for the CAAB to consider for the next round of Request for Proposal (RFP) would be to consider allowing the agencies to have more than two years to renew a contract because sometimes it takes time to get up and running. As it is now, when the first or second year comes around then it is time for the RFP again.

- B. CSBG Information Survey Report – The CSBG Community Services Survey Report in today's meeting packet tells the Arizona Community Action Agency (ACAA) what the Pima County CAA did in the past and is due October 1 of each year.

Rosemary had mailed a survey to the agencies, and she selected the most interesting surveys that were received, and submitted them to the ACAA because they like to include the surveys in the state plan.

If anyone needs a second 3-ring binder, please contact Rosemary and she will have one available for you at the next meeting.

In June 2016, the CAA must inform the ACAA what they are going to do.

A second part of the report will U.S. mailed to the CAAB members because it is a fairly large document that Rosemary did not want to email.

- C. ROMA National Performance Indicator Fiscal Year 2016 – There is also some financial information in today's meeting packet that should be placed in CAAB members' binders. The demographics information is very interesting.

VI. CAAB

- A. Recruitment – Membership – John Vasquez Bedoy mentioned the Ending Poverty Now "Getting Ahead" (GA) program that is managed by the CSET Department. The GA program is to help people who are in poverty to get out of poverty. It is a 50-hour program that includes encouraging participants to get involved in the community in order to help make changes in the community. John suggested that one of the GA participants should be a member of the CAAB and who could be mentored by one or more current CAAB member. This would also be helpful when future vacancies may occur.

Linda Leatherman, Faith-Based Program Coordinator, CSET, confirmed that GA participants would really benefit from serving on a board similar to the CAAB because it would be good for them to learn first-hand, understand and be aware of the different funding resources. It would be good for them to know where funds come from, for the people who need

emergency and other community services, and to see who is making the decisions for the people who receive the support or have the funds available to them and the agencies. Linda said that she does know a GA graduate who is now training others and Linda would like to recommend her to serve on the CAAB. Linda will follow up with the person and provide feedback to the CAAB.

Joyce, UA, who has expressed an interest will not be able to be involved with the next RFP review process because she will have a conflict of interest if the UA submits a Proposal again.

Rosemary confirmed that the following organizations could serve on the CAAB: private business, labor, faith-based, utility companies and youth. If someone were to represent the Rural area and attend meetings, the CAA could reimburse them for mileage.

Linda Leatherman asked if the CAAB could set up internships or could the CAAB visit communities such as Roble-Junction and Ajo. It would be good to invite community representatives from Roble-Junction and other Rural areas, to CAAB meetings. This could help them understand the processes and services that are available for their community. If Rural community members are not able or willing to visit Tucson, maybe the CAAB members could visit them.

Rosemary said that she will notify the CAAB members when the next monitoring visit will be in Ajo and ask if any members are available to attend.

John Vasquez Bedoy asked all CAAB members to please contact Rosemary if they have anyone to recommend and suggested that potential candidates be invited to attend a future CAAB meeting. Gloria Valenzuela will ask her contact at Tucson Electric Power (TEP) if she may be interested in serving on the CAAB. Rosemary stated that she believes that TEP employees may receive awards for serving on community boards.

NOTE to CAAB: TEP does encourage their employees to give back to the community and volunteer including to volunteer and serve on community boards. The company may make a donation to the nonprofit organization's board of directors that the employee serves on.

- B. CAAB Application from Elena West – John Vasquez Bedoy said that one application was received from Elena West. She retired recently from her Las Artes Program Manager position and she is aware of the CAAB. She would be a good asset because she is familiar with the community agencies and needs and is knowledgeable of finances and budgets.

Rosemary Cora-Cruz said that she provided Elena's letter of intent to the CAAB members and mentioned that the CAAB's current three vacancies are from community seats. John Vasquez Bedoy suggested that the CAAB recommend Elena West to the Board of Supervisors. Rosemary read Elena's letter out loud to the CAAB.

Roy Tullgren moved to approve Elena West to fill one vacancy, Willie Blake seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- B. National Organizational Standards – Rosemary suggested that committees may need to be established to address this and items D. and E. due to time restraints at the CAAB’s quarterly meetings.
- D. Strategic Planning
- E. Mission Statement Review

VII. Call to the Audience - Rosemary announced that she will distribute LIFE? Applications to CAAB members and asked everyone to make them available to people who qualify.

- A. The Annual ACAA Conference will be May 12 and 13, 2016 in Mesa near the Wrigley Field. Rosemary asked CAAB members to look at their schedules and to let her know as soon as possible, if they are available to attend or not. Bonnie Bazata, Ending Poverty Now Program

Manager, CSET will be conducting a workshop and Rosemary will be moderating a workshop. The ACAA Board Meeting will be on May 11, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Van Jones. There is a Heart in Hand Award and a Leadership Award, and a Legislative Award. CAAB members are welcome to nominate someone for any of the awards. John Vasquez Bedoy reminded the members that he would like to nominate Art Eckstrom for the Leadership Award. Rosemary said that if someone will provide a draft award entry, she will nominate Art. Rosemary would like to also nominate someone for the Heart and Hand Award and asked for a suggestion from the members. This person should have done something outstanding for the community whether as a board member, community representative, client or employee of an organization.

VIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

IX. Adjourned – 7:05 p.m.