

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)**

**San Diego Workforce Partnership
3910 University Avenue, Fourth Floor
Location: Executive Board Room
San Diego, CA 92105**

CAB MEETING MINUTES: June 9, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order took place at 3:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

- Present: Ana Briones-Espinoza, Daphyne Watson, Ann Durham, Jeannine Nash, Gina Jackson, Nicole Murphy, Stefanie Benvenuto
- Excused Absent: Madeleine Baudoin, Monique Fernandez, Stephanie Stephens, Rebecca Huntsman
- Unexcused Absence: Awichu Akwanya
- Staff: Maggie Lujan, Maggie Fenn, Juana Duenas, Abdi Abdillahi, Tiffani Bolden, Terri Foster, Nancy D'Adamo
- Guests: Nashaw Jafari, Karmin Noar, Andy Hall

PRESENTATION: ANDY HALL, CPO, San Diego Workforce Partnership – SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Andy Hall, the Chief Programs Officer for the San Diego Workforce Partnership gave an overview on Opportunity Youth, who are young people ages 16-24 who are disconnected from employment and education pathways to success. SDWP has been targeting Opportunity Youth through its Connect2Careers and other youth employment programming. Addressing the issues of this population is critical to improving individual and community outcomes.

Maggie Lujan said CAP has enjoyed the opportunity to work with SDWFP for the last year with the Connect2Careers Program CAP is particularly interested in opportunities to work with refugee youth. Although Refugee Employment Services funding does not include targeting youth, CAP is interested in what can be done as a system to bring refugee youth into these programs.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Ann Durham motioned to accept the agenda. Ana Briones-Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2016 MINUTES

Ann Durham motioned to approve the April 14, 2016 CAB meeting minutes. Daphyne Watson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VACANCY REPORT: Maggie Lujan

Awichu Akwanya has missed six consecutive CAB meetings, which constitutes a vacancy per the CAB Bylaws. A formal letter will go out, in an attempt to notify Awichu that his CAB position has become vacant. If CAB members know of anyone who may be interested, please refer them to CAP. Current CAB vacancies are as follows:

Sector Vacancies	Primary	Alternate
Public	1	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2	2
Private	1	5

DISCUSSION ITEM: VACANCIES

There are two prospective Alternate Seat members, Karmin Noar and Nashaw Jafari. Nicole Murphy reported that a telephone interview has taken place with Nashaw Jafari, a Grad Student and Crisis House Volunteer. There is a potential concern regarding her availability because Nashaw is pursuing her Ph.D. If nominated, Nashaw could serve as Alternate to Stephanie Stephens in North Central since Paul Moose’s term expires next month.

ACTION ITEM: NOMINATION

Stefanie Benvenuto made a motion to accept the nomination of Nashaw Jafari to fill Seat 17, Alternate to Stephanie Stephens. Ann Durham seconded the motion. Motion Carried. CAP will send a formal request to County Board of Supervisors.

CAP PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Maggie Lujan

Year-end FY 2015-16 activities related to contracts such as Extensions and Closeouts:

Hotel Vouchers will end this month – services may be available through other entities. Any requests for Hotel Vouchers should be referred to 211.

Contract extensions include RLA Council with CHIP, Connect 2 Careers, and VESL, with provider IRC interested in adding supplemental workshops, particularly in Central Region with Somali women.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Maggie Lujan

The CSBG Amendment was received.

Funding will continue for the Walk-n-Roll program in FY 16-17, administered through Circulate San Diego.

The application for a discretionary grant will be sent for Vocational Building Trades program, to assist refugee youth in East County.

DISCUSSION ITEM: TARGETING REFUGEE SKILL SETS

Ann Durham said they were looking at skilled immigrant initiatives, with healthcare being the first priority, then other trades. Maggie Lujan asked what would be a natural fit for a skill set, especially for women. Maggie Fenn added that a part-time midday position would most likely be ideal, especially near or at children’s’ school. Maggie Lujan replied that the attempts made to link C2C students with County Student Worker’s positions showed the County application and background check process to be somewhat cumbersome. Since school districts have an equally challenging process, there could be obstacles.

PRESENTATION: 2017 – 2019 REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PLAN: Maggie Fenn

BOARD DISCUSSION

Nashaw Jafari asked if any refugees have mental health background skills. There is a fertile area for those who have that type of training. Daphyne Watson replied that to obtain mental health expertise is a complicated procedure with many educational and certification requirements. It may be possible to seek some type of Peer Certification it is worth looking into. An understanding of cultural norms and a willingness to practice in that area are critical. For refugees, survival is more the focus, basic things. PTSD and depression are some of the main issues experienced, as anyone would have, given their experiences. Maggie Fenn said she has not heard of many refugees trained in the mental health field. Ann Durham agreed she has not heard of many either. Nicole

Murphy said peer support is a great idea, and would be well received. Daphyne Watson said peer certification is really the way to go.

ACTION ITEM: 2017 - 2019 REFUGEE EMPLOYEMENT SERVICES PLAN

Maggie Fenn presented the 2017-2019 Refugee Employment Services Plan and accompanying Board Letter.

Nicole Murphy made the motion to accept the 2017-2019 Refugee Employment Services Plan. Gina Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Stefanie Benvenuto said the discussions to increase the Federal funding level for homeless are to be re-opened, with the Chamber helping to lead the discussions for San Diego. Stefanie offered to keep CAB members posted on timeline.

Ana Briones-Espinoza invited CAB members to accept brochures or posters from ACCESS regarding the Crisis Line. They are trying hard to get the message out.

Jeannine Nash asked about the Live Well San Diego walk. CAP will send all CAB members an e-mail with details about the event.

Maggie Fenn invited CAB members to World Refugee Day at the City Heights Library on Saturday, June 25th. There will be Vendors, cultural tables and a Farmer’s Market prior to the event. Ann Durham asked for the info to be sent to her.

CAB CHAIR’S REPORT

No Chair’s report.

ADJOURNMENT

Stefanie Benvenuto made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Nicole Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED BY: Madeleine Baudoin (Chair)

Signature

Date

NEXT MEETING.

- July 14, 2016