



Contra Costa County Economic Opportunity Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Economic Opportunity Council General Meeting  
Location: 40 Douglas Drive, Martinez



**Date: 6-10-2010      Time Convened: 6:08 pm      Time Terminated: 7:15 pm      Recorder: Michelle Cooper**

- Attendees: Fred Jackson (Vice-Chair), Ed Lerman, Caylin Patterson, Michelle Cooper, Katherine Punsalang, Domingo Delgadillo, Deborah Polk, James Sullivan, Kathy Jones, Lydia Ned-Jones, Delphine Smith

Absent: Tracy Fraas, Florence Weiss, Jerome La Torre, Mary Withers

| TOPIC                     | RECOMMENDATION / SUMMARY   |
|---------------------------|--|
| Review Desired Outcomes   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fred reviewed the desired outcomes.</li> </ul>  |
| Public Comment            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>   |
| Approval of May's Minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kathy motioned to approve the minutes, James second the motion with necessary corrections:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omit Deborah from the list of attendees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Chairperson's Report      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>   |
| Vice Chairperson's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>   |
| Staff Reports             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Action Team presented to the BOS about Community Action. The BOS presented CSB with a proclamation declaring May 2010 as Community Action Month. Fred &amp; Kathy were in attendance and spoke on behalf of the EOC.</li> <li>Caylin, Edwin Ferran (Sonoma Community Action Partnership), and Delphine presented at the Northern California Summit on Children and Youth on 6/3/10 in Richmond. Caylin used a PowerPoint presentation to share information about Community Action and she distributed packets with printed information. Edwin sparked provocative conversation about working collaboratively. Delphine provided the audience with a first hand account of her journey from being a Head Start Policy Council Member to her new role as Delegate for Supervisor Gioia on the EOC.</li> </ul> |

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- Ed was very impressed by the level of engagement from the audience. He hopes that the EOC will participate in similar presentations in the future.
- Fred added that the presentation was great. He was pleased that everyone from the EOC participated.
- Kathy recalled that Caylin reiterated CA's move from "poverty maintenance to self-sufficiency." She added that she met a contact named Timothy Jones – Executive Director for Housing Urban Development (HUD) in Richmond. During her discussion with Timothy she advocated for housing for re-entry population; a missing policy piece.
  - Caylin recalled conversations at the N.U.R.V.E. initiative about residents who violate the Section 8 Housing policy during the construction of the new community; they will be permanently displaced without assistance. She requested that additional services be added to the N.U.R.V.E. Collaboration.
  - Kathy added her concerns about Prisoner Reentry. How can one be rehabilitate without ever being habilitated?
- John added that the whole system must be re-evaluated because everyone has different thoughts & ideas.
- Fred gave accolades to Michelle for her engagement, questions, and feedback that she provided in the workshops at the Northern California Summit on Children and Youth.
- Next week, Ed will be at the National Department of Energy Weatherization Conference in Texas.

### Delegate Reports

- None

### Member Updates

- Kathy gave feedback about the Northern California Summit on Children and Youth. She was enlightened by the physical holistic planning ideas from the Housing Urban Development workshop. An example would be placing a grocery store in the community which would aid the nutritional values of a community. Additionally, the input from youth is important because they add ideas about sections that they need such as open space.
- Lydia attended a Re-Entry committee meeting. She's interested in attending the NURVE collaborative meetings. Lydia is pleased to report that she completed the required EOC trainings. Lydia may visit St. Vincent de Paul for her Site Monitoring Visit.

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### EOC Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

- Nominations will open in June and close by June 30, 2010 and the new incumbents will be installed in September.
- As of today, members are eligible to submit nominations for the Chair & the Vice-Chair positions.
  - Members are to email nominations to Michelle by the end of June. If there are no nominations from the floor, we will assume that the body of the EOC has nominated the incumbents by acclamation.
- Michelle will send a reminder email on Monday.

### Finance Sub-Committee

- The creation of a Finance Subcommittee would allow the subcommittee to report the budgets to the EOC every other month. The sub-committee would work with the CSB fiscal manager via phone and/or email to gather the information.
- Kathy, Lydia, and Domingo volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee; the subcommittee was affirmed. EOC staff will make arrangements for the subcommittee.
- Kathy asked if the EOC could ever go to Sacramento to speak about the block grant.
  - Ed explained that if the block grant were ever at risk, we would go to Sacramento. For individual issues, it's encouraged that you go as an EOC member or private citizen to express your opinion.
  - Caylin noted that we, as a group, or individuals could bring issues to the EOC meetings and we could create an advocacy letter and mail it to the state.
  - Domingo suggested that we should start locally. Ed mentioned that since we're an advisory board we should bring issues to the board. We do have a right and a responsibility to advocate for our constituents. Also, if the BOS has questions with respect to an issue that a member has commented on, members then have the role of advocating to the BOS. Lastly, delegates on the council should play a role in bringing the voice of the EOC to the BOS.
  - John added that we should send things to the Supervisors' Chiefs of Staff.
  - Caylin had an opportunity to speak with Sup. Glover about Sparkpoint. It was an opportunity to get his feedback and engage him with our council. Caylin will keep the EOC updated with the progress of the Sparkpoint centers.

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### Continuation of EOC Brainstorm Session

- At the end of the session, staff will collect the questionnaire and compile the feedback into a focus for the EOC.
- The group gave responses to the questions posed on the questionnaire.
- Domingo mentioned that it would be great to see how the EOC fits into the county's services so that the EOC can view activity and identify gaps; thus, creating opportunity for the EOC to get involved. He also would like to know: How much money does the county spend on services to the public?
  - EOC staff can put together a PowerPoint presentation that provides an overview.
- Fred began by sharing that he viewed a PBS special that portrayed descendants of African enslaved people in America as victims. Such media ties into his historical retrofit initiative. He would like for the EOC & school board involved.
- Jerome completed and submitted his questionnaire. Ed highlighted the themes from Jerome's questionnaire that were relevant to the present discussion:
  - Education is a major factor in the cycle of poverty; the underlying theme of Fred's comments.
  - Similar to what Domingo added, Jerome would like to know how the county functions & what the county thinks the EOC's role should be.
- John would like the EOC to be more visible. He recalled the Public Hearing Meetings at the Pacheco Center. The public did not know how to utilize the EOC.
  - Ed added that visibility is also a personal responsibility. Members should be representing at their personal community engagements. Wearing your EOC name badge and distributing business cards is one way to introduce the EOC.
  - Members may contact Michelle for EOC materials
- Lydia informed the group that she volunteers at the Contra Costa Food Bank.
- Rotating EOC meeting locations was discussed.
- Adjourned at 7:15 pm

### Adjournment