

APPROVED MARCH 25, 2025

Montgomery County Community Action Board
Virtual Meeting
February 25, 2025

MINUTES

CAB Members in Attendance: Beverly Coleman, Lisa Conlon, Denise Fredericks, Jeffery Johnson, Will Kenlaw, DaVida Rowley, Claudia Simmons, Mike Subin, and Timothy Robinson

CAB Members Absent: Rachel Bonas, Erika Conner, Summer Cook, Luz Cuenca, Pamela Luckett, Evelyn Okutu, Kemmesha Thomas, and Helen Winder

CAA Staff: Shantá Johnson, Aizat Oladapo, and Leah Goldfine

Guests: Dourakine Rosarion and Kali Schumitz

CAB Updates

Board members received a detailed written report from the staff liaison with updates on the board's activities since the last CAB meeting, along with the updated CAB legislation tracking form and recent CAB testimony. Staff shared that several volunteers were needed for the CAI testimony practice sessions in March.

Rachel was thanked for testifying on behalf of the CAB and Head Start Parents Policy Council at a Board of Education meeting.

Kali Schumitz from the Maryland Center on Economic Policy and Fair Share Maryland, joined the board to discuss the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025. Staff noted that the board had already submitted testimony in support of the House version of this bill, but only a small portion of the bill that addressed the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which are historic priorities for the CAB. Kali provided an overview of the full bill, which is much broader than the small piece that the CAB had already supported. The full bill would adjust the tax structure in the state so that wealthier households would pay a higher tax rate and would close certain loopholes for corporations. The bill would also expand the state's Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions about the details of the bill and request information about how it compares with the Governor's proposed budget.

Call to Order: The meeting was officially called to order at 6:43 pm.

Consent Agenda

Timothy moved to approve the consent agenda and Claudia seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The consent agenda included the minutes and evaluations summary from January 2025 CAB meeting; Executive Director's Report; Head Start Report and Head Start SY24 Annual Report;

Contracts Report; Staff Liaison's Report; Budget report and P Card update; TESS and Navigation reports; Fair Share for Maryland Handouts; CAB legislation tracking list; CAB and Head Start Parents Policy Council testimony for the Board of Education; and CAB testimony in support of HB708/SB668 - Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility, HB709/SB651 - Good Cause Eviction, SB666 - Maryland Community Action Agencies – Funding, HB1431/SB977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act, HB1006/SB828- Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, and HB1014 - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

CAB Updates Continued

Following the presentation about the Fair Share for Maryland Act, Timothy moved to have the CAB support the full bill. Mike seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

Board members received a detailed Executive Director's report with updates on the agency's programs, along with program reports from TESS and Navigation and budget and P Card reports. Shantá shared that TESS had reopened to the public that day following a long closure due to facility issues. VITA was continuing strong throughout the tax season, with RideOn messaging in seven languages starting soon.

Head Start Report

Board members received a detailed written Head Start report and the Head Start SY24 Annual Report. Claudia shared an overview of the Annual Report. The report highlighted school readiness data for Head Start children from school year 2024. Most of the numbers were very good, with high percentages of Head Start students performing well in all areas of the Early Learning Assessment. Many families were referred by the program to a wide variety of services and 89% of children received medical and dental services. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions about the report and to request additional information about outcomes for PreK students. This information might highlight the impact of Head Start specifically if outcomes are better for Head Start students. Denise moved to approve the Head Start SY24 Annual Report. Mike seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Contracts

Board members received a detailed written report with updates on the agency's contract and grant partners. Aizat reported that she and contract monitor Melissa Ferguson are conducting monitoring visits. The County Executive's FY26 budget would be released on March 14th. Aizat noted that residents seeking services at the agency's partners are very concerned about their information being shared with Immigration Enforcement.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.