

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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**June 2, 2020**  
**By Online Conference**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Raymond Banks, Damon Johnson (Shuja), Barbara Medeiros, Karen Roye, Kamarlo Spooner, Lee (Taqwaa) Bonner (New from District 1), Tanasha Stevens

**Not Present:** DC Barlow, Jasmine Quinn, Lou Rigali,

- **Call to Order:** 6:17 p.m.
- **Review and Approve Minutes from March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Proposed changes: 1) Jasmine Quinn and Karen Roye brought up the subject of the retreat to get to know one another and for a better understanding of CAB's vision and purpose, 2) Pg.2 last bullet should read "100% early release from prison", 3) pg 3, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet, second to last line should read, "creates delay in getting money out to CBO contract", 4) pg 3, last sentence should read, "will not limit the amount within the total allocation of leadership skills".
  - Raymond makes motion to accept minutes with above changes. Kamarlo seconded.  
**Passed unanimously**
- **CAB – Open Seats and Recruitment Update (Raymond):**
  - District 1 – 1 open seats, District 2, 1 open seat, District 3 – 2 open seats, District 4 - 1 open seat, District 5 – 0 open seat.
- **CAB Recruitment and Retention Process**
  - Lou's Update: Passed
  - Term Limits: Raymond requested extending the extension to two years
    - Operating Guidelines set forth the term limits. "Maximum of 4 terms" with each term of 1 year. Per County Council Scott Dickey, term limits must be approved by CCP EC and then ratified by the BOS.
    - Term limits, per Neola, never made it to the CCP EC.
    - Barbara believes that the past discussion of term limits related to the Board Chair extending 1 year; Raymond indicates that it was a different discussion
    - Neola said past discussion of amendments to "Article 3, section 2" occurred during the March 5 meeting where the discussion centered on extending a term until a replacement could be found. At the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Raymond made a motion to allow CAB members to serve four years, only and to cancel the extension plan agreed to at the last meeting. The motion did not pass.
    - Kamarlo suggested a new discussion be had on an amendment; Karen wonders what the benefits of an extension would be. Kamarlo indicated that Keith Gums (former CAB member) did a lot of work on amendments of the bylaws, but it never was brought forward.
      - Pros: Continuity, assure a full Board (Raymond, Kamarlo)

- Cons: No rotation of seats in Districts where the seats are regularly filled; no spirit of rotation (Karen, Barbara)
- Kamarlo suggested extending a term a year until replacement could be found, but questions remain:
  - If no replacement is found, how long should the termed-out CAB member hold the seat?
  - How does one figure out the “year” for the new member?
    - Neola - the year begins when the person starts.
- Raymond moved that the CAB terms be extended for two years for a total of 6 years. **After a roll-call vote, the motion passed** (5 ayes, 2 nays). After a question of clarity, Raymond moved that the CAB limits be extended for an additional two years if the person wants to stay another two years. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Questions arose after the vote as to what was actually voted on and whether sufficient discussion was had before the vote:
  - Karen asked if we are voting to take to the CCP EC - Neola says yes
  - Tanasha indicated it was her intention to keep the CAB filled, but not necessarily with the member whose term was completed: she believes the limit should extend two more years but only until the seat is filled. Other CAB members agreed.
  - Tanasha indicated she voted “yes” without a complete understanding of what she was voting on.
    - Raymond indicated that even if Tanasha changed her vote, the motion still passes.
  - Barbara moved to set the vote aside and place the discussion of the amendment on the next month’s agenda. **Motion was not seconded nor was a vote held.**
    - Raymond feels the attempt to set the vote aside was not made in good faith and moved to the next agenda item.

• **Oakland Fair Chance Housing (John Jones):** Passed

- **Black Men Speak (BMS) – Mental Wellness of African American men during the pandemic (James Glen, Associate Director)**
  - Issue of Isolation: Isolation, trauma increases mental health challenges. Historically, BMS has been a speaker’s bureau as its members are in a position to be empowering and inspirational.
    - Speaker’s bureau opened to all men of colors and faith. Also have women’s bureau. Also have a group with men leaving prison...and a group that is faith-based.
  - BMS had to change its focus due to COVID 19 from the speaker’s bureau to helping its members through the wellness tool of self-care, including aiding its members in understanding how self-care is important to oneself:
    - Stepped up services to help with shopping and housing.
    - Developing a Zoom platform to support persons, deliverables and presentations.
    - Provides company for isolated person, including a walk or a drive, weekly visits and phone calls.

- Homeless is not just lack of housing but includes profound loss and isolation. BMS hopes wants persons to look at oneself from assets not deficits.
- The CAB thanks Glen for his service
- **Entering services and Operation Comfort (Barbara Medeiros)**
  - Covid 19 affects delivery of care - challenge is placing positive or symptomatic persons in programs and sober living environments. If person not tested for the virus, they have to be isolated for 2 weeks, so testing is essential.
    - Isolation is not healthy, especially for the populations involved.
    - Testing is now taking 3 - 5 days, but even 3 days isolation is difficult.
    - Curfew is making the problems worse since a person can't go outside for a walk to relieve stress and help with isolation.
    - Unfortunately, even when a problem is solved, the problem changes - as knowledge of the pandemic evolves, the response must evolve/change as well.
    - System of care must be built around the individual, and not around the program. Constantly trying to develop new solutions and systems of care.
    - Project Safer Ground is for persons at high risk for disease mortality
      - Comorbidity - multiple problems (high risk).
      - Persons cannot enter Project Safer Ground unless such person has an Axis 1 substance abuse disorder and Axis 2 mental health diagnosis. Must come to program already diagnosed thru Access.
- **Probation Response to Pandemic (Chief Wendy Still):**
  - **Juvenile and Adult Response**
    - Juvenile Hall and Camp Sweeny:
      - Screening at entrance, then orientation, some persons don't remain more than 4 days but others much longer.
      - Currently 58 persons in detention (from 108 intakes).
      - All persons in custody wear masks, observe social distance. Appropriate cleaning is done.
      - Detainees and staff asked same questions regarding health, both in the hall and in the.
      - No reported Covid at either facility
  - **Adult:** Lots of remote work with persons under supervision; additional concrete services have been offered (same with juvenile):
    - some persons have received early release from prison (34 to be released in May and June - pathways to )
    - Opened a new 7<sup>th</sup> step, but due to social distancing, limiting bed numbers.
    - Housing to 40 individuals who had to leave a grant funded temporary shelter has been provided.
    - Probation looking to acquire more housing...putting out a RFI
  - Probation also gives out masks - about 35,000 from Prison Industries
  - **Donald Frazier, Executive Director BOSS** - brings to CAB attention:
    - 600 probationers, over 400 expressed housing as a need.
    - BOSS has 237 beds for men and women in Oakland.
    - Also have identified 159 - 290 residents for outreach.
      - Currently have about 80 beds for these underrepresented clients.
      - Director of Reentry, Tim, historical challenge to provide housing/beds

- Also have 300 probationers who fall into vortex...no longer can receive the supports for employment services.
  - BOSS continues to stay on the frontline.
  - BOSS offers CAB: On ground, participatory research concerning resident's person's - first-hand account of what persons are feeling.
- **Chief Still:**
  - New employment providers. Increased transitional subsidies from 80 to 120 hours.
  - Helpful if CAB could have representation at the fiscal meeting. If CAB wants to weigh in, it's great to be there.
    - Karen volunteers to attend the fiscal meeting
  - Meeting with CDAA to provide housing more quickly...contracts take too long.
- **Adjusted Base/CBO Realignment Allocations (Chief Still)** No good news:
  - AB 109 allocations are reduced, since one of formula factor is sales tax.
  - Governor reduced 2020 funding and the 2021 funding, and he did not provide for any growth funds which our county uses to pay fees (of probationers).
    - Paying of fees will continue for 2020 and 2021 (money available), but funding going in the wrong direction.
    - Juvenile realignment will not be affected.
    - Biggest concern is reduction of funds for services. (CBO funding went from approximately \$25 million to \$21 million)
- **Agenda Building:** BOSS, Minutes, CAB recruitment, Recruitment transparency (Lou), CAB etiquette and professionalism, Presentation on platform, Term limits, Entrepreneurial support, Fiscal and Procurement Workgroup report and public comment.
- **Public Comment:**
  - Karen wants to close the meeting in memory of George Floyd.
  - Eric von Geldern, Senior District Attorney - Local Advisory Committee for Prop 47 has 2 or 3 community positions available
    - Contact Sophia Lai, Behavior Health, for application.
- **In honor of George Floyd:** Karen provides words in honor of George Floyd.
  - Hopes for deeper accountability and responsibility and that we all work together for such.
  - Moment of Silence observed
- **Adjournment: 8:36**

**Next Meeting**  
**July 7, 2020**  
**6:15 – 8:15**