

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



September 1, 2020 By Online Conference MINUTES

Present: Raymond Banks, Barbara Medeiros, Karen Roye, Kamarlo Spooner, Succatti Shaw, Lou Rigali

Not Present: Taqwaa Bonner, Damon Johnson (Shuja), Jasmine Quinn (leave of absence), Tanasha Stevens

- **Call to Order:** 6:15 p.m.
- **Review and Approve Minutes from August:** Minutes approved with the following amendments:
 - DC Barlow no longer on the CAB
 - Succatti did not leave the meeting early
- **CAB – Open Seats and Recruitment Update (Raymond):**
 - District 1 – 2 open seats, District 2, 0 open seat, District 3 – 1 open seats, District 4 - 1 open seat, District 5 – 0 open seat.
 - Jasmine on leave of absence.
- **CAB Recruitment and Retention Process**
 - Lou's Update:
 - Recruitment Transparency Guidelines: Equity Recruitment Process: **See Guidelines attached herein.**
 - Emails related to recruitment - Raymond discusses emails/shows emails on screen as evidence of different handling of applicants. For example, one applicant took 1 day, the other almost 2 months to be approved. Emphasizes need for a uniform process.
 - Kamarlo: Different districts move at different speeds. Gives some examples and agrees with the need for a uniform process. CAB needs to be able to address to an applicant why they weren't selected.
 - Barbara notes that the emails do show some confusion with the application process. Succatti agrees with a uniform process, would streamline the process.
 - Lou - Focus of guidelines is visibility and a fair process.

- Karen requests a copy of the Guidelines so that she can have the opportunity to review and digest its content.
- Darryl Stewart: Cited email does not reflect the practice of his (Supervisor Miley's) office but was from an assistant who was not familiar with the process. Darryl objects to the content, most importantly, the wording of the agenda: Supervisor Miley has appointed both men and women of color to the CAB, including African Americans . Darryl cited two women, Barbara Quintero and Karen Roye and one formerly incarcerated man, Doug Butler, as examples of persons of color recommended by Supervisor Miley who sit or have sat on the Board.
- Scott Dickey, Assistant County Counsel - The Chair (of the CAB) needs to be careful as to how matters are described on the agenda. He also reiterated that the CAB cannot direct the BOS to do anything. The CAB can suggest/recommend actions. Scott indicated the CAB could meet with the BOS and request that the Guidelines be adopted.
- Kamarlo - County Counsel (CC) sits with Probation (during the CAB meeting). Not once has CC said that the CAB is right about something; County Counsel always indicates the CAB is wrong.
- Raymond took CC off agenda because he believes County Counsel represents Probation and he wants legal counsel for the CAB. Raymond feels there is an unfair bias towards the CAB
 - Scott Dickey responds: County Counsel has only one client - the county of Alameda. Thru the direction of the BOS and department heads, County Counsel represents the County in every facet. As such, he/County Counsel represents the CAB. Scott has spoken before (about CAB actions/requests) because he needed to correct that which was incorrect and/or mistaken. Scott indicated there isn't any precedent for independent legal representation (besides that of County Counsel) for CAB and does not see such as workable.
 - Raymond: County Counsel not in the room with CAB, in room with Probation and indicates that the CAB will seek its own counsel.
 - Lou believes that persons should listen to each other.
- Lou understands BOS does not need to listen to the CAB but wants to return to the Guidelines. Lou agrees that the CAB should be careful about the language it uses.
- Barbara: Feels we all, including the CAB, need to work together, must learn to communicate in a respectful manner. (Cites Butler being called out as law enforcement as an example of disrespectful behavior).
- Succatti: Respect goes both ways...and must be gained. The only way a community meeting can run efficiently is to put personal stuff aside. Whether Probation or CAB, each must understand there is a common goal. This would include recognition that the CAB is (sometimes) right. Probation can't tell her what it feels like to be formerly incarcerated.

Legal counsel is best when they educate. All must realize that titles don't matter.

- Karen: CAB represents the Formerly Incarcerated and Victims and Survivors of Crime - that's her voice. She agrees with Succatti that the CAB must work together and set aside general differences. Appreciates work put into the recommendations but just seeing them now and she has questions about them. Is the CAB submitting the recommendations to the BOS (for adoption) or asking the BOS to build them out. Karen noted that the CAB advises, does not direct the BOS and is concerned that if the CAB uses such (direct) language, then the Guidelines will be kicked back.
- **Motion made by Kamarlo** to adopt Lou's Guidelines and to move the Guidelines forward. Motion seconded by Raymond. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Darryl Stewart suggested the CAB ask how other boards/commissions are appointed. Daryl will email such information to Raymond.
- **Stipends** (Raymond): Suggests the need for an officer who will manage/answer questions about stipends and who will ensure that CAB members receives stipends in a timely manner. Kamarlo suggests expanding stipends to include "attendance" and costs incurred for a virtual meeting (that exceed \$50). Stipend should be given if roll call puts person at CAB without need of a requesting email.
 - Raymond asks if any CAB member volunteers to be stipend officer. Raymond volunteers. He believes the stipend should be changed from transportation to attendance (if justice impacted).
 - Karen asks Scott Dickey if Covid 19 reasons can be used to justify attendance or costs as part of the stipend. Scott indicates "yes". Attendance would allow the stipend to be given without the need of showing expenses...and indicates, as indicated last meeting, that the CAB can ask for retroactive payment for attendance.
 - Barbara asks to change "transportation" to "attendance"
 - Karen suggests changing the stipend to allow receipt by all CAB members, not just the justice impacted.
 - Raymond said the reason for the justice impacted requirement is because it's harder for those justice impacted to get a job and that the stipend helps to mitigate the costs associated with CAB meeting attendance.
 - Barbara: We don't know finances of CAB members, making assumptions.
 - Kamarlo: Reason for stipend was to get the justice impacted involved; to guarantee that those that are marginalized have access to participate with the CAB. The BOS allowed the stipend because it was for the justice impacted; other (County) boards do

not get paid. Kamarlo indicated the stipend would not have been approved if it was not limited to the justice impacted.

- Barbara suggests changing "transportation" to "participation" and "system impacted" to "crime impacted."
 - Raymond thinks should stick to attendance and participation.
- Raymond moves to change stipend language to Attendance/Participation from Transportation. His motion did not include changing language to "system and crime impacted". Kamarlo seconds. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Karen wants it on the record that fairness/equity includes persons who have been impacted in different ways (and the stipend should go for such).

- **CAB Etiquette (Barbara)**
 - Barbara, as a CAB member and in her personal capacity, thanked Neola for Neola's service and for all that she (Neola) has done.
 - Barbara believed tonight was a starting point of being professional, being respectful and not cutting people off - "that's why matters could be moved forward." She felt it crucial to remember that every voice is important and to listen (to each other) with open heart and open mind. She emphasized that moving forward, attacking/demeaning statements should not be made because all voices are important. Barbara has felt demeaned and attacked during CAB meetings and doesn't want others to feel the same. Makes for a healthy CAB.
 - Karen believes it is important to set the tone of working together...remember that all giving of their time.....this should set the pace and tone as to how the CAB will work together.
 - Lou: A cognitive scientist says we must honor and encourage dissent because dissent activates the critical thinking part of our brain.
 - Raymond: Marlos (Kamarlo's) idea of limiting time and questions allows all to be heard.

- **Housing**
 - Raymond recommends take 1.5 from 6 mil (extra) and give 1 mil to women and children and .5 to sex offenders. He realizes that this can be accomplished by augmenting a current service provider rather than through the RFP process. Believes this housing crisis should be considered an emergency due to COVID since 84% of current housing budget goes to men.
 - Succatti agrees. No transitional housing for existed for her when she came home. And, a returning woman must prove that she has stable housing to regain custody of her children; can't do if homeless.
 - Neola indicated that the CAB took action on this recommendation in December 2019 (requested 30% increase) and CCPEC took action on the same in Jan 2020. Raymond said not true, said it was shot down as too generalized. Rodney doesn't remember indicating that the recommendation "was shot down as too

generalized” and asks for record of such. Neola said housing projects have been brought to the CAB for approval.

- Raymond says the request for women and sex offenders didn’t pass, he’s not a liar.
- Gina Temporal, Probation, indicated that Probation is doing an RFP for housing for women/children and sex offenders.
- **CAB Meeting Transition to Community Support and Resources**
 - **Meetings:** Raymond would like to see more meetings in the community and holding townhall meetings at CBOs or BOS. This could also include legal support and advocacy. He wants to begin a process for greater community engagement.
 - BOSS offered to provide such support, but Raymond doesn’t think they should consider only one CBO but should utilize CBOs throughout the county.
 - Barbara agrees. Having meetings in areas with greater percentage of Justice Impacted is a good idea: eg, Cherryland and parts of Oakland. Would include BOSS and other CBOs such as La Familia. Suggests inviting community members to Zoom meetings by getting flyers distributed at CBOs and Probation.
 - **Karen makes a motion** to move more CAB meetings to the communities that represent majority of justice impacted folks and extend and improve outreach so that persons in the community can participate more. Barbara seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Redirecting funds from Law Enforcement (Kamarlo) - Passed**
- **Public Comment:**
 - Tamika Cotright, Probation, set forth what will be followed in application process. Kamarlo - Probation says it doesn’t have anything to do with application process, but Probation just set forth what procedure they will follow. Probation said, the procedure just shows that if Probation receives an application, the application will be forwarded. Kamarlo said, if Probation receives an application, they tell the applicant they sent it to the wrong place.
 - Succatti requests that trainings be at a time that is conducive to everyone’s schedule.
- **Agenda Building:** To include: Redirecting funds from law enforcement, use of community scribe, CAB recruitment, County Counsel presentation, a 15-minute overview of Probation training
- **Adjournment: 8:37**

Next Meeting
October 6, 2020
6:15 – 8:15