



Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee 12/10/18

Present: Leah McCall, Ashley Burton, Deb Hendren, Elizabeth Kelly, Eric Hufnagel, Eric Partee, Rebecca Mix, Angela Gougherty, Marc Craig, Debbie Brinson, Kathy Williams, Eric Burton, Ernestine McRae

Absent: Rick David, Heather Rae, Pat Wolschon, Ryan Hertz, Jill Anderson, Sylvia Clark, Susan Benson

State and Federal Elections

- Congress and senate are staying the same
- House had a different make up now, moving forward seats have flipped from republican to democrat. Moving from 9/5 to 7/7 split. 3 Open seats where new people have moved in
 - Changed to democratic control
 - Democrats will be chairs of committees
 - Impact on what gets to the floor
 - Affect priorities and what will be focused on
- Tightening in disparities between democrats and republicans in house and senate
 - Tighter house and senate
 - House – 63/47 Republican, dem split
 - In January 58/52 so 47% split
 - Look at the number of votes you would need to flip to get to a majority if you are democratic. Will only need 4, so more discussion, negotiation, dialogue
- Senate: 27/11 split, will be 22/16 split. Need 3 people to split to move something through of what the democrats are proposing.
 - Creating more of a scenario of parties working together

Local elections

- Right now, a lot of power is being stripped from the governor and leadership roles that will have big significant decisions.
 - Where does the governor sit on some of those things and what are some of his passions?
 - Gov has set agenda of things that he wants to happen
 - Understand who the moderates are that can flip to the democrats to help any policy go through
 - A lot of leadership is coming from up north, rural communities, and not looking at urban and suburban issues.
 - They are putting together an advisory board together. Important to get key people in that group to advise on housing issues. Reach out to transition team. Debbie mentioned that if Marc has not been contacted then we should reach out to them.

Oakland County

- Christine Geist is the minority chair caucus. She is not allowing OC people meet one on one, she wants them to come together collectively as a caucus; to move forward as one voice.
- Discussion on governor creating cabinet level position that will be focused solely on poverty
 - How does that relate to all the departments?

Policy Framework Discussion

What is the purpose of policy?

- To help us be proactive not reactive, change the structure of things
- Systems change to decrease disconnects.

- Changing perceptions by improving outcomes.

Policy change can be done with legislative policy through law and there is also regulatory.

- Ex of regulatory: MSHDA, and how ESG dollars are distributed and how they are to be used.

Different levels of policy work

- Local, state, federal. All working independently but can have a bearing on one another, not necessarily free standing.

Within the Alliance

- Right now, there are individual organizations that are doing things, not really a unified message coming from Oakland County.
- There is typically a report out on what an individual organization is doing, there is not much communication or pattern in regards to working on policy. There have been times when the Alliance and its member agencies have come together in regards to advocating, but has been done in a reactive way due to a need in the community.

The Alliance is looking at a broader policy agenda.

- Not just about affordable housing. It is also inclusive of economic growth opportunities that allow for housing.
- Employment, healthcare... linkage with all the other sectors so that our efforts are better coordinated.

How advocacy can get done and different roles in advocacy

3 types of Advocacy

1. **Grass tops**-when an organization takes the lead and works directly with legislative policy makers. Direct advocacy work. Alliance being the entity that is actually carrying out the work
2. **Grassroots**-which is when an organization facilitates the involvement of the members. The Alliance being the facilitator or the entity that is helping to grease the wheels so that the members are able to do the advocacy work.
3. **Combination** of both where the Alliance could take the lead on certain things, but can also provide information and tools that will help facilitate the participation of the members on the things that they think are important and that they want to devote time to.

What role for the Alliance seems to make sense?

Both.

- In certain areas the Alliance can take the lead because that is where their core expertise is. If the expertise lays within the members, they would take the lead. Then Alliance can help coordinate to pull key players together to help support that initiative.

Capacity? How much is staff responsible for and how much are members responsible for?

Untapped talent within the CoC that we can use. Find out who would be interested, something different than their everyday job and done on voluntary basis.

Political Will Issue

Those feeling different about politically charged issues. Have not really developed a mechanism for having a dialogue about what we would want to get behind/weigh in on.

What level of advocacy (federal, state, local) are we interested in? What level of advocacy would be the appropriate role for the Alliance?

Combination of all three

How we invasion the Alliance's role with how some of these things are taken on?

Would it be issues the Alliance identifies and runs with? Or working with other organizations that already have something in place?

- Some of both, more emphasis with the Alliance establishing its own identity. To be the face of speaking on behalf of people who are homeless in this county and the face of redefining perceptions of affordable housing.
- In situations when people suddenly become homeless, the Alliance should be the go-to agency to then figure out which agency of their members agencies will respond and how they are going to respond, and coordinate that. Alliance should be the once that the county recognizes, ability to speak on issues and coordinate those responses.

The Alliance will pursue direct advocacy and facilitating to varying degrees of local, state and federal advocacy and use a combination of leading and establishing identity by leading on certain issues and with others by collaborating or by feeding into a larger voice.

What do we want to do? How many issues? Policy committee? Mainly staff? Or staff in supportive role of assisting policy committee? How broad do we want to get in incentives that we want to pursue?

How do we want to get this work done?

Developing a communications plan, uniform way to work through public awareness, how to distribute numbers or how to respond to something. Having that be separate that going after policy change but linked together with the outcomes committee.

- Separate but joint tasks.

Policy Agenda to be approve by the Alliance Board

1. Increasing Access to Affordable Rental Units
 - a. Tax incentives to landlords
 - b. Damage funds for landlords
2. Strengthening funding for homeless services and affordable housing opportunities
 - a. Increase funding within in local department for programs that help individual and households' access or maintain housing
3. HUD decrease funding
 - a. Op ed
4. Jail and how it causes individuals to lose healthcare