



Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 8, 2022

The Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Tri-Valley Administrative Office in Crookston, MN and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Board members present were S. Peterson, S. Vonesh, L. Hall, T. Anderson, J. Bachmeier, M. Kroulik, N. Myers, H. Bawzer, D. Mack, J. Jacobson, G. Willhite, J. Duckstad, M. Gunderson, and C. Spisak.

Staff members present were J. Carlson, M. Melbye, and D. Littlefield.

Quorum was established with 14 voting members present.

M. Kroulik moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the current agenda, January 11, 2022 meeting minutes, status report, and financial report. Seconded by J. Duckstad. Motion carried.

Treasurer J. Duckstad reported the fiscal documents were reviewed and in order.

J. Carlson presented the Chief Executive Officer report.

- The Agassiz Townhomes furnace issue may be resolved. The furnace venting will be moved from the roofs to the sides of the units.
- The Apple Valley property has been listed for sale. Preparations must be made for the sale, as this property has been used as collateral for a number of small transportation program loans.
- J. Carlson has been participating in the MnDOT Hwy 2 Corridor Study. The disposition of the existing Tri-Valley building will not be discussed by MnDOT until the study completes in the summer of 2022.
- A status update of the Fournet building included:
  - Trim has been installed.
  - Public address speakers have been installed.
  - Restroom flooring and facilities are in progress.
  - The elevator will be installed the first full week of April.

D. Mack moved to accept the Chief Executive Officer report. Seconded by J. Jacobson. Motion carried.

S. Vonesh provided highlights from the February 7, 2022 Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council meeting. Highlights included:

- Governor Waltz published a proposed budget that includes multiple investments that support children and families.
  - Expand access to prekindergarten.

- Make child care more affordable for more Minnesota families.
  - Eliminate waiting lists for child care for eligible families.
  - Support child care providers affected by the pandemic.
  - Expand early learning scholarships.
  - Establish statewide teacher mentoring program.
  - Provide free school meals.
  - Invest in early childhood mental health programs.
  - Invest in ending childhood homelessness.
  - A few classrooms have had to close temporarily due to short staffing caused by positive COVID-19 tests.
  - The Head Start COVID-19 Policy was reviewed and approved.
  - Policy Council received Health Services Training and Nutrition Services Training.
- J. Carlson reviewed the Office of Head Start Information Memorandum - Head Start Transportation Services and Vehicles During the COVID-19 Pandemic which addresses masking and social distancing on Head Start buses.
- T. Anderson moved to accept the Head Start, Child and Family Programs report. Seconded by M. Kroulik. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the Minnesota Department of Transportation grant request in the amount of \$15,784 for a 12 month lease of a Class A bus.

J. Duckstad moved to approve. Seconded by M. Gunderson. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the Minnesota Housing, Housing Stability Project grant request in the amount of \$80,000 from June 1, 2022 to May 30, 2023 to provide case management and housing navigation to prevent eviction and assist participants to find and access housing.

M. Kroulik moved to approve. Seconded by N. Myers. Motion carried.

The Tri-Valley Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy has been updated to ensure compliance with recent changes to the OSHA standard while aligning with Tri-Valley's needs in regards to adequate staffing for our programs. Board approval was requested to approve current updates and any future changes that may occur due to evolving standards.

N. Myers moved to approve. Seconded by S. Peterson. Motion carried.

J. Carlson reviewed the Tri-Valley insurance renewal for 2022-2023. The Workers Compensation premium increased, as expected. Vaaler has suggested that we increase our umbrella liability coverage by \$1,000,000 and make it \$3,000,000.

M. Kroulik moved to approve the renewal with the \$1,000,000 umbrella coverage increase. Seconded by D. Mack. Motion carried.

J. Carlson reviewed the By-laws. There were no changes other than the effective date.

S. Peterson moved to approve. Seconded N. Myers. Motion carried.

J. Carlson reviewed the Tri-Valley Strategic Work Plan. The priority focus areas are:

1. Improve/promote/advance the objective of increasing the availability of quality child care slots in the areas we serve.

2. Improve/promote/advance the objective of keeping seniors in their homes and avoiding premature nursing home placement.
3. Improve/promote/advance housing options in the service area.
4. Improve/promote/advance Community Partner Engagement in the service area.

The Board will continue to provide input on the priorities and J. Carlson will team with program directors to develop detailed work plans that will make progress in the areas.

M. Kroulik moved to continue with the four priority focus areas of the Tri-Valley Strategic Work Plan. Seconded by J. Jacobson. Motion carried.

In response to the Head Start Vaccine and Mask Interim Final Rule with Comments (IFC), North Dakota is one of 24 states that are suing the Biden administration. The IFC proposes adding new mask and vaccine requirements to the Head Start Program Performance Standards to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Since Tri-Valley has one Head Start center in North Dakota (Grafton) we must ensure all of Tri-Valley's Head Start staff are following the same rules and operations will not differ state-by-state.

J. Duckstad made a motion that Tri-Valley Head Start centers located in North Dakota will operate using the same Head Start mandates as our Minnesota centers, regardless of the lawsuit outcome. Seconded by S. Peterson. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be March 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

S. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by M. Kroulik. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Peterson  
Secretary of the Board

SP: DEL