



**DUPAGE COUNTY
CSBG ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

October 15, 2024

Regular Meeting

11:30 AM

**3500B
421 NORTH COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Kristin Sheffield at 11:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kristin Sheffield, Vanessa Roth, Sergio Martinez, Christina LePage, Molly Howieson, Kathleen McNamara, Lynn LaPlante, Greg Schwarze, Michael L. Childress, Kari Galassi and Paula Garcia. Quorum Present.

ABSENT:, Dawn DeSart

ZOOM: Don Davia, Michael C. Pesola and Wendy Williams

Kristin Sheffield called for a motion to allow those on zoom due to illness or family emergency to participate in the meeting. Lynn LaPlante made a motion to allow those on zoom to participate in the meeting, Paula Garcia seconded the motion, and all voted ayes. The motion was carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

No public comment received at this meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kristin Sheffield called for a motion to approve the July 16, 2024, meeting minutes Lynn LaPlante made a motion to approve the minutes, Paula Garcia seconded the motion, and all voted ayes. The motion carried.

5. REPORTS – GINA STRAFFORD-AHMED

Gina Strafford-Ahmed reviewed the 2024 3rd quarter CSBG Summary Report which detailed each program's progress and accomplishments for this grant year. She explained that there is a concern with 360 Youth Services, they have not submitted any new clients or re-certifications in over 90 days. We have addressed our concerns with them and reminded them of the milestones in their contract. Gina reviewed the Scholarship program, we had 13 individuals apply, eight submitted complete applications and five that did not complete the application process. Home DuPage is struggling with the financial fitness class enrollment due to low referrals. They are currently seeking new partners, Gina asked if anyone is interested to please reach out. She stated that she has also been in contact with Home DuPage regarding credit counselling and is awaiting a response back from them.

The Agency Capacity Building Activities she explained consisted of the needs assessment, ROMA and training opportunities we provide to staff which will be completed at the end of the year. Handouts provided.

6. BUDGET REVIEW – GINA STRAFFORD

Gina Strafford-Ahmed reviewed the CSBG 2024 Budget and Expenditure Report. She explained that most agencies have submitted their quarterly billing and are on track to spend their funds by the end of the year. The only agency that we have not received billing from is 360 Youth Services. Handouts provided.

7. OLD BUSINESS

2024 Needs Assessment: Gina Strafford-Ahmed advised the Board the 2024 CSBG Needs Assessment Update is completed. She explained that there was a better turn out than expected with the short time frame. We will have a new survey system in place for our next assessment and it should improve our ability to reach more respondents. Kristen Sheffield asked if there were any questions or corrections. The Board had no questions or concerns; Kristen Sheffield called for a motion to approve the 2024 CSBG Needs Assessment. Lynn LaPlante made a motion to approve the 2024 CSBG Needs Assessment, Paula Garica seconded the motion, all voted ayes. The motion was carried. Mary Keating asked if there were any major findings in the survey and Gina explained that the only one was the credit counseling. We will be looking into adding that as a service in 2025 via Home DuPage or another organization.

8. NEW BUSINESS-GINA STRAFFORD-AHMED

CSBG Scholarship: Gina Strafford-Ahmed gave a presentation highlighting 2024 CSBG Scholarship winners. This year \$25,000 was awarded, handouts provided.

Bianca Rodriguez will be attending Elmhurst University, was awarded \$7,000 and is majoring in Psychology & Sociology. Bianca is a first-generation student and plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

Kary Hernandez is a previous recipient and will be attending Loyola University, was awarded \$5,000 and is majoring in Social Work. Kary is a first-generation student and is a member of the Zapotec indigenous community. Kary plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

Cynthia Figueroa will be attending Lewis University, was awarded \$3,500 and is majoring in Radiography. Cynthia is a first-generation student and plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

Malika Freeman is a previous recipient and will be attending College of DuPage, was awarded \$3,500 and is majoring in Surgical Technology. Malika is a returning student, FSS participant and plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

De’Lisa Trigg is a returning student and will be attending College of DuPage was awarded \$2,000 and is majoring in Respiratory Therapy. De’Lisa plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost

of tuition.

Nania Chol is a previous recipient and will be attending Columbia College of Chicago, was awarded \$2,000 and is majoring in Film and Television. Nania is a refugee and first-generation student and plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

Ali Khak will be attending College of DuPage, was awarded \$1,000 and is majoring in STEM. Ali's plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition.

Sonya Thomas will be attending Waubensee Community College, was awarded \$1,000 and is majoring in Business Administration. Sonya is a previous DuPage Pads participant and plans to use the Scholarship to help cover the cost of tuition..

Gina reminded the board how the Scholarship could be used: books, transportation, tuition, laptops, room/board, fees, and supplies. She explained we are working on an online application process and hope to have it ready for the 2025 process.

9. 211

Gina Strafford-Ahmed reviewed in detail the 211 DuPage 2024 third Quarter Summary Report. She explained that housing was still the number one need and that the calls/texts are steadily increasing. Gina reminded the Board they can see the main report on the dashboard which can be sorted monthly, yearly and by certain dates. She also explained that this information is available by visiting: 211dupage.gov, click on about us and then navigate to 211 counts. The Board requested if the second and third column on the second page can be cancelled and would like to see if there is any way to do a comparison from last quarter verses current quarters or just list the numbers the description is not necessary. Gina stated that she will check into it. Handout provided.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board would like to see if possibly getting someone from Home DuPage to do a presentation.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No informational items received at this meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Kristin Sheffield called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Greg Schwarze made the motion to adjourn, Paula Garcia seconded the motion, and all voted ayes. The motion was carried. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

2025 MEETING DATES: April 15, 2025, July 15, 2025, and October 21, 2025