

MINUTES: MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF HENNEPIN COUNTY
Via Teleconference
March 12, 2019
5:00 PM

David Asp	P	Alysen Nesse	P
Karin Keitel	P	Josh Schaffer	E
Kevin Myren	P	Mike Vekich	P

Mike Vekich opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Follow-up re: Executive Director Resignation: Mr. Vekich reported that he had spoken with Dr. Clarence Hightower, executive director of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAP-RW), and that Dr. Hightower suggested that he could act as temporary executive director, if the managing committee was willing to consider such an arrangement. Mr. Vekich reported that he would need assurances that the CAP-RW Board of Directors would be prepared to allow him to do, and that DHS would also be amenable. Mr. Vekich then reported that he has tested the idea with Tikki Brown from DHS, who was comfortable with the managing committee having additional conversations with Dr. Hightower.

Kevin Myren noted that he had served on the CAP-RW Board of Directors during Dr. Hightower's tenure. He described him as eminently qualified and able to turn around that organization, which was experiencing governance challenges at that time. He further described Dr. Hightower as having good leadership skills at a strategic level, and someone who would bring credibility to CAP-HC. The committee discussed the need for an executive presence at the CAP-HC offices.

Alysen Nesse stated that Dr. Hightower was well known in the community, particularly because of his tenure at the Urban League and his continuing ties with north Minneapolis in particular.

Karin Keitel raised concerns about whether Dr. Hightower's allegiances would be split between CAP-HC and CAP-RW, as he would continue to serve as CAP-RW's executive director, and whether this arrangement would be viewed as first step toward merging the CAP agencies. Mr. Myren responded that such a merger would not be feasible, certainly on a political level, and he did not believe this was Dr. Hightower's aim. Mr. Vekich agreed and said he would address that issue directly with Dr. Hightower if the managing committee wanted to pursue this opportunity.

Further discussion ensued and the managing committee agreed that Mr. Vekich should continue to work with Dr. Hightower to determine if they could come to a mutually beneficial arrangement that would be acceptable to the CAP-HC managing committee and CAP-RW's Board of Directors.

Piekarski's Final Day at CAP-RW: Mr. Vekich noted that Steve Piekarski had moved up his last day as executive director at the agency from April 4 to March 22, per an email to Mr. Vekich. The managing committee discussed briefly.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Keitel, Secretary