

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 07, 2014, WITH COMMISSIONERS DAVID H. UIBLE, ROBERT L. PROUD, AND EDWIN H. HUMPHREY IN ATTENDANCE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE MAY 07, 2014 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.**

**Let the record show Informal Session started shortly before 11:10 A.M.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. Issue - Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center (SWORTC) Update - Darren Varnado....080228-001**

**Discussion** - Judy Eschmann, Director of Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) introduced Mr. Darren Varnado, the Director of the Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center (SWORTC). Mr. Varnado thanked the Commissioners for inviting him to speak and provided a booklet and handout as well as a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Varnado provided background on the SWORTC describing that the training center covers eight counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland and Warren.

Mr. Varnado further stated that the SWORTC operates two training programs: The first of which is the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP). The second is the Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) which primarily targets training for Adult Service providers and staff.

The OCWTP moved to the current location on Wards Corner Road in Miami Township in 2004. Mr. Varnado noted that the program is viewed as a premier training program in the State of Ohio. The facility currently has 300 active trainers, located at eight regional training centers with a total of more than 10,000 people trained. Between both programs SWORTC services 23 counties in southwestern Ohio.

Please see the attached presentation for the number of people trained and number of courses provided. Mr. Varnado pointed out that SWORTC is a competency based training service and uses an etracking system. Mr. Varnado also provided discussion as to how individual case workers needs are identified and assessed. Each worker is given an individual professional development training plan as well as one-on-one coaching. Mr. Varnado stated that they try to be as cost effective as possible noting the average cost of training in the state is \$92/per person per training day, for SWORTC the average is \$70/per person.

Mr. Varnado noted that Commissioner Uible was able to come to the Foster Parent Conference last year and would like to invite all of the Commissioners to attend this year's conference which will be held September 12 at Holiday Inn Eastgate.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – Commissioner Proud asked if Mr. Varnado would be able to provide the Board with the number of people trained per County. Mr. Varnado stated he would provide those statistics when they are available.

2. **Issue - Veterans Services Update - Howard Daugherty, Director of Veterans Services....071030-005**

**Discussion** – Mr. Daugherty provided an update to the Board regarding a ceremony for 20 inductees to the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame for Valor, among the inductees Danny D. Bare, Robert E. Derr and Stephen W. Heck Jr. all from Clermont County.

Commissioner Proud asked where we stand with Joe Whitt – offering that if it would help for the Commissioners to write a letter of support. Mr. Daugherty stated every letter helps and he appreciates the support from the Commissioners.

Mr. Daugherty invited the Commissioners to attend the upcoming Medals Ceremony to be held on May 16, that will be held at Stonelick Hills Golf Course at 10 am. The following Veterans will be honorees, Paul F. Myers, Michael R. Gaible, Edward J. Susshine, David G. Mills, David G. Mills, Walker Fields, and Donald R Greenwood.

Mr. Daugherty also advised the Board that on May 9-11, 2014, Vietnam Veterans of Ohio will hold their convention at Holiday Inn at Eastgate. Cliff Riley noted this is the first time that it has been held in our area. Mr. Daugherty stated that Veteran's Services is expecting some high level officials on Sunday, May 11 for the town hall meeting that will be held to discuss Agent Orange and invited the Commissioners to attend.

3. **Issue - 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Requests - Annette Decatur & Andy Kuchta, Director of Community & Economic Development....140516-004**

**Discussion** – Ms. Decatur provided several handouts to the Board summarizing the applications for CDBG funding for FY2014. Ms. Decatur noted that the allocation level for Clermont County FY2014 is \$430K.

- 7 from villages
- 3 from townships
- 2 Nonprofit organizations
- 1 Clermont County Health District

There is a 15% max for public service projects such as Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) and a 20% max for administration and fair housing costs, as well as the \$150K for the funding to the Septic Rehabilitation Program for the General Health District. Ms. Decatur stated that would leave a remaining allocation of \$129,500 for funding other projects in the allocation program.

Ms. Decatur explained that the competitive set asides are directed to Downtown and Neighborhood Revitalizations & Critical Infrastructure. Ms. Decatur noted competitive set asides offer up to \$300,000 in funding potential. Out of all the applications we received none specified themselves as competitive set aside applications. Although, there are a few that may fall under this category. These types of grants require a little more participation from the citizens and community especially on Neighborhood Revitalization funds. Mr. Kuchta noted that there is a less community participation required on the Critical Infrastructure.

Commissioner Proud asked if we could request the \$150K for septic system rehab as a Critical Infrastructure set aside. Ms. Decatur and Mr. Kuchta stated they believe this is improvement on private property and may not qualify for this type of grant. Ms. Decatur will verify and get back with the Board.

Commissioner Humphrey asked if the competitive set aside grants are a statewide competitive program as opposed to a local competitive program. He believes it would be harder to receive the funding in that case.

Ms. Decatur further stated a new restriction this year; grantees are eligible to apply for up to two Critical Infrastructure competitive set aside grants. However, because Clermont County still has one open for FY 2013, which only allow, us to apply for one.

Communities with no open competitive awards may apply for up to three (3) competitive set asides annually in any combination, with no more than two (2) in any one competitive category. With regard to our open set aside grant it is Critical Infrastructure, which would allow us a total of two (2) competitive set asides during this funding cycle, with one being Critical Infrastructure.

Mr. Kuchta noted that we had 1.4M in general allocation requests and only \$129K in available funding. He encouraged the Board to take a look at local match as part of the criteria, since that does receive higher scores when being reviewed by the state. Mr. Kuchta stated he would like to recommend the Board consider offering \$10K County match incentives to communities in each of the three competitive set aside program applications next year, he believes this would encourage communities to provide local match funding. This would also encourage competitive applications and make Clermont County applications more competitive statewide.

Commissioner Proud inquired if the homeless shelter has applied for the Social Services Block Grant. Ms. Decatur will verify and get back with the Board.

Ms. Decatur provided some discussion on the following scenarios for the selection process as well as the recommendations for scenarios for the Board to consider. See the handout for additional details.

Scenario 1 – Ms. Decatur noted that scenario 1 includes the Septic Rehab, Williamsburg sidewalk, Felicity Walnut Street and the Homeless Shelter projects. It does not include funding for the CASC program.

Scenario 2 – This scenario does include CASC at the max 15% maximum, Septic Rehab, Williamsburg Sidewalk and the Felicity Walnut Street as a Critical Infrastructure. Ms. Decatur noted we must have alternate projects in the event we do not receive the funding for critical infrastructure set-aside grant.

Commissioner Humphrey asked if there was a limit to the number of projects we can have? Ms. Decatur explained there is a limit of four projects allowed.

Commissioner Proud asked if there were some projects recently completed for Newtonsville and Felicity with a distress grant fund? Ms. Decatur will verify. Ms. Decatur further stated, Clermont County has used the economic development revolving loan fund money for the Village of Bethel South Charity Street Bridge Project.

Commissioner Uible asked Mr. Rabolt if it is an option to leave CASC out of the CDBG funds, or if it must remain. Commissioner Humphrey and Mr. Rabolt both said yes, however Commissioner Humphrey stated it is a matter of whether or not the Board wants to fund it out of County General Fund. Mr. Rabolt agreed, stating funding would be the issue since it was not budgeted for in the General Fund.

Commissioner Proud stated there may be Ohio Valley Regional Development Council (OVRDC) funds available for some of the projects that we are unable to fund.

Ms. Decatur stated that we are using 2000 Census numbers to determine low to moderate

income areas (LMI) since those are the latest statistics available for income of our citizens. The 2010 Census has not provided formal numbers in the format needed to allow us to use that data for this purpose. Also noting the specified applications are due to the State by June 20, 2014, and the second public hearing must be held by the first or second week in June.

Commissioner Humphrey stated he prefers scenario 2 and would suggest that we add the Moscow Community Center and New Richmond as alternative projects as Ms. Decatur suggested.

Commissioner Proud stated he prefers scenario 1, he thinks the County fund should be able to support the CASC through the general fund and he wants to see the monies used in the communities that can't afford it.

Commissioner Uible stated he thinks we should look at mission critical items and he does not feel that lighting for a park is as critical as repairing sidewalks and critical infrastructure. He feels that can go either way on the CASC, and is flexible between scenarios 1 & 2. Commissioner Uible further stated that he thinks we should leave the CASC out and absorb that as a county expense and select the Franklin Township and Moscow projects as alternatives.

Commissioner Proud noted OPWC project funds could be an option for the Franklin Township, culvert replacement project. Commissioner Humphrey stated that it is possible that the Engineer may be considering that as an OPWC project and suggests we coordinate with the Engineer's office before we decide to fund that particular project. Commissioner Humphrey stated he feels we should leave it on the alternate projects list. If OPWC funds are found to be available we could potentially replace it with the Homeless Shelter Project.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed -**

Mr. Kuchta, will look into septic rehab as a critical infrastructure project and report back to the Board. He also stated there is an OVRDC meeting this afternoon and will present the Franklin Township, culvert replacement project summary to them and look at possibilities for funding there as well.

**Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

**DAVID H. UIBLE, PRESIDENT**

**ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT**

**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, MEMBER**

**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**07/09/14**  
**DATE APPROVED**