I. CALL TO ORDER & CAC UPDATES

The Citizen Advisory Council met remotely via Zoom and in person at 6:45 p.m. Attendees present included: 11 members, 2 non-members and 7 City of Topeka staff including City Manager Brent Trout (see Citizen Advisory Council 2021 Attendance ledger link).

Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA PROVIDED

Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair stated that the purpose of this meeting is to provide further clarification regarding the City of Topeka Consolidated Action Plan. City of Topeka Staff addressed questions and concerns from the CAC regarding the City of Topeka Performance Portal and the Consolidated Action Plan. CAC members were asked to provide feedback and recommendations about program funding allocation in the Consolidated Action Plan through a questionnaire provided by Corrie Wright, Housing Services Division Director.

Corrie Wright, Housing Services Director, shared the 2018 through 2020 Consolidated Action Plan (Post-HUD Allocations) budget and discussed line items that the Housing Services Division would recommend continuing increasing, eliminating, or reducing funding for. Recommendations include: Cut or reduce Voluntary Demolition budget and change the program policy, reduce Tenant Based Rental Assistance by $40,000 and increase Inmate Crew line item by $9,000.

Monique Glaudé, Community Engagement Director, provided an update on Community Engagement services including 2021 accomplishments, 2022 Goals and 2020 Performance Measures as well as detailed performance measures for 2019-2021 Inmate Services Program.

III. COMMENTS ABOUT PROGRAMS & ALIGNMENT OF GOALS

Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair opened up discussion with the CAC members about Consolidated Action Plan programs and aligning goals for the CAC. Recommendations from the council included: improving the Consolidated Action Plan recommendation process, improving public education about services and programs, increasing marketing for programs and including social service agency programs, updated resource list for community resources, receiving more resource information at CAC meetings, improved program performance measures, more simplified reporting tools, quality assurance and quality controls on programs – program satisfaction of participants, coordination of social services, development of NIA Support Fund Policy.
IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The CAC discussed various services provided through the Consolidated Action plan including Housing Development: inflation cost of materials and construction services, fire prevention and correlation to abandoned houses, and City of Topeka goals for programs. Corrie Wright stated that current recommendations from the CAC included some consistent priorities: anti-blight, reducing NIA funding, reducing funding for Topeka DREAMS Fund, cutting weatherization program, and neighborhood rehab programs.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Kim Thompson made a motion to adjourn. David Bawden seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

The next regular CAC meeting is July 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Holliday Conference Room and via Zoom.