

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Special Grant Committee Meeting
September 18, 2018

Minutes

The Grant Committee of the Board of the Directors of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority met in session at the office of the Authority at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

The special meeting was called to order by Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair, at 12:35 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair
Elizabeth Hammer
Barbara Lindsay
Dr. Peter Lisi, Board Chair
Christopher Martin¹ (Designee for Denise Nappier)

OTHER BOARD

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Biancamano
Barbara Rubin
Mark Varholak

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel
Daniel Kurowski, Financial Analyst
Eileen MacDonald, Senior Transaction Specialist
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller
Kathy Owens, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Peoples, Managing Director
Debra M. Pinney, Manager, Administrative Services

¹ Mr. Martin joined the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

GUESTS: Ms. Karla Fortunato, President, CT Council for Philanthropy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the June 20, 2018 Grant Committee minutes. Ms. Hammer moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Lisi seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Estela Lopez	None	None
Elizabeth Hammer		
Barbara Lindsay		
Dr. Peter Lisi		
Christopher Martin		

CT COUNCIL FOR PHILANTHROPY PRESENTATION

Dr. Lopez turned the floor over to Ms. Weintraub who introduced Ms. Karla Fortunato, President of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy.

Ms. Weintraub invited Ms. Fortunato to talk about philanthropy in Connecticut and to provide some perspective on what is going on in Connecticut as well as nationwide. Ms. Fortunato described giving trends and challenges nationwide and in Connecticut. She also spoke about the important role that CHEFA plays in Connecticut philanthropy.

Ms. Fortunato stated that there are notable ways that CHEFA stands apart from the majority of Connecticut grant makers. CHEFA is one of a small number of statewide grant makers. The majority of funders in Connecticut are focused regionally and this can make it difficult to scale programs or pilot initiatives. CHEFA has the unique ability, through its grantmaking, to provide increased sustainability and new capacity. The issues that CHEFA invests in are also worth noting: healthcare, culture, childcare and education as they are among the key funding issues for philanthropy in Connecticut.

Ms. Fortunato asked if there were any questions. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez thanked Ms. Fortunato for providing the presentation to the Committee and she exited the meeting.

OTHER TARGETED GRANT PROGRAM OPTIONS

Dr. Lopez stated that the Committee needed to make a decision on the Targeted Grant Program. She referred to the previous presentation in June from the Connecticut Workforce Investment Boards on how to close the training gaps to increase employment and the presentation by the Connecticut Association for Human Services on Two Generation Policy. She stated that Ms. Weintraub also had researched two additional entities that should be considered for the Targeted Grant Program: Working Cities Challenge, and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology. Dr. Lopez suggested that the Committee decide which organizations should be invited to submit applications to the Targeted Grant Program. Dr.

Lopez asked Ms. Weintraub to elaborate and Ms. Weintraub provided an overview of all four programs.

Ms. Weintraub pointed out that there is a telephonic meeting currently scheduled for October 10th and at that time a decision would be made as to which organizations should be invited to submit an application. Dr. Lopez suggested that the Committee could come to an agreement at the current meeting, rather than having another meeting in October. Ms. Weintraub agreed that that was an option, but noted that the dollars available to each application and the timeframe of the grants would also need to be decided.

Ms. Weintraub provided more information on the two options presented in June (Workforce Investment Boards and Two-Generation Policy) and the two additional organizations being suggested (Working Cities and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology).

Workforce Investment Boards – Ms. Weintraub reported that the grant application from the Workforce Investment Boards would focus on providing funding for training, supportive services, and flexible funds to support job seekers. She added that there are numerous jobs that are going unfilled because of a lack of skilled workers. There is a huge need in the area of advanced manufacturing, allied health careers, construction, and warehousing in Connecticut.

Two-Generation Policy – Ms. Weintraub stated that this initiative focuses on families; parents and children succeeding together, and is based on legislation that was passed in 2015. Currently

there is a pilot program in the State. She stated that this approach is needed to ensure that children are involved in quality early childhood education programs while parents are getting their high school diplomas/GEDs and receiving certifications/training in order to get better paying jobs.

Working Cities Challenge – Ms. Weintraub reported that this is an initiative of the Federal Reserve Bank that started in Massachusetts in 2015, expanded to Rhode Island in 2017, and then to Connecticut in March of 2018. Five Connecticut cities (Hartford, East Hartford, Middletown, Danbury, and Waterbury) were chosen as pilots in this initiative, which is focused on workforce and economic development in post-industrial cities. There was initial funding through the State of Connecticut and local and national philanthropy to help cities launch their initiatives and hire staff. However, these communities need to do fundraising on their own and many of them are in need of community organizers. They are looking at ten year, long-term initiatives.

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology – Ms. Weintraub stated that this organization is based in East Hartford. It focuses on serving the entire State with education and workforce development in the areas of applied technologies; energy solutions; and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. She stated that they are coming to the Authority as a possible applicant for their middle and high school programming. These programs are focused on educating youth about careers in the areas of advanced manufacturing, technology, engineering, and STEM that are currently needed to fill jobs in the State.

Ms. Weintraub emphasized that workforce development was consistent with the CHEFA and CHESLA Strategic Plan. Staff believes the two initiatives that would have the greatest immediate impact in the state would be the Workforce Investment Board and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology. The Working Cities Challenge and the Two-Generation Pilot programs are both important initiatives, but are in earlier stages of development.

Ms. Weintraub stated that staff is recommending that the Workforce Investment Board and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology be invited to apply for the Targeted Grant Program. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez remarked that the Committee could consider one or more organizations to apply for the FY 2019 Targeted Grant Program. A discussion ensued. The Grant Committee agreed that the Workforce Investment Boards and the CT Center for Advanced Technology would be the two invited grant applicants.

Ms. Weintraub stated that in order for the two organizations to move forward, the Committee would need to decide on the grant dollar amount for each applicant and one-or two-year timeframes for the grant period.

GRANT FUND ALLOCATION FOR FY 2019

Grant funding of \$2,750,000 was approved as part of the budget at the May 16th Board of Directors Meeting. The Board also suggested that returned funds be added to that amount and added to the upcoming cycles. Staff determined that an additional \$218,000 had been returned

to the grant program in FY 2018 to the present. The total funding available for FY 2019 would be \$2,968,000. Management, in concurrence with Dr. Lopez, recommends the following:

- FY 2019 Client Grant Program - \$1,109,000
- FY 2019 Nonprofit Grant Program - \$1,109,000
- FY 2019 Targeted Grant Program - \$750,000

Dr. Lopez asked if there were any questions regarding the proposed distributions. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Hammer moved to approve the grant funding allocations recommended by staff and Dr. Lopez. Dr. Lisi seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Estela Lopez Elizabeth Hammer Barbara Lindsay Dr. Peter Lisi Christopher Martin	None	None

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to invite the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to apply for a two-year grant for up to \$250,000 and the Workforce Investment Board to apply for a one-year grant of up to \$500,000. Dr. Lisi moved to invite both organizations to apply for the FY 2019 Targeted Grant Program funding. Ms. Lindsay seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Estela Lopez Elizabeth Hammer Barbara Lindsay Dr. Peter Lisi Christopher Martin	None	None

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Weldon, Executive Director