

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes
Grant Committee Meeting
April 19, 2017

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 Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

The Meeting was called to order by Dr. Peter Lisi, Board Chair at 12:49 p.m., and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Patrick Colangelo
Barbara B. Lindsay
Dr. Peter Lisi, Board Chair

ABSENT: Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair
Sarah K. Sanders (Rep. for Denise Nappier)

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: John Biancamano
Robert Dakers
Elizabeth Hammer
Mark Varholak

GUESTS: Tanya Barrett, Sr. Vice President, 2-1-1 Health and Human Services
Rick Porth, President & CEO, United Way of Connecticut

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director
Dan Kurowski, Financial Analyst
Michael Morris, Managing Director
Kathy Owens, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Peoples, Managing Director
Debra M. Pinney, Manager, Administrative Services
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager
David Wasch, Legislative Liaison/ECE Program Specialist
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

Dr. Lisi opened the meeting by stating that Dr. Estela Lopez was voted in as Chair of the Grant Committee at the last meeting. Dr. Lopez recused herself from this meeting because she chairs the Board of Directors of the United Way of Connecticut. Dr. Lisi introduced Ms. Betty Sugerman Weintraub, the new CHEFA Grant Program Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the January 18, 2017 Grant Committee minutes. Ms. Lindsay moved to approve the minutes and 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>
Barbara Lindsay Dr. Peter Lisi	None	Patrick Colangelo ¹

REVIEW FY 2017 TARGETED GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Ms. Weintraub stated that she is very happy to meet the CHEFA team and the CHEFA Board of Directors.

Ms. Weintraub stated that the Targeted Grant Program was developed with a priority to address demonstrated and comprehensive needs of Connecticut residents, which align with CHEFA’s mission of supporting the childcare, cultural, educational and health sectors. She reported that the applicants for the Targeted Grant Program had to demonstrate a successful completion of their project within the specified timeframe, as well as provide a needs-assessment as part of their application.

Ms. Weintraub made reference to the January 18, 2017 Board meeting when Mr. David Wasch presented two potential proposals for consideration for the Targeted Grant Program for this year. One of the proposals was for Opioid Addiction Treatment Access and the other was for Adult English Language Learners. The Grant Committee reviewed both proposals and agreed to recommend to the full Board to invite the United Way of Connecticut to submit an application for the Opioid Addiction Treatment Access proposal. The full Board agreed with the Grant Committee’s recommendation and Management invited the United Way of Connecticut to submit an application.

Mr. Wasch stated that the United Way of Connecticut has an established network for the 2-1-1 line with information and referral crisis intervention resources and coordinated access.

¹ Mr. Colangelo abstained from voting because he was not present at the January 18, 2017 meeting.

Ms. Weintraub stated that Mr. Wasch had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Rick Porth, President & CEO of United Way of Connecticut in advance of the meeting and Mr. Porth had voiced interest and enthusiasm about the project. Ms. Weintraub stated that everyone is aware of the alarming rates of increases in opioid addiction in Connecticut and the nation. She stated that opioid deaths and overdoses have increased as well as those seeking treatment. Ms. Weintraub reported that the State of Connecticut received \$5 million from the federal government to combat opioid addiction. In addition, in 2016, there was legislation passed in Connecticut to address the growing rate of opioid addiction and overdoses. The plan was actually developed by the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council which is a part of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Ms. Weintraub stated that the plan that was developed is focused on reaching out to rapid access centers throughout the State where individuals calling in with opioid issues can be provided with resources and support services. However, the plan was not approved because of feasibility and funding issues. This created an opportunity for the Targeted Grant Program to assist in providing support to a program that can help individuals dealing with opioid addiction to have resources and support services. Mr. Porth, along with Ms. Tanya Barrett was invited to provide a presentation on their proposal to the Grant Committee. Ms. Weintraub then turned the floor over to Mr. Porth.

Mr. Porth thanked the Committee for inviting them to present their proposal on Opioid Addiction Treatment Access. Mr. Porth opened by providing a brief history about the 2-1-1 system from its inception and why they are uniquely placed to make a contribution to the opioid crisis.

He stated that United Way of Connecticut recently was certified by the American Association of Suicidology because they are also a crisis intervention center and in that role, they also talk to many people every day who are struggling with addiction. Mr. Porth stated that last year alone, they received 119,000 calls in total just for crisis intervention. He added that this is an important part of what the 2-1-1 system does and what it hopes to build on with the CHEFA Grant Program support.

Mr. Porth shared with the Committee the types of services provided by the 2-1-1 system. He stated that in FY 2016, 323,000 calls were received and a total of 365,000 service requests were generated. He reported that the main reason why people call is to seek housing and shelter. He added that approximately 8,000 calls are from people with substance abuse issues. The types of crisis calls that the 2-1-1 system receives are emotional crisis, behavioral crisis, and suicidal prevention crisis. Mr. Porth stated that other issues that 2-1-1 callers inquire about are jobs and healthcare.

Mr. Porth stated that over the last couple of years they have focused on staying current with societal trends. He added that younger people prefer to use the Internet for information then to seek support. Mr. Porth turned the floor over to Ms. Tanya Barrett at this time.

Ms. Barrett stated that they are proposing a coordinated approach to the opioid crisis. She stated that it is important to have a transparent process for consumers and professionals accessing the 211 system. Ms. Barrett pointed out that there is a need to train staff to adequately address the opioid issue. She added that there needs to be a logic model and algorithms to assess that the proper interventions are being applied for the issue. This coordinated approach will enable providers to work together and provide a consistent response and data collection for reporting purposes, so that outcomes can be tracked.

Ms. Barrett stated that there are currently two coordinated service delivery approaches. One is through their Emergency Mobile Crisis Service (EMPS) and Coordinated Access Network (CAN). CAN addresses homeless and housing crisis services. The Mobile Crisis Service is for children and youth who are experiencing immediate crises. The major goal of this program is to reduce juvenile justice and also to reduce emergency room visits. Ms. Barrett explained the various components and usage of the program and added that all of the providers work together on program outcomes and protocols.

Ms. Barrett provided some background information on the federal change in the law at Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which required every state to create a coordinated access network. Ms. Barrett shared with the Committee that Connecticut was the first state in the nation to end chronic homelessness among all veterans, the second state in the nation to end homelessness among all veterans and the first state in the nation to successfully match all chronically homeless persons to a housing resource. This coordinated approach in Connecticut can be used as a practice model for other states.

Ms. Barrett stated that the opioid crisis continues to escalate and 2-1-1 has seen an increase in the number of calls related to substance abuse. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has seen an increase in the number of service requests that they receive for treatment. Over a five year period, the amount of deaths by accidental intoxication involving opioids has increased by 177%.

Ms. Barrett stated that they also want to introduce a new recovery coach partnership similar to what is currently utilized in Hartford with substance abuse providers. These coaches go out to where people live. They interact with those who are seeking support and provide ongoing follow-up. The coach understands the issue, and has experience and connections within the substance abuse world. The 2-1-1 system is also suggesting that after hours support (12:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.) will be provided when the DMHAS 800 line for substance abuse is not operational. She believes that this will provide consistency around the clock. It will also allow for sharing of information.

Ms. Barrett pointed out that because they are seeing more volume on web self-serve tools, she believes it's important that investments are made in that area. Currently, there is an effort through the partnership of state agencies, Department of Children & Families, Department of

Public Health and the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services to create the healthyflect.org website. Their focus is on wellness resources and staying healthy. These agencies have expressed an interest in also making the site a substance abuse portal.

Mr. Porth added that there are opportunities to utilize the collective impact model, by including multiple stakeholders, to address the opioid crisis. This issue affects all sectors, and would benefit from a systematic approach.

Mr. Porth stated that they have been in contact with the Executive Director of the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery, a nonprofit that focuses on addiction and recovery coaching, he expects that they will support the Recovery Coach plan.

Mr. Colangelo asked about how success would be measured and Mr. Biancamano inquired about the sustainability of the project beyond its grant period. Mr. Porth stated that they intend over the next year or so to demonstrate to the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services that this program can complement and enhance services in the State in a very meaningful and impactful way and hopefully, this will help to sustain the program beyond the grant period.

Ms. Weintraub stated that there is potential for CHEFA to play a larger statewide role on this issue as a catalyst to fund a pilot program. If this project is funded, it can be utilized as leverage for other funders to support the work. In coordination with the CT Council for Philanthropy, of which CHEFA is a member, we can convene an informational meeting for funders to discuss the opioid crisis. This can highlight the United Way work and address sustainability of the project. This issue is of importance to all sectors; health, government, nonprofit, education, community, and business. This will also position CHEFA as a leader taking action on important statewide issues.

Dr. Lisi thanked Mr. Porth and Ms. Barrett for providing the presentation. Mr. Porth and Ms. Barrett left the meeting at this time.

A discussion ensued. Dr. Lisi requested a motion to accept the staff's recommendations for the FY 2017 Targeted Grant award of \$250,000 to the United Way and 2-1-1 program. Ms. Lindsay moved to approve the award, Mr. Colangelo seconded her motion. All were in favor.

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

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Peter Lisi	None	None
Patrick Colangelo		
Barbara Lindsay		

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair