

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes  
Grant Committee Meeting  
January 18, 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 offices of the Authority on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 12:45 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Peter Lisi, Committee Chair at 12:50 p.m., and, upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Barbara Lindsay<sup>1</sup>  
Dr. Peter Lisi, Committee Chair  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Barbara Rubin  
Sarah Sanders

OTHER BOARD  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Hammer<sup>2</sup>

ABSENT: Patrick Colangelo

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller  
Michael Morris, Managing Director  
Kathy Owens, Administrative Assistant  
Debra M. Pinney, Manager, Administrative Services  
Cynthia Peoples, Managing Director  
David Wasch, Legislative Liaison/ECE Program Specialist  
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Lindsay joined the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Ms. Hammer joined the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Grant Committee Meeting of November 16, 2016. Ms. Rubin moved to approve the motion. Dr. Lopez seconded the motion.

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

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Peter Lisi	None	Sarah Sanders <sup>3</sup>
Barbara Lindsay		
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Barbara Rubin		

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Grant Committee Meeting of November 28, 2016. Dr. Lopez moved to approve the motion. 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. Peter Lisi	None	Barbara Rubin <sup>4</sup>
Barbara Lindsay		
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Sarah Sanders		

## Election of Committee Chair

Dr. Lisi stated that since he has taken on the role of Chairman of the Board, he believes it is appropriate for someone else to chair the Grant Committee. He stated that he and Dr. Lopez discussed this and she is willing to become chair. Dr. Lisi requested a motion to nominate Dr. Estela Lopez as Chair of the Grant Committee. Ms. Sanders moved to nominate Dr. Lopez. Ms. Rubin seconded the motion.

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

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Dr. Peter Lisi		
Barbara Lindsay		
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Barbara Rubin		
Sarah Sanders		

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<sup>3</sup> Ms. Sanders abstained from voting as she was not present at the November 16, 2016 meeting.

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Rubin abstained from voting as she was not present at the November 28, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to approve Dr. Estela Lopez as Chair of the Grant Committee. Ms. Rubin moved to approve the motion. Ms. Sanders seconded the motion.

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

**AYES**

**NAYS**

**ABSTENTIONS**

Dr. Peter Lisi  
Barbara Lindsay  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Barbara Rubin  
Sarah Sanders

**FY 2017 Targeted Grant Program Proposal**

Ms. Weldon provided an overview of the goal of the CHEFA Targeted Grant Program which is to provide statewide or regional impact on childcare, cultural, educational and healthcare issues.

Ms. Weldon stated that Management selected two focus areas based on the following criteria: 1) the problem to be addressed needed to convey a sense of urgency; and 2) the problem needed to have a promising solution that could be implemented using CHEFA grant dollars. Ms. Weldon turned the floor over to Mr. Wasch to provide more information on the two proposed focus area options.

Mr. Wasch stated that the first potential focus area was the Opioid Addiction Treatment Access. He pointed out that drug overdoses in Connecticut have increased to approximately 2000 over the past four years. He stated that this is a very acute issue for which the State of Connecticut was recently awarded a federal grant of \$5 million dollars to expand access to addiction services and to provide individuals with the kits to help them to survive overdoses. In response to this problem, the State has passed Public Act 16-43 which requires a plan developed by the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council to address opioid addiction.

Mr. Wasch stated that despite the resources currently in place to address these issues, one of the things Management has identified is an urgent need to help individuals access those resources as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Wasch stated that the plan that came through the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council identifies the need to provide rapid access for individuals who are in the midst of crisis due to opioid addiction. Mr. Wasch stated that the 211 response system is already in place provided by the United Way to provide information to the public regarding a variety of State programs, and there is the potential to expand and adapt this system specifically to address the opioid crisis. This could be the focus of the CHEFA targeted grant.

Mr. Wasch stated that he had spoken with Rick Porth, President & CEO of the United Way, and he is very excited about this potential project. Mr. Wasch stated that he will be attending a meeting with Mr. Porth and Nancy Navaretta, Deputy Commissioner, of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to get state input on the idea. If a 211 system for individuals suffering from opioid addiction is selected as the focus area for the targeted grant, the United Way would be asked to complete an application and make a presentation to the Grant Committee. If the Committee is not satisfied with the United Way proposal, they can vote to move targeted grant dollars into the non-profit grant program. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Wasch stated that the second potential focus area is Adult English Language Learners. Mr. Wasch pointed out that one quarter of Connecticut's English language learners actually drop out of high school which leads to the inability to find decent employment and housing, and contributes to an ongoing achievement gap.

Mr. Wasch stated that in Connecticut a two-generational approach to learning English was being implemented using Public Act 16-79 (an Act Concerning A Two-Generation Initiative for Families) and as part of this Act, a pilot program was created working with nonprofits that work with adults and children. However, funding was inadequate and the scope of programs had to be reduced. The CHEFA grant could be used to restore and enhance some of the goals of this program.

Ms. Weldon stated that Management is recommending the Opioid Addiction Treatment Access project as the focus area for this cycle of the CHEFA targeted grant. An additional Grant Committee meeting should be scheduled for the United Way presentation.

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to approve Staff recommendations to focus on the Opioid Addiction Treatment Access project and request that an application be submitted by the United Way of CT. Ms. Rubin moved to approve the motion. Ms. Sanders seconded the motion.

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

**AYES**

Dr. Peter Lisi  
Barbara Lindsay  
Barbara Rubin  
Sarah Sanders

**NAYS**

**ABSTENTIONS**

Dr. Estela Lopez<sup>5</sup>

The Committee agreed that the Grant Committee should meet in March to hear a presentation from the United Way.

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<sup>5</sup> Dr. Lopez abstained from this vote.

Dr. Lisi requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rubin moved to adjourn. Dr. Lopez seconded the motion.

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

**AYES**

**NAYS**

**ABSTENTIONS**

Dr. Peter Lisi  
Barbara Lindsay  
Dr. Estela Lopez  
Barbara Rubin  
Sarah Sanders

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter Lisi, Board Chair