

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2023

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair, at 12:09 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair  
Steven L. Elbaum  
Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair  
Susan Martin

ABSENT: Kimberly Kennison (*Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary*)  
Alan Mattamana

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Angelini  
Sarah Sanders (*Designee for CT State Treasurer Erick Russell*)<sup>1</sup>

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Daniel Giungi, Communications and Government Affairs Specialist  
Rebecca Hrdlicka, Administrative Services Assistant  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller  
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services  
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Manager of Grant Programs and Philanthropic Outreach of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Davis requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022 special meeting of the Grant Committee. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Martin.

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Sanders participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

Steven L. Elbaum joined the hybrid meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

**AYES**

Lawrence Davis  
Steven L. Elbaum  
Peter W. Lisi  
Susan Martin

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

None

**FY 2023 TARGETED GRANT REVIEW**

Mr. Davis stated that the Committee will be reviewing applications for the FY 2023 Targeted Grant Program. Mr. Davis stated that there were fifteen LOIs received for this grant process, and ten organizations were invited and completed full applications for the Committee to review. Mr. Davis stated that the FY 2023 Targeted Grant Program has a total of \$1,038,551 of allocated funds to disburse and then turned the floor over to Ms. Weintraub to explain the review process.

Ms. Weintraub reported on the community priorities for the review process that was presented to the internal review committee (IRC), which were gathered through meetings with various healthcare organizations. Ms. Weintraub listed the areas of priority for the healthcare sector as follows:

- Need for community health workers
- Children/youth behavioral health
- Preventative care/wellness
- Lack of medical clinicians/practitioners

Ms. Weintraub reported that the ten applications presented to the Committee align and/or support these priorities. Mr. Davis stated that the focus of this grant cycle is health equity, and the priorities listed above support this overall focus. Ms. Weintraub reported that the focus on health equity was confirmed by a survey taken by the Board members prior to the Grant Committee meeting in May 2022.

Mr. Davis stated that a consensus discussion will ensue following the presentation of applications by Ms. Weintraub. Mr. Davis reiterated that the awarded dollar amounts are ultimately determined by the Committee members, whether that be the full amount requested from CHEFA by the applicant or changed by the Committee upon discussion. Mr. Davis also reiterated that the Committee ultimately decides who is recommended for an award and that all information (e.g.

IRC ratings) is presented to the Committee for an informed decision. Finally, Mr. Davis stated that the applications will be presented in alphabetical order. Ms. Weintraub thanked the members of the IRC for their hard work in this process.

Ms. Weintraub presented a brief summary of the applications submitted by the following organizations:

- Child and Family Agency
- Community Health Center Association of Connecticut
- Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health, Inc.
- Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies, Inc.
- Connecticut Junior Republic
- Health Equity Solutions
- Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
- Southwestern AHEC, Inc.

After each brief summary, the floor was opened to questions about the application that Ms. Weintraub answered.

Mr. Lisi inquired generally about the IRC comments, especially given the categorization of "limited impact" for a program. Ms. Weintraub clarified that impact can be determined both quantitatively and qualitatively and therefore not solely on total individuals expected to be served. Mr. Davis also explained that impact can also extend statewide for a program, which can also be viewed both as quantitative and qualitative.

Mr. Davis inquired about the training and recruiting of individuals of Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Davis inquired about the incentives offered by Connecticut Children's Medical Center, which Ms. Weintraub clarified that the incentives were not specified in the application.

Mr. Davis recused himself from discussion regarding Health Equity Solutions due to his service as a Board member for Health Equity Solutions. Mr. Davis left the hybrid meeting at 12:44 p.m.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the application for Health Equity Solutions. After the discussion was concluded, Mr. Davis returned to the hybrid meeting at 12:51 p.m.

The Committee then transitioned into a consensus discussion to decide which applications should be awarded. An application was considered for an award if the majority of the Committee was in consensus.

Mr. Davis recused himself from the consensus discussion regarding Health Equity Solutions' application. Mr. Davis left the hybrid meeting at 1:03 p.m. and returned at 1:04 p.m.

After the initial consensus, the amount considered for an award totaled \$1,468,000. As this amount exceeded the maximum \$1,038,551 allocated for disbursement by \$429,449, the Committee reconsidered applications that did not receive a unanimous consensus (i.e., three Committee members considered the application favorable and one Committee member considered the application not favorable). Multiple Committee members commented on the outcomes of partially funding a program, and a discussion ensued.

Mr. Elbaum presented a suggestion to award full amounts to the two requests where there was full consensus from all Grant Committee members and partial funding to the four applications where there was a majority of Grant Committee members in favor of a grant award. After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached that the applications submitted by the following organization should be awarded grants for the FY 2023 Targeted Grant Program:

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut: \$140,000

Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition: \$118,551

Connecticut Children's Medical Center: \$250,000

Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies, Inc.: \$140,000

Connecticut Junior Republic: \$140,000

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center: \$250,000

The awarded amounts were determined by the requested amount from CHEFA by the applicant as well as through Committee discussion, so that the total of all awarded grants would not exceed the \$1,038,551 allocated for disbursement.

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the six organizations as listed above. Mr. Elbaum moved for approval and Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Lawrence Davis	None	None
Steven L. Elbaum		
Peter W. Lisi		
Susan Martin		

Ms. Martin inquired about the reporting from these organizations, which Ms. Weintraub confirmed that organizations submit reports throughout the grant period. These reports contain a variance section for the organization to explain any changes that may have occurred to the program from what was outlined in the application. Ms. Weintraub stated that an analysis of these reports can be presented to the Committee at the conclusion of the grant periods.

#### **STAFF MEMO – ENTERPRISE CAPITAL**

Mr. Davis reported that Ms. Andrea Levere spoke to the Committee regarding enterprise capital at the previous annual Committee meeting. Mr. Davis reported that enterprise capital is a long-term structural approach to grantmaking, which requires a deeper analysis into organizations throughout the application and awarding process.

Ms. Weintraub provided further background and commentary on the funding vehicle regarding enterprise capital. Based on conversations with multiple healthcare organizations, Ms. Weintraub reported on the potential for the creation of a trust or other vehicle related to health equity. Ms. Weintraub reported that Staff is following up on these opportunities. Ms. Weintraub reported that this initiative would be considered as a pilot strategy rather than a traditional request for proposal (RFP) process.

Ms. Weldon reported that additional information is expected in the next coming weeks and staff hopes to provide a proposal at the next Committee meeting scheduled for May 2023.

Mr. Elbaum inquired about the concept of a health equity trust, and a brief discussion ensued.

**FY 2023 NONPROFIT FORUM UPDATE**

Ms. Weintraub stated that CHEFA has organized an annual nonprofit forum, inviting grant applicants and clients to attend a discussion on an issue of statewide importance within our four core priority areas. Ms. Weintraub reported that the projected focus of the upcoming nonprofit forum will involve children and adolescent behavioral mental health. The forum will include a moderator and panelist discussion, and Ms. Weintraub reported that the tentative date will be for the end of April but has yet to be determined. She also noted that the Forum may be held in conjunction with the CT Council for Philanthropy.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Davis noted that the next Grant Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Elbaum seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Lawrence Davis	None	None
Steven L. Elbaum		
Peter W. Lisi		
Susan Martin		

The hybrid meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director