

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held the meeting via teleconference at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.¹

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Estela Lopez, Grant Committee Chair, at 12:31 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair
Peter Lisi, Board Chair
Lawrence Davis²
Steven L. Elbaum
Susan Martin

ABSENT: Alan Mattamana

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel
Jessica Bishop, Administrative Services Assistant
Daniel Giungi, Communications and Government Affairs Specialist
Krista Johnson, Compliance Specialist
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services
Cynthia D. Peoples-H, Managing Director, Operations & Finance
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2021 Grant Committee Annual Meeting. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Martin.

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

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Lawrence Davis	None	Steven L. Elbaum ³

¹ All attendees participated in the meeting via conference telephone that permitted all parties to hear each other

² Mr. Davis joined the teleconference meeting at 12:37 p.m.

³ Mr. Elbaum abstained from voting as he did not attend the September 10, 2021 meeting.

Peter Lisi
Dr. Estela Lopez
Susan Martin

Dr. Lopez provided a brief background on the significance of the Client Grant program being named after John M. Biancamano, a long-time CHEFA board member and champion of its grant programs.

Ms. Martin recused herself as Middlesex Hospital submitted a grant application.⁴

FY 2022 CLIENT GRANT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported a Letter of Interest (LOI) process was added to the FY 2022 Client Grant cycle. The rationale was that the replacement of the FY 2021 three typical grant cycles of Client, Nonprofit and Targeted with one COVID-19 cycle, might result in more applications than usual for the FY 2022 client grant cycle. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported 68 LOI applications were received and reviewed by the Internal Review Committee (IRC). Staff looked at all LOI's receiving either 4 out of 4 'yes' answers or 3 out of 4 'yes' answers, and those grants were determined to move forward with a full application. There were 39 full applications, and staff is recommending 16 to receive grant awards. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported 15 grants were recommended for full funding and 1 for partial funding, and the amount recommended to be distributed is \$1,050,056.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that there is a new grant review process consisting of a high-medium-low overall rating. This has replaced the number process but is still based on criteria including need for the project/program; impact on the population served; likelihood of success; innovation; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and organizational financial/ managerial performance. In addition, if grant funds were insufficient to fund an entire rating category, the new process included the Grant Program Manager, Ms. Sugerman Weintraub, providing a ranking recommendation to the Executive Director, Ms. Weldon. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported this situation occurred during this cycle and 10 out of the 12 equally rated grants were recommended to receive funding. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated her ranking was based on the CHEFA grant program guidelines and criteria, and the community need for the project or

⁴ Ms. Martin is employed by Middlesex Hospital.

program. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub thanked the IRC consisting of Deb Galli (for the LOI process only), Dan Giungi, and Krista Johnson.

The floor was open to questions about the FY 2022 grant recommendations and a discussion ensued. Board members discussed the grant review process, the proposed recommendations, and the potential for increasing funding to fully fund more of the grant applicants. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub explained the rationale determining the ranking order for the “two High and one Medium” group of twelve grants. Grant funds were exhausted by this rating order. Per the Grant Process determined by the Authority, if funds were exhausted during a rating category, the Grant Program Manager would rank the category and provide the ranking to the Executive Director for review. For this cycle, ten of the twelve grants rated two High and one Medium were recommended for funding (one at a reduced amount).

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub provided the rationale for the two unfunded requests. For Middlesex Hospital, their request for intubation/respiration technology for paramedic and ambulance services was to outfit their third ambulance and for training purposes, staff determined this request to not be as compelling based on their having two fully functioning ambulances. The rationale for denying the request of Livewell Alliance was that it was for IT equipment which was seen as a less compelling request than the group of ten selected, which included requests for hands on medical equipment, training, or innovative programming . Ultimately, the board voted on the recommended group.

Dr. Lopez requested a motion for approval of the FY 2022 John M. Biancamano CHEFA Client Grant Program Awards as proposed by staff. Mr. Davis moved for approval and Mr. Elbaum seconded the motion.

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

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>	<u>RECUSALS</u>
Lawrence Davis Steven L. Elbaum Peter Lisi Dr. Estela Lopez	None	None	Susan Martin

Ms. Martin returned to the teleconference meeting at 1:13 p.m.

FY 2022 NONPROFIT FORUM – HEALTH EQUITY FOCUS

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that CHEFA has held a nonprofit forum the past few years, and next year will be the 20th anniversary of the grant program at CHEFA. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated that the pandemic has brought forth the deep health inequities not only in CT, but nationwide, and staff believes this will be a vital topic for the forum. As an organization, CHEFA has the word health in our name, so this will be a fitting topic for us to highlight. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub stated staff wants to bring this issue to the forefront and is coordinating with Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette, Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions. The forum would include an overview of the topic along with a panel of experts to discuss the health equity issue in a comprehensive and holistic way, and how it is seen in different sectors. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported the forum would be about 1.5 hours occurring in mid-March 2022 and invitations are expected to be sent in January 2022.

CLOSING REMARKS AND UPCOMING MEETING- JANUARY 19, 2022

FY 2022 Targeted Grant Review

Dr. Lopez stated the January 19, 2022 meeting will be to review the FY 2022 Targeted Grants.

Dr. Lopez stated that this is her last meeting and it has been extremely fulfilling role and an honor to be the Chair of the Grant Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Weldon
Executive Director