

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Special Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a special meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

The special hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair, at 12:03 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

**PRESENT:**

- Lawrence Davis
- Steven L. Elbaum<sup>1</sup>
- Kimberly Kennison (*Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary*)<sup>2</sup>
- Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair
- Susan Martin
- Alan Mattamana

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director
- Denise Aguilera, General Counsel
- Charles Bodie, Managing Director of Finance and Operations
- Daniel Giungi, Communications and Government Affairs Specialist
- Rebecca Hrdlicka, Administrative Services Assistant
- Robert Jandreau, Sr. Finance Associate
- Dan Kurowski, Manager of Program Development & CHEFA CDC<sup>3</sup>
- Michael Morris, Managing Director of Client Services
- Marlene Pagan, Transaction Analyst
- 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 September 15, 2023 Special Annual Meeting of the Grant Committee. Mr. Mattamana moved for approval of the minutes.

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

**AYES**

Lawrence Davis  
Peter W. Lisi  
Susan Martin  
Alan Mattamana

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

Kimberly Kennison<sup>4</sup>  
Steven L. Elbaum<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Kimberly Kennison participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>3</sup> Dan Kurowski participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Kennison abstained from voting as she did not attend the Grant Committee Meeting held on September 15, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Elbaum abstained from voting as he did not attend the Grant Committee Meeting held on September 15, 2023.

Ms. Martin recused herself from all discussion and voting regarding the grant applications as her employer, Middlesex Health, submitted a grant application. Ms. Martin left the hybrid meeting at 12:06 p.m.

### **FY 2024 CLIENT GRANT REVIEW**

The Grant Committee reviewed applications for the FY 2024 Client Grant Program. Ms. Weintraub introduced the Client grant cycle, with \$1,001,636 available to be allocated for disbursement for a selected group of the 38 applications for the Committee to review. Ms. Weintraub thanked the internal review committee (IRC) members for their hard work in reviewing the applications.

Ms. Weintraub reported on the community priorities for the review process that were presented to the IRC, which were gathered through meetings with various organizations representing CHEFA's four core priorities. Ms. Weintraub listed the areas of priority for each sector as follows:

- Healthcare
  - Need for community health workers
  - Children/youth behavioral health
  - Preventative care/wellness
  - Lack of medical clinicians/practitioners
- Education
  - Workforce training
  - Pre-engineering skills
  - Manufacturing education
  - 2Generation policy
  - Opportunity Youth 16-24 year olds without employment and with lack of education degrees
  - Basic skills deficiencies
- Childcare
  - Lack of family childcare providers and training for providers in all settings
  - Lack of available infant/toddler slots
  - Cost for childcare
  - Infrastructure needs

Mr. Davis opened the floor to discuss the applications that received a 3 high rating by the IRC (blue section of the IRC report). Ms. Weintraub answered various questions posed by the Committee regarding Central Connecticut State University, Connecticut College, and Stamford Hospital, as well as guided the Committee to the additional materials provided for each application.

Mr. Lisi inquired about the IRC rating system, and a discussion ensued.

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the 7 organizations that received a 3 high rating by the IRC on their application. The organizations and awards for the FY 2024 Client Grant Program are as follows:

Central Connecticut State University: \$64,071  
Connecticut College: \$14,000  
Gateway Community College: \$20,000  
LULAC Head Start, Inc.: \$44,390  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center: \$75,000  
Stamford Hospital: \$75,000  
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.: \$75,000



Mr. Lisi moved for approval and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

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

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Lawrence Davis	None	None
Steven L. Elbaum		
Kimberly Kennison		
Peter W. Lisi		
Alan Mattamana		

With approximately \$650,000 left of allocated funding, Mr. Davis then opened the floor to discuss any application that received a 0 or 1 high rating by the IRC (gray and orange sections of the IRC report).

Mr. Mattamana inquired about the representation of the cultural sector in the Client grant cycle, and Ms. Weintraub stated that the Client Grant Program currently does not have any eligible entities that would qualify under the cultural sector as CHEFA’s only client that would be eligible under the cultural sector (i.e., Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art) paid off their loan one year ago. Ms. Weintraub also clarified that the application submitted by University of New Haven for their performing arts center contains a multi-sector impact in both cultural and education sectors but is considered under the education sector as their primary sector. The Committee decided to review the application submitted by the University of New Haven within the discussion of applications that received a 2 high rating by the IRC (yellow section of the IRC report).

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

- Asnuntuck Community College
- Capital Community College
- Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
- Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County, Inc.
- Danbury Hospital
- Fairfield University
- Griffin Hospital
- Hartford Hospital
- LiveWell Alliance, Inc.
- New Opportunities, Inc.
- Ocean Community YMCA
- Quinnipiac University
- Sacred Heart University
- The Hospital of Central Connecticut
- University of Bridgeport
- University of New Haven
- Wesleyan University

After each brief summary, the floor was opened to questions about the application that Ms. Weintraub answered. During the presentation, a discussion ensued regarding the IRC process. Mr. Elbaum suggested a consensus meeting for the IRC to consolidate the comments presented to the Committee, with which multiple Committee members agreed.

Mr. Lisi inquired about the difference between the applications submitted by New Opportunities, Inc. and Cornell Scott-Hill Healthcare, since both applications are regarding HVAC systems. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Davis 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. 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 (i.e., 3 or more Committee members considered the application favorable).

After further deliberation by the Committee, a consensus was reached. 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 \$1,001,636 allocated for disbursement.

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the following organizations and awards for the FY 2024 Client Grant Program:

Asnuntuck Community College: \$61,825  
 Capital Community College: \$73,396  
 Danbury Hospital: \$75,000  
 Griffin Hospital: \$75,000  
 Hartford Hospital: \$75,000  
 LiveWell Alliance, Inc.: \$75,000  
 New Opportunities, Inc.: \$75,000  
 University of New Haven, Inc.: \$45,080  
 Wesleyan University: \$75,000

The total amount of funding from all Committee recommendations for grant awards was \$997,762. Mr. Lisi moved for approval and Ms. Kennison 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		
Kimberly Kennison		
Peter W. Lisi		
Alan Mattamana		

After a brief discussion, Mr. Davis requested a motion to transfer the remaining \$3,874 (from the total amount available of \$1,001,636) from the FY 2024 Client Grant Program allocated funds to the FY 2024 Nonprofit Grant Program allocated funds. Mr. Lisi moved for approval and Mr. Mattamana 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		
Kimberly Kennison		
Peter W. Lisi		
Alan Mattamana		



Ms. Martin joined the hybrid meeting at 1:18 p.m.

### **FY 2024 NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM CULTURAL FUNDING**

Ms. Weintraub reported that the Grant Committee dedicated \$100,000 to the cultural sector during the FY 2023 Nonprofit cycle due to the small amount of grants awarded to this sector in recent years.

Staff proposed to continue to dedicate \$100,000 of funding to be awarded to the cultural sector, making it a permanent allocation (subject to funding availability) to the Nonprofit grant cycle, starting with the FY 2024 Nonprofit cycle.

Ms. Kennison inquired about the available funding given the requested need. Mr. Davis reported that if less than \$100,000 is requested by the cultural sector, than the allocation can be adjusted and voted on by the Committee.

Mr. Lisi inquired about the broader cultural sector need as well as the outreach efforts to promote this allocation, and a brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Davis requested a motion to approve the \$100,000 allocation to cultural applications as presented. Mr. Lisi moved for approval and Mr. Mattamana seconded the motion.

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

#### **AYES**

Lawrence Davis  
Steven L. Elbaum  
Kimberly Kennison  
Peter W. Lisi  
Susan Martin  
Alan Mattamana

#### **NAYS**

None

#### **ABSTENTIONS**

None

### **GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE ON ENTERPRISE CAPITAL**

Ms. Weintraub reported on the upcoming site visits on January 4, 2024, with the Board to the organizations selected (All Our Kin and Freedom Reads) for the Enterprise Capital initiative. Ms. Weintraub also reported on the partnership with Ms. Andrea Levere and Ms. Alexandra Sing, who comprise the Enterprise Capital Institute. Contracts are being finalized to utilize the Enterprise Capital Institute as a consultant. Ms. Weintraub stated that a financial analysis of the organizations by the Enterprise Capital Institute, as well as other materials, will be provided to the Board for review prior to the site visits.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

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

#### **AYES**

Lawrence Davis  
Steven L. Elbaum  
Kimberly Kennison

#### **NAYS**

None

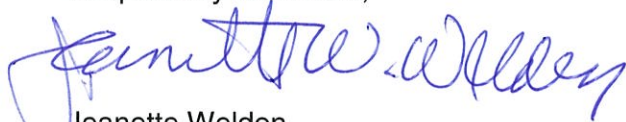
#### **ABSTENTIONS**

None

Peter W. Lisi  
Susan Martin  
Alan Mattamana

The special hybrid meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Weldon", is written over the printed name.

Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director