

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2021

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via teleconference at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair, at 12:32 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

**PRESENT:** Dr. Estela Lopez, Committee Chair  
Peter Lisi, Board Chair.  
Susan Martin

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Angelini  
Lawrence Davis  
Steven L. Elbaum

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Debrah Galli, Manager, Administrative Services  
Eileen MacDonald, Senior Transaction Specialist  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller  
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services  
Cynthia D. Peoples-H, Managing Director, Operations & Finance  
Kara Stuart, Administrative Services Assistant  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager  
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

**GUESTS:** Russell Dexter, Chief Quality Officer, Community Health Center  
Association of Connecticut<sup>2</sup>  
Tiffany Donelson, President and CEO, Connecticut Health  
Foundation  
Ken Lalime, CEO, Community Health Center Association of  
Connecticut<sup>3</sup>

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Lopez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 Grant Committee 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:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Peter Lisi	None	None
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Susan Martin		

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

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Dexter joined the teleconference at 12:52 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Lalime joined the teleconference at 12:52 p.m.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub introduced Ms. Tiffany Donelson, President and CEO of Connecticut Health Foundation.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Tiffany Donelson, President and CEO, Connecticut Health Foundation**

Ms. Donelson gave a presentation covering the following topics:

- About the Connecticut Health Foundation
  - How we define health equity
  - What is health equity?
  - Our goal
  - Why we focus on health equity
- Health disparities in Connecticut: data, causes, impact
  - Life expectancy, infant mortality, and diabetes deaths in Connecticut
  - What causes disparities?
  - Resources that are key to health
  - The role of race in health care
  - Disparate treatment within health care
  - Racism has physical consequences
  - What we can do
- COVID-19 and health disparities
  - COVID-19 magnified existing inequities
  - The result: disparities in COVID-19 deaths
  - Connecticut Health Foundation's COVID-19 response

Dr. Lopez opened the floor up to questions and a discussion ensued.

Mr. Lisi inquired about the impact of economic disparity in Connecticut and a brief discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez inquired if Ms. Donelson could provide examples of their most impactful grantmaking. Ms. Donelson stated that having an advocate such as a community health worker, assuring people have access to resources, and paying attention to the data while holding the entire system accountable have all proven to be impactful.

Dr. Lopez and Ms. Sugerman Weintraub thanked Ms. Donelson for her time and presentation.

Ms. Donelson left the teleconference at 1:14 p.m.

Ms. Sugerman Weintraub introduced Mr. Ken Lalime, CEO, and Mr. Russell Dexter, Chief Quality Officer, of Community Health Center Association of Connecticut. Ms. Sugerman Weintraub reported that the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut received the largest of CHEFA's COVID-19 grants in the amount of \$486,000 and they have been invited to provide an update on the grant.

**GRANT FOLLOW UP**

**FY 2021 CHEFA COVID-19 Grant to Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Ken Lalime, CEO, and Russell Dexter, Chief Quality Officer**

Mr. Lalime gave a presentation covering the following topics:

- Overview of Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

- State-wide geographic coverage
- 16 member health centers
- Over 300,000 patients served
- 1 in 14 state residents impacted

Mr. Dexter presented the following topics:

- Pandemic response
  - Transition from in-person care to telehealth
  - High risk testing program
  - Vaccine program
- Need for help
  - Pandemic exacerbated social barriers to care
  - Building trust through a new paradigm
- Allocation and use of CHEFA funds
  - 17 community health centers (includes a CHC, that is not a member of the overall association)
  - Three areas of focus:
    - Patient care kits
    - Point of care testing machines
    - Other expenses
- Supporting health center pandemic response
  - Patient care kits
  - Rapid testing machines and supplies
  - Community outreach for testing in vulnerable communities
  - PPE
  - Creating negative pressure rooms
  - Improve air filtration systems

Dr. Lopez and Mr. Lisi thanked Mr. Lalime and Mr. Dexter for their time and presentation.

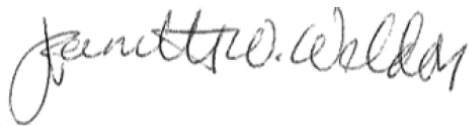
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 1:34 p.m., Dr. Lopez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Davis 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>
Peter Lisi	None	None
Dr. Estela Lopez		
Susan Martin		

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director