

Grants Committee Meeting

April 14, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Willie Dancy
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Roy Mosley, Jr.
Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist

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Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governor's Executive order issued March 23rd, 2020, the Grants Committee Meeting was held via conference call. Chairman Stephen Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and took roll call.

Rick Stubblefield stated items included in the agenda would require signature if passed. He asked each member the following: "Do we have your authorization to sign your name electronically on items that are approved?"

Response:

Chairman Stephen Reeb – yes
Asst. Chair Sue Gruberman – yes
Willie Dancy – yes
Scott Greenwald – yes
Ken Sharkey – yes

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald and a second by Mr. Dancy the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Dancy, and a second by Mr. Sharkey the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of March, 2021 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of March, 2021 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group and the report was placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Dancy, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Director's Report

Rick Stubblefield stated he recently met with staff from Chestnut Mental Health Services regarding IGD taking part in a partnership with St. Clair County Transit District and Bi-State Development to place professionals on the Metrolink to work with individuals that are homeless or suffering from mental health issues and are going back and forth from St. Louis. He expressed it was a great conversation and commends what they are doing and what Ken Sharkey has put together. Mr. Stubblefield stated it will be a great opportunity for individuals to get services. He noted IGD has resources to assist in different ways in terms of providing different services such as homeless, housing, rental assistance, and workforce development in addition to existing partners that can assist with mental health. Mr. Stubblefield stated he will research ways to keep the program alive when their existing grant comes to an end.

Rick Stubblefield stated he had a conversation with Gateway Pet Guardians. The agency has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. They have picked up a large number of pets that were turned over because of the pandemic as people were not working and could not afford pet food and pet care. Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD has been working with them providing on-the-job training assistants through Workforce Development to help offset their labor costs. He noted IGD is looking to assist with a pet food pantry; he is unsure of the rules and regulations however will look into assisting low-to-moderate income individuals with their pet needs.

Rick Stubblefield stated IGD continues to work with the CoC. He noted progress is being made and expressed he is pleased with the program's placement within IGD. IGD's deficiencies are being corrected and work continues to correct those with CoC partners.

Rick Stubblefield stated Weatherization is catching up after having a backlog due to the pandemic. Final inspections are being completed. Mr. Stubblefield noted both Energy Auditors passed their federal BPI Certification.

Rick Stubblefield noted Community Development is continuing to collect applications for the Rehabilitation Program. CD has ranked all the Public Facility applications. He stated all were funded but one. The applications will now go to the Chairman for approval.

Rick Stubblefield informed members the Belleville Workforce Development location has moved to the Magna Center near Kings Pointe on the West End of Belleville. He stated transportation runs to the building and thanked St. Clair County Transit District for making that happen. Mr. Stubblefield noted the building holds thirteen partners including IDES, DHS, Veteran's Assistance, and DCFS making it a social service one-stop. The close proximity of agencies makes it easier to refer clients to needed services.

Rick Stubblefield informed members DCEO visited the area last week. The new director was unable to attend however the Deputy Director of Economic Development, the Deputy Director of Employment and Training, and the Deputy Director of Minority Empowerment were here. He expressed it was a great visit. Workforce Development partners with Madison County for a regional approach which gives more strength and more opportunity for greater funding. The visit was combined between St. Clair and Madison Counties. DCEO was very impressed with what they were shown and the accomplishments of the program.

Chairman Sharkey thanked Rick Stubblefield for meeting with Chestnut Mental Health Services and asked who he met with. Mr. Stubblefield responded he met with Emily Schwagel. Chairman Sharkey responded she is one of two staff that started this week on the Metrolink. He stated the partnership will be a one-year pilot program and will be based out of Belleville. Chairman Sharkey noted the St. Clair County Transit District pays for fifteen full-time deputies on the Metrolink system in addition to an auxiliary force of part-time deputies that sign up on a voluntary basis. Chestnut can offer staff that are focused on taking care of behavior associated with mental illness or the homeless population that police are not trained to deal with. Chairman Sharkey is hopeful the one-year pilot program will be successful and noted if so, the Transit District will continue to provide funding going forward.

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Dancy, motion passed and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.