

Grants Committee Meeting

July 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
Lial Field, CSBG/Weatherization Program Coordinator

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Chairman Stephen Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald and a second by Ms. Gruberman the minutes from the June 9, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Upon a motion by Ms. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of June, 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. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, 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 introduced Lial Field, Program Coordinator for the Community Services Block Grant and Weatherization Programs. He noted Weatherization can be challenging and expressed Mr. Field does a great job of navigating with DCEO and the state. Mr. Stubblefield thanked Mr. Field for all he and his staff do.

Rick Stubblefield stated the WIPFLI fiscal audit is complete; there were no issues. He expressed the Fiscal Group does a great job. He stated the Workforce Development Group monitoring is complete; there were no fiscal issues; there were a few minor programmatic issues that are correctable. Mr. Stubblefield also noted the Weatherization program monitoring is complete; there were a few issues however the final results are not back yet. He stated he believes the issues were very minor.

Rick Stubblefield stated the Workforce Development program ended June 30th. The program met or exceeded all program measures. He expressed this program year was exceptionally tough due to the pandemic as staff could not get out and clients could not come in. Mr. Stubblefield explained that Workforce programs are required to show progress for all participants. That was difficult as participants were not in class or attendance was not readily available; it was a challenge to show youth moving forward through testing and advancing. Mr. Stubblefield noted one month ago every local workforce area was failing performance primarily because of youth. He was thrilled St. Clair County Workforce Development pulled through meeting their performance measures. Mr. Stubblefield stated there was a nice article in the Belleville News Democrat on Father's Day regarding Workforce Development. There was also an article in the Illinois Business Journal regarding the area's regional relationship and the program being developed for supply chain management. The article highlighted the relationship between St. Clair County, Madison County, Lewis & Clark, Kaskaskia, SWIC, Bi-State, and the St. Louis Regional Freightway District. Chairman Reeb noted good press helps promote the efforts of what IGD is doing.

Rick Stubblefield stated the Community Development Rehabilitation Program will start August 2nd; staff will take requests for pre-applications August 2nd through August 6th. All pre-applications will go into a lottery; every pre-application is pulled and numbered. Applications are then mailed in the order they were pulled.

Rick Stubblefield noted the LIHEAP program is currently closed and will reopen early September. He stated the state is now committed to LIHEAP being at least a ten-month program and is trying to be an eleven-month program in following years. Mr. Stubblefield stated a couple LIHEAP positions were posted today. He added the water program he previously discussed is scheduled to begin in the fall. The program will run through IGD. Susan Gruberman asked if the program would include Illinois American Water. Mr. Stubblefield responded it will be up to the providers as to if they want to participate; they do not have to but most do. He noted Illinois American Water will participate however sometimes municipalities who oversee their own utilities opt to not participate. Mr. Stubblefield stated during COVID, St. Clair County Community Services built a relationship with many providers as the program provided water and sewer assistance.

Rick Stubblefield stated Community Services continues to process applications and requests for assistance. He noted the bulk of rental requests went to IHDA as the program was paying up to \$25,000 in assistance. Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD could provide up to two months rental assistance whereas IHDA could assist with up to twelve months arrearage. He noted despite

being encouraged to seek the program which would assist them best, there are clients who resisted the IHDA program and insisted on going through Community Services. Chairman Reeb asked if IGD can track those applications. Mr. Stubblefield responded IGD cannot track IHDA applications. He added IGD gets back approximately 30% of applications requested; a number of those returned are submitted without the required documentation.

Rick Stubblefield stated Weatherization still has a waitlist. He expressed program staff did a fantastic job despite the challenges presented by COVID. Mr. Stubblefield stated a challenge for both the Weatherization and Rehabilitation programs is the lack of contractors; contractors are not bidding on jobs; they are struggling to get employees; and IGD is limited in what programs can pay.

Rick Stubblefield stated HRC programs are moving forward; he continues to work on the structure of the Homeless Action Council and Continuum of Care. He believes the strides being made will put St. Clair County in a position to get more funding to develop more affordable housing. He is working with Larry McLean at the Housing Authority on a grant that was received for another 48 units. Mr. Stubblefield stated he continues to have conversation with the mental health staff from Chestnut riding the Metrolink trains. He added the program has been successful. Ken Sharkey added two staff are riding the Metrolink trains and interacting with homeless and mental health individuals and referring them to services. Chairman Reeb asked Mr. Sharkey how he was connected to the project. Mr. Sharkey responded the Transit District funds the Metro bus and Metrolink train; the County has fifteen full-time deputies on the train as well as part-time deputies. He noted many times they are not trained to deal with some of these problems. Transit in turn is working with Chestnut to have mental health staff on the trains and has provided a couple hundred thousand dollars in funding for the program. Rick Stubblefield stated staff have done a good job of tracking where interactions are taking place and what the interactions are. He noted mental health and homeless interactions are the most common. Mr. Sharkey added they hope to expand the program if it continues to be successful and that Missouri is taking a look at the program as well.

There were no comments or questions.

Other Comments

Lial Field greeted members. He expressed he wanted to sit in and attend a meeting. Mr. Field reiterated Weatherization remains busy. The two new energy auditors have passed their tests and are doing a good job. He hopes to hire a new energy auditor in the near future. Rick Stubblefield stated he believes the program is budgeted to post the job in August.

There were no further comments.

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, motion passed and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.