

Grants Committee Meeting

May 12, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Richie Meile
Willie Dancy
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Roy Mosley, Jr.
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

May Brown, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 805

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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 5:30 p.m. and took roll call.

Rick Stubblefield 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
Willie Dancy – yes
Scott Greenwald – yes
Richie Meile – yes
Ken Sharkey – yes

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald and a second by Mr. Sharkey the minutes from the April 14, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of April, 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. Meile, 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 stated IGD was featured in an Illinois Business Journal article in regard to supply chain efforts in conjunction with Freightway and Bi-State Development. The article focused on the efforts of both St. Clair and Madison County Workforce Development Boards. He noted the two counties do a lot together regionally which has helped with apprenticeships, badging, and supply chain grants.

Rick Stubblefield stated the Workforce Development Group has been working on an incumbent worker project with BJC that was featured in the BJC newsletter. The article was then picked up by a national health review magazine. Workforce Development is working with BJC and Midwest Career Source to train current employees working in areas such as the kitchen or housekeeping and training them to move into areas such as CNA which can then lead to LPN which can lead to RN. Mr. Stubblefield stated employers have already vetted workers and are familiar with their work ethic and capacity and can move someone who is entry level into a career position. He noted Workforce Development has had similar programs with Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation as well as several manufacturers. This cohort with BJC ended yesterday, a second cohort is planned for laboratory staff training them in phlebotomy and moving them to lab positions. IGD also assists with job posting to fill the open entry level positions. He expressed it is an excellent career pipeline.

Rick Stubblefield stated that Christina Anderson and Shawn Schneider along with Community Development staff have done an excellent job with the CARES Act funding and small business loans. As a result of the success, CD staff were asked to present at HUD's All Grantee Planning and Development meeting. Chairman Reeb asked if the request was known in advance. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes, HUD asked if IGD would present as the program expended funds far above other agencies. HUD wanted St. Clair County to present as a means of detailing best practices. Community Development assisted surrounding counties including Madison County who utilized IGD's policies and procedures set up by Mrs. Anderson. He expressed it is good to be acknowledged for the program's successes.

Rick Stubblefield stated the Housing Resource Center continues to work with the CoC and take more of a leadership role. He noted there are agencies that are doing their own thing and he is working to bring all agencies in line and create the cohesiveness that is needed.

Rick Stubblefield informed members the LIHEAP program will close the end of May. He expressed his concern the state is closing the program during the pandemic with the need that exists. The program is expected to reopen in late August/early September. Chairman Reeb asked if it is due to a lack of funding. Mr. Stubblefield responded no, plenty of funds remain. He stated it is likely so the state can close the program year; any funds that remain will roll into the next program year. Mr. Stubblefield stated an additional \$1.7 million will be distributed next week for energy assistance in addition to existing LIHEAP funds.

Rick Stubblefield informed members the WIPFLI annual audit will take place this June. The Fiscal Group - Jennifer Johnson, Pam Dougherty, and Becky Rose, are already preparing for it. The audit will be a desk audit and will not be in person this year; files will be scanned and emailed. Each year the audit selects groups of focus; this year LIHEAP, Weatherization, and Workforce Development were selected. Mr. Stubblefield expressed he has no concerns and noted the fiscal group works hard all year and is very good at what they do.

Richie Meile asked if the \$1.7 million for energy assistance are future funds or current funds that are ready to be dispersed. Mr. Stubblefield responded the funds are on-hand and ready to be dispersed.

Rick Stubblefield reminded members St. Clair County partnered with IHDA for the Rental Payment Program. He stated applications will open May 17th. IGD has been working with the Metro East Real Estate Investors Association to promote the program and distribute information; both hosted a presentation with IHDA which walked housing providers through the application process. Mr. Stubblefield stated approximately \$7.7 million was allocated for St. Clair County however he expects the county will exceed that amount based on interest and feedback. The program is based on income eligibility; tenants cannot exceed 80% of the area median income. He noted that is a high-income limit compared to many programs. The program can assist with up to twelve months arrearage and three months future rent with a limit of \$25,000 maximum assistance.

Other Comments

Richie Meile thanked the committee for the flowers sent to him.

Rick Stubblefield stated May Brown has been an incredible help with the Housing Resource Center. He thanked her for being engaged and for her all of her hard work.

Adjournment

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