

**A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION
ON THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020, AT 8:00 A.M. BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
AT THE CITY OF WEST MONROE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2305 NORTH 7TH STREET, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Courtney Hornsby, Chair
Jim Allbritton
Dr. Robert Huffstutter

Members Absent:

Rev. Don Banks
Major Jason Pleasant

Members Present by Zoom

Lori Allen
Dr. Jacquelyn Carter
Alberta Green
A. Whitfield Hood, Jr.
Dr. Louis E. McGuire
Dr. Dave N. Norris, Jr.
Ken Phillips

Staff Present:

Alice M. Proffit, President/CEO
Janet Rutledge, Executive Assistant,
Secretary/Treasurer

Others Present:

Doug Caldwell, Attorney

Pursuant to the provisions of Proclamation 52 JBE 2020 by the state of Louisiana, a tele-conference/video conference was held for this special called Board of Directors meeting. Courtney Hornsby called the meeting to order, and the presence of a quorum was verified.

Minutes – The minutes from the April 29, 2020, special called meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Mr. Allbritton, seconded by Mr. Hood, the minutes were unanimously approved by all members then present (9-0).

At this time, Dr. Norris joined the meeting.

By – Laws Items – Items were then considered for continuation of waivers on certain By-Laws provisions.

Continuation of Waiver of Planning/Operations Committee – Article III.3.1 of the Foundation By-Laws provides for a Planning/Operations Committee as a standing committee. Article III.3.8 of the By-Laws defines the duties and responsibilities of the Planning/Operations Committee. Since October 2015, the Foundation and HSD have agreed and approved by resolution that duties of the Planning/Operations Committee shall temporarily be managed by the Executive Committee and Foundation staff. HSD has previously granted two-year waivers, the last being granted August 15, 2017, effective through December 31, 2019.

After review, a recommendation was made to request from HSD further continuation of the waiver for two years through December 31, 2021. Upon motion by Mr. Hood, seconded by Dr. McGuire, the recommendation was unanimously approved (10-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners.

Waiver of the Community Needs Assessment – Sec. 2.B.(2) of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between HSD and the Foundation provides that a formal Community Needs Assessment shall be conducted every ten years, unless waived by HSD. For several years now, HSD and the Foundation have been of the view that community needs have not significantly changed since the last formal assessment, and the expense and effort of obtaining an updated formal assessment still seems to greatly outweigh any benefit. Recommendation was made to request HSD grant a further one-year waiver of this requirement. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Norris, the recommendation was unanimously approved (10-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners.

Annual Review of Strategic Plan – The Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2022, including the Action Plan, were presented for the annual review. It was noted that revisions were needed to delete the Autism Center Initiative and any actions related to that initiative, as ULM had closed the Autism Center, pending resolution of state clinical boards and delineation of diagnosis of autism. Recommendation was made to accept the revisions as presented. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Allbritton, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the recommendation was unanimously approved (10-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners.

Special Funding Cycle Related to the COVID-19 Impact – The Board then considered applications submitted in the special funding cycle specifically related to the COVID-19 impact for the region, with review of previously determined conflicts of interest.

Consideration of Potential Conflicts of Interest – As previously considered in the special called meeting of the Board of Directors on April 29, 2020, the following determinations from that meeting regarding potential conflicts of interest remained effective for these discussions:

- a) that **Jim Allbritton does not have** a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application nor grant applicant, **LSU Health Sciences Foundation**, and may participate in the discussion and vote with respect to the grant application;
- b) that **Lori Allen does not have** a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application nor grant applicant, **Ascent Health**, and may participate in the discussion and vote with respect to the grant application;
- c) that **Alberta Green does have** a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, **United Way**, and may not participate in the discussion and vote with respect to the grant application; and,
- d) that **Courtney Hornsby does have** a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant applications or the grant applicants, **United Way and Ouachita Outreach**, and may not participate in the discussion and vote with respect to the grant applications.

Discussion of the Grant Applications for the Special Funding Cycle – COVID 19 IMPACT - Grant applications were then discussed, including reviews of submitted and follow up information. It was noted that the special funding cycle budget was approved at \$200,000, and previous approved funding in the first group of applications was \$145,243, with \$54,753 remaining for this discussion. It was further noted that 2 grant applications, Ascent Health and LA Center for the Blind, had been deferred for consideration in this second round of applicants. The following grant applications were then reviewed, with special note that all requests had merit.

LSU Health Sciences Foundation – Monroe Medical Center – “Mobile COVID – 19 Community Testing and Outreach” – requested \$20,000 to provide protective personal equipment, test kits, and test supplies for a mobile testing van for rural and underserved areas surrounding the Monroe campus. Discussion was held on requiring that they coordinate their efforts with state testing. After discussion, the recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$20,000. Upon motion by Mr. Hood, seconded by Mrs. Green, the recommendation was unanimously approved (10-0).

Ouachita Outreach – “Tele-Health Counseling Services” – requested \$9,500 to set up a one-stop shop for the communities in south West Monroe to access healthcare professionals through tele-health and tele-mental health stations, with staff from the WM Community Center trained to assist in education on use and access. It was reported that Katie Parnell with Morehouse Community Medical Centers participated in a conference call with the applicant and will offer assistance on appropriate medical HIPAA requirements and structure for the privacy cubicles. After discussion, the recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$9,500. Upon motion by Mrs. Green, seconded by Mr. Hood, the recommendation was unanimously approved by all members voting (9-0), and **without** Courtney Hornsby’s participation in the vote due to the determined conflict of interest.

ULM Department of Gerontology – “Comprehensive Tele-health Wellness and Counseling Services: A Crisis Response to COVID-19” – requested \$14,259 to provide tele-health and tele-wellness programs for senior care facilities through VCOM and ULM. It was noted that fitness instruction and education would be part of the online services, and that equipment was needed for both settings to set up the online programming. Discussion was held on senior care needs during the pandemic, with further determination that certain areas of the proposed project might be more applicable to the mental health services to be implemented through the BCBSLA Foundation grant.

After discussion, it was determined that, prior to the approval of any funding for this request, reviews of the remaining grants would be advantageous at this time to consider which would be merited to fund within the limited remaining budget.

United Way of NELA – “Housing for Our Neighbors” – requested \$20,000 to provide funding support for those who are asset limited, income constrained, and recently unemployed with halted or limited cash flow. Funding will help pay for rent, mortgage payments, or utilities for those affected by the disasters. A review was then held of the funding by the Foundation for those agencies which had been re-purposed or previously approved for provisions of rent, mortgage payments, or utilities on behalf of those who had need. Vote on this request was tabled until the remaining applications were considered.

Ascent Health – Monroe – “PPE supplies for Rural Health Providers – requested \$18,500 for adult/pediatric masks for rural pediatric clinics. It was identified that non-profit settings and those under-served would be appropriate for receipt of the supplies to be distributed by this agency. Vote on this request was also tabled until the remaining applications were considered.

LA Center for the Blind - Ruston – “Combatting Educational and Social Isolation Among the Blind of Lincoln Parish” – requested \$10,400 to purchase 10 laptops for students to use at on-campus apartments for the blind. It was noted that, although the request was important and had merit, the impact from this request may not address the goals of the funding cycle at this time. Vote on this request was also tabled until the remaining applications were considered.

LA Endowment for the Humanities – PRIMETIME Head Start of Ouachita – “Crossing the Digital Divide” - requested \$19,088 to provide 75 Chrome Books to families in order to have access to materials/lessons for Head Start programming while classes are not in session. It was noted that the Chrome Books would first be loaned, then upon a program to earn ownership, the families could qualify to retain and own the Chrome Books.

At this time, in light of the discussions and remaining available funds, it was recommended that the applicants LA Center for the Blind, LA Endowment for the Humanities – PRIMETIME Head Start of Ouachita, and ULM Department of Gerontology not be funded in this cycle, and further, that Ascent Health and United Way of NELA be funded at the level of \$12,000 each, which is within the allocated budget for the cycle. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Norris, the recommendation was unanimously approved by all members voting (8-0). As previously noted, because of conflicts of interest, and the structure of the recommendation, Mrs. Hornsby and Mrs. Green **abstained** from voting.

This concluded the overall presentation of the grant applications. These grant applications, with updates on conflicts of interest, will be forwarded to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners for final approval.

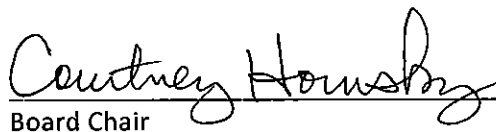
Implementation Plan for BCBSLA Foundation Grant – This item was deferred due to time constraints, and to allow for further discussion with collaborative agencies for deliverables. It will be an agenda item for the June meetings.

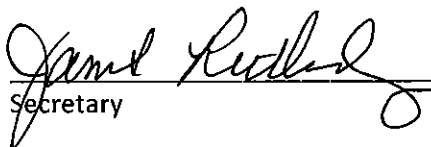
President CEO Report - No further report at this time.

Board Chair Report – No further report at this time.

Other Comments by Board Directors – A request was expressed that the Board consider soon the status of the investment portfolio in more detail with the investment manager. It was reported that, in prior discussions with the Board Chair and Vice Chair of Finance/Investment Committee, that focus would be investigated further after the April financial statements are prepared and the Finance/Investment Committee can meet with the investment manager. More information would be forthcoming for the Board after the Committee meets.

There being no other activities, and no other Directors or members of the public wished to make any further comments, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.


Board Chair


Secretary