

**A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS/GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION  
ON THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023, AT 7:30 A.M.  
AT THE WMWO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
112 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

**MINUTES**

***Members Present:***

Dr. Bob Huffstutter, Vice Chair  
Melanie Massey Groves  
Christine Rambo  
Doug Seegers

***Staff Present:***

Alice M. Proffit, President/CEO  
Monica Turner, Executive Assistant,  
Secretary/Treasurer

***Members Absent:***

Shelby-Sanchez Corral

***Others Present:***

none

Dr. Huffstutter called the meeting to order, and the presence of a quorum was verified.

**Minutes** – The minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the minutes were unanimously approved (4-0).

**Review of Grant Cycle Parameters and Provisions** – A discussion was held on the priority and focus for the grant cycle, with a review on qualifying criteria as previously approved. No action was necessary on this item.

**Consideration of Potential Conflicts of Interest** – At this time, potential conflicts of interest for Committee members were considered. Dr. Huffstutter exited the meeting after providing further information.

The Committee then considered a potential conflict of interest for Dr. Bob Huffstutter regarding the grant applicant, Boys and Girls Club of North Louisiana. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members (4-0) to wit:

WHEREAS, the Programs/Grant Review Committee has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Committee by Dr. Huffstutter with respect to the grant applicant, Boys and Girls Club of North Louisiana, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to him regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Programs/Grant Review Committee has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether he has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that Dr. Huffstutter **DOES NOT** have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application disclosed and may participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Dr. Huffstutter then rejoined the meeting.

**Grant Cycle 2023 Applications** – The overall process for review was discussed, and it was noted that there were 25 applications received at a total request of \$1,001,905, and the total budget was \$350,000 as amended and approved by the Finance/Investment Committee, pending final approval by the Board and HSD #1.

The Committee expressed appreciation to the staff for the details and tools provided on the grants for an efficient and thorough review, and recognized Dr. Gibson’s input as a Board Advisor.

At this time, a detailed discussion was held on each grant applicant, including reviews of submitted and follow up information. It was noted that all applications were impressive and of interest. Interactive discussion was held on the merits of all grants within the parameters of the grant cycle prior to final votes.

**Boys and Girls Club of North LA – “Serving More Kids, More Often, and in a Meaningful Way”** – requested \$50,000 of \$130,937 total project, for addition of staff, supplies, and snacks for existing programs in Ouachita Parish and expanding to Morehouse Parish. It was noted that the organization is addressing the gaps in connectivity for kids and making a difference in safe healthy spaces in expanded programming. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$50,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Bright Star Ranch – “Freedom to Flourish Phase 2”** – requested \$17,000 of \$42,000 total project, for the addition of a program director and support staffing as well as equipment and supplies for the previously funded space. It was noted that the program is addressing services for those affected by human trafficking as well as other disadvantaged groups. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$8,500 for the proposed position only was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Broaden Horizons – “Mental Health and Suicide Prevention for Impoverished Communities”** – requested \$9,000 of \$23,000 total project, for professional fees, instruction, and outside consultants for after-school and summer camp programming. It was noted that they are also requesting an AED for the location. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$3,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Children’s Coalition of NELA – “Signs of Suicide”** – requested \$150,000 of \$236,092 total project, for expansion of the evidence-based program to outlying parishes to 7 middle and high schools and working with 3 SBHC’s. It was also noted that the Foundation has previously funded the Signs of Suicide program. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$83,830, specifically for the new position (\$49,000), the mental health consultants (\$30,000), and the other licensing expenses (\$4,830) was unanimously approved (4-0).

**City of West Monroe Fire Department – “Public Emergency Response Vehicle”** – requested \$28,597 of \$32,274 total project, for acquiring a specially equipped Polaris Ranger vehicle for emergency medical and rescue services at events and activities where larger vehicles do not have access. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$28,597 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Friends of Crowville – “Franklin Impact”** – requested \$20,000 of \$24,073 total project, for the purchase of 11 AEDs for 9 public and private schools, the activity center, and the Council on Aging. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Grace Place Ministries, Inc. – “Clothes Closet and Healthy Living Expansion”** – requested \$90,000 of \$100,000 total project, for the construction of a storage closet to assist in distribution of food supplies and hygiene products to support their overall mission within the community. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**HSD #1B of the Parish of Richland, State of LA, dba Richardson Medical Center – “Sports Facilities AED Provision”** – requested \$23,103 of \$24,648 total project, for installing 15 AEDs in every facility in Richland Parish that holds sports events. It was noted that placement of AEDs in outdoor spaces would need to be secure. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$12,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Hunters for the Hungry LA – “Freshly Harvested Game Program”** – requested \$25,000 of \$250,000 total project, for funding portions of program personnel costs. It was noted that this organization has received funding from the state and BCBSLA Foundation. It was further noted that this program works with the NELA Food Bank and produces over 15,000 lbs. of protein for distribution to local food pantries, and that, while personnel outside the service area is not eligible for funding, some of the equipment needs would be eligible. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$5,000 specifically for the purchase of freezers and other needed equipment within the region was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Junior League of Monroe – “Care Closets”** – requested \$20,000 of \$32,720 total project, for additional care closets within Monroe City, Ouachita Parish, and Richland Parish schools to provide basic hygiene or other supplies for needy kids, which would help offset expenses incurred by teachers. It was noted that this organization is highly successful through the efforts of its volunteers. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**LA Emergency Response Network (LERN) – “Stroke and Trauma Education”** – requested \$25,000 of \$33,460 total project, for expanded training of students and instructors in trauma life support and emergency care intervention. It was noted that all prior funded programming was sustained in the service area, and that this organization has a solid track of impacting communities. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$25,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Lyfe Skills Collaboration – “The Suicide Prevention and Intervention Neighborhood (SPIN) Project”** – requested \$87,500 of \$177,300 total project, to implement and offer intervention, psychotherapies, behavior therapies, and events for suicide prevention/awareness/intervention, including safety planning and follow up care. It was noted this was a new non-profit, and that no programming with this focus had yet been implemented. Further note was made to the use of professional psychology providers through tele-health components. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 specifically for the professional consultants only was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center – “Improving Access to Early Detection Cancer Screenings to Impact Cancer Disparities”** – requested \$20,000 of \$114,599 total project, for ongoing mobile mammography fees and colonoscopy kits for screenings in medically underserved rural areas. It was noted that this was a second request, and that BCBSLA Foundation had funded a multi-year project for these services in NELA. There was further note of the current grant status and services within the area. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Pinnacle Family Health, Inc., dba GO CARE Community Health Center – “Pinnacle Family Health Dental Clinic”** – requested \$50,000 of \$257,212 total project, for a dental suite consisting of 6 treatment areas with panoramic x-ray and other necessary equipment. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$30,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Rays of Sonshine – “Project Hope”** – requested \$25,000 of \$65,600 total project, for expanding education services, increasing staff hours, adding life skills training, and case management, after the impact of the pandemic to operations. It was noted that rebuilding the program included provisions for general operating costs. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**St. Christopher Day School Foundation – Community Learning Center – “The Views From Tower”** – requested \$100,000 of \$264,780 total project, to provide arts, music, technology, and wellness programming for all ages in a dedicated resource center, with 4 designated events to build interest. It was noted that this program has support within the community and the capacity to grow. Further note was included on delivery of services for under-served populations within the plans for programming over time. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**The Arc of Ouachita (ARCO) – “Collaborating for Far-Reaching Quality”** – requested \$60,099 of \$214,676 total project, to provide therapies for developmentally disabled adults in collaboration with ULM College of Health Sciences and G.B. Cooley Services, with the expansion to include children over time. It was noted that certain components of the proposal would likely need more formal structure as to the collaboration arrangements. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**The Center for Children and Families, Inc. – “The Hope Center”** – requested \$50,000 of \$140,000 total project, for staff for counseling and psychological services, including medication management, for existing services and a new location in West Monroe. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$20,000 for the proposed position only was unanimously approved (4-0).

**The Vine of NELA – “Flourishing the Vine through Expanding Educational, Social, and Communal Opportunity”** – requested \$12,651 of \$38,373 total project, for a program position of Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. It was noted that this is a new non-profit, and that the structure of the organization was in process, with minimal paid staff and a small Board presence, but that their programming and connections were expanding into the community. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Union General Hospital – “Mental Health Matters”** – requested \$67,600 of \$142,600 total project, for a full-time position of Community Outreach Coordinator for the expansion of mental health services in the new rural health clinic. It was noted that the new clinic was not yet complete, and that the current grant from the Foundation had been extended to accommodate that completion in 2024. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**ULM – Department of Gerontology – “Developing Supportive Services for the Caregivers of Individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease”** – requested \$21,200 of \$31,300 total project, to provide education, mentoring, and training by licensed professionals for caregivers of those with cognitive deficits through supportive programming. It was noted that overall the health of both those with deficits and their caregivers was declining, and that referrals were not always made for supportive therapies or interventions. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$14,700 for the professional consultants only was unanimously approved (4-0).

**ULM – OT Clinic – “Bedwetting Program for Children”** – requested \$11,569 of \$35,575 total project, for the implementation of a pelvic floor rehabilitation pediatric bedwetting program. After discussion on demand for the program and capacity for the clinic, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**ULM – OT Clinic – “Occupational Therapy Services for Children with Feeding Difficulties”** – requested \$11,569 of \$51,668 total project, for training faculty and for purchasing feeding assessment tools and specialized feeding equipment for teaching. It was noted that there was a pediatrician currently making referrals to the program. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation not to fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (4-0).

**ULM – Speech Language Pathology Clinic – “Dementia Compassion Project”** – requested \$16,158 of \$52,893 total project, to assist in funding education, equipment, and needs within the pilot project addressing the populations affected by Alzheimers/dementia. It was noted this program proposes to address the professionals’ skillsets within the referral system. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$12,500 specifically for the continuing education expenses and capital equipment was unanimously approved (4-0).

**Zion Helping Hands – “Backpack Food Program”** – requested \$10,000 of \$11,500 total project, to provide food in a backpack program at Bastrop High School when school is not in session, in collaboration with CommuniHealth Services and the Food Bank. It was noted that the organization is a dedicated food pantry partner. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Upon conclusion of the reviews and votes, it was reported that the total amount proposed for funding the Grant Cycle 2023 requests was \$348,127, within the budget of \$350,000. All of the above recommended funding for the 25 projects will be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting in August 2023.

**Other Comments** – No other discussion at this time.

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

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Vice-Chair

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Secretary