

**A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS/GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION
ON THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024, AT 7:30 A.M.
AT THE FOUNDATION OFFICE,
3711 CYPRESS STREET, SUITE 1, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Dr. Bob Huffstutter, Vice Chair
Shelby Sanchez Corral
Melanie Massey Groves
Christine Rambo

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Members Absent:

Doug Seegers

none

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

Minutes – The minutes from the July 19, 2024, meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, the minutes were unanimously approved (4-0).

Grant Cycle Parameters and Provisions – A discussion was held on the priority and focus for the grant cycle, with a review of 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. It was discussed that the Programs/Grant Review Committee might determine, for purposes of this meeting and to carefully consider each applicant, that members with disclosures would be considered to have a conflict, although there may be different determination by the Board of Directors as to those relationships.

After providing further information regarding her conflict disclosures, Mrs. Rambo exited the meeting. The Committee then considered a potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Rambo regarding the grant applicants, Children’s Coalition for NELA, Serving With a Purpose, and The Center for Children and Families, Inc. After discussion, upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Programs/Grant Review Committee has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Committee by Mrs. Rambo with respect to the grant applicants, Children’s Coalition for NELA, Serving With a Purpose, and The Center for Children and Families, Inc., and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationships disclosed;

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

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that Mrs. Rambo DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant applications disclosed and may not participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Mrs. Rambo then rejoined the meeting.

Dr. Huffstutter then provided additional information regarding his conflict disclosure, and thereafter exited the meeting. 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. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), 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 determines that Dr. Huffstutter DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application and may not participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Dr. Huffstutter then rejoined the meeting.

Mrs. Massey Groves provided information pertaining to her conflict disclosures and exited the meeting. The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves was then considered regarding the grant applicants, CommuniHealth Services, Inc., and Children's Coalition for NELA. After discussion, upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Programs/Grant Review Committee has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Committee by Mrs. Massey Groves with respect to the grant applicants, CommuniHealth Services, Inc., and Children's Coalition of NELA, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationships disclosed;

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

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that Mrs. Massey Groves DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant applications disclosed and may not participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Mrs. Massey Groves then rejoined the meeting.

Grant Cycle 2024 Applications – The overall process for review was discussed, and it was noted that there were 38 grant applications at a total request of \$1,815,274, in addition to 3 applications regarding school-based health centers (SBHCs) at \$406,823. The budget for the Cycle now included \$550,000 for grant requests and \$350,000 for the SBHC initiative, as recently amended by the Finance/Investment Committee, pending final approval by the Board and HSD #1 Board of Commissioners.

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.

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. Committee members with determined conflicts would exit the meeting at appropriate times.

After initial discussion, the following grant requests were recommended to be non-funded at this time based on various rationale or criteria within the service area and the project goals, as well as comparable projects within the grant cycle. It was also determined that transportation vehicles or vans would not be funded in this cycle until further specific criteria could be established for future cycles by the Committee and Board.

Alzheimer’s Association – “Expansion of Support Groups & Education in Rural Parishes” – requested \$56,000 of \$62,500 total project, for a program coordinator for NELA; recruit and train volunteers; and, new support groups in long-term care and community centers. It was noted there were activities locally through ULM and other grant requests for similar services. Upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to not fund the request at \$56,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

BK Mentoring, Inc. – “TKO Bullying Self-Defense Class” – requested \$15,000 of \$15,000 total project, for support for the instructor/director; food/snacks and equipment; and, teach non-contact boxing course to improve kids’ mental toughness related to bullying and problem-solving skills. It was noted that programs for youth mentoring were included in many of the grant requests. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to not fund the request at \$15,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Hunters for the Hungry LA – “Freshly Harvested Game Program-Feral Hogs & Deer” – requested \$25,000 of \$450,000 total project, for offsetting fees for NELA wild game processors for protein sources. It was noted that the Foundation had funded freezers for the regional processors last cycle, and that Louisiana with other funders currently provide grants for processing fees. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to not fund the request at \$25,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

LA Center for the Blind – “Increasing Healthcare Access by Blind People in Lincoln Parish” – requested \$35,000 of \$82,200 total project, for partial assistance to acquire an accessible minivan to transport blind students/staff to medical, activity, and other settings. It was reported that the Foundation has funded the organization in the past, but not in recent cycles. It was also agreed that vehicle and van funding would not be supported at this time. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to not fund the request at \$35,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center – “Cancer Prevention & Early Detection for the Medically Underserved” – requested \$7,500 of \$141,606 total project, for mobile mammography fees and colonoscopy kits to region 8; brochures/flyers/snacks; and, advertising expenses. It was noted that the Foundation had funded the organization 2 years ago, and 2/3 of the funding award had been returned due to conflicts with other funder’s grant terms with the organization. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to not fund the request at \$7,500 was unanimously approved (4-0).

NELA Youth, Inc. – “At-Risk Youth Mentoring & Life Skills Training” – requested \$35,000 of \$49,700 total project, for a van for transportation to activities and events. It was agreed that vehicle and van funding would not be supported at this time. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to not fund the request at \$35,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Rays of Sonshine – “Project Hope 2024” – requested \$25,325 of \$47,925 total project, to repair properties; replace A/C units; remove trees; and, provide fencing. It was noted that the Foundation has funded the organization in the past for similar needs but did not fund the organization last year. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to not fund the request at \$25,325 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mrs. Rambo exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

Serving With a Purpose – “Equipped Empowered Emerged Cohorts & Our S.W.A.P. Resource Centers” – requested \$75,000 of \$200,000 total project, to provide program facilitators and materials; renovation for an in-school resource closet; and, supplies/equipment for the closet. It was noted the organization is based in Texas with no local base, and that there were several requests related to youth mentoring projects. After further discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to not fund the request at \$75,000 was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0).

Mrs. Rambo rejoined the meeting at this time.

Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. – “Youth Empowerment Program” – requested \$96,995 of \$111,573 total project, for personnel and supplies for the restart of a previously existing school-based mentoring project. It was noted that the Foundation had previously funded this program prior to the pandemic, and that there were several youth mentoring projects being proposed. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to not fund the request at \$96,995 was unanimously approved (4-0).

After the nonfunded grants determinations, considerations then continued for the other grant applications.

Academy of Collaborative Education (ACE) – “After School Care Program” – requested \$116,600 of \$157,350 total project, for staff, equipment, and supplies for an after-school program at the newly accredited school for autistic children beginning in the fall 2024. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$20,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Ascent Health – “Mangham High/Junior High Band & Choir Support” – requested \$10,000 of \$12,900 total project, for equipment for a music program to enhance and address mental health life skills for youth at a rural school; expand the interest, participation, and improved academic performance for youth; reduce behavioral health risks for youth. It was noted that the Foundation has funded Ascent in the past for mental health support programs for youths. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,000 as a pilot project was unanimously approved (4-0).

Dr. Huffstutter exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

Boys and Girls Club of North LA – “Reaching Underserved Youth” – requested \$50,000 of \$120,605 total project, for additional mentors for youth programming in existing settings; grow involvement for Monroe clubs; and, food/snacks and supplies at clubs. It was noted that the Foundation has funded the organization for 2 cycles for expansion of services. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Dr. Huffstutter did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, he has refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation’s best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation’s grant selection factors, staff reports, and Committee’s considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$21,150 for personnel, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required per the Foundation’s Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No..1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Dr. Huffstutter rejoined the meeting at this time.

BRFHH Monroe LLC dba Ochsner LSU Health Monroe – “Strengthening Rural Trauma Care” – requested \$10,947 of \$25,871 total project, for supplies and equipment for a trauma education course for rural hospitals utilizing evidence based and clinical trauma programming. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,947 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Bright Star Ranch – “Freedom to Flourish – Expansion of present program to include Alzheimer’s patients and caregivers” – requested \$23,340 of \$28,590 total project, for addition of equine therapy programming for Alzheimer’s/dementia patients and families; and, provide equipment, supplies, and scholarships. It was noted that the Foundation has funded the organization for the last 2 years for equine therapy space and supplies. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$5,745 for special equipment was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mrs. Massey Groves exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

Children’s Coalition for NELA – “Signs of Suicide” – requested \$150,000 of \$216,464 total project, for personnel and consultants for the Signs of Suicide program and to expand to more middle and high schools (Lincoln Parish, Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, and Union Parishes); increase involvement with SBHC’s in all parishes; and, hold a youth summit. It was noted that the budget for the Youth Summit was \$11,500 within the grant application. It was also noted that the Foundation has funded the Children’s Coalition for several years, and has supported the suicide intervention/prevention programming as a potential for future initiative funding. After further discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mrs. Massey Groves did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, she has refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation’s best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation’s grant selection factors, any staff reports, and the Committee’s considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$90,000 for Signs of Suicide training and including the Youth Summit, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required under the Foundation’s Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves remained out of the meeting, and Mrs. Rambo also exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

Children’s Coalition for NELA – “4th Judicial District Court Youth Service Planning Board” – requested \$100,000 of \$152,500 total project, for personnel and supplies to assist a legislative enacted youth service planning board to improve literacy and behavioral health issues related to trauma and quality clinical care for children/youth. It was noted that the organization serves as fiscal and programming agent for that board. It was also noted that the Foundation staff participated in the past as a guest when the youth board met prior to the pandemic. It was determined that there would not be a quorum as 2 committee members had exited the meeting, but a vote was recorded. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (2-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mrs. Massey Groves and Mrs. Rambo each had a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, they have refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation's best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, staff reports, and the Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$25,000, subject to the Board's final approval and negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required under the Foundation's Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the HSD No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves and Mrs. Rambo both rejoined the meeting at this time.

City of West Monroe – "Police Department Vehicle" – requested \$13,708 of \$15,708 total project, for a specially equipped Royal Crown emergency vehicle 4-seat utility cart to access events and activities for emergency medical rescue services where larger vehicles typically cannot access. It was noted that the Foundation had funded a similar vehicle for the City of West Monroe Fire Department last cycle, and they had reported the successful and helpful use of the vehicle. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$13,708 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mrs. Massey Groves exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

CommuniHealth Services, Inc. – "Therapy Equipment Project" – requested \$16,445 of \$148,213 total project, for equipment for expanding autism screenings. It was noted that CommuniHealth would hire a speech language pathologist due to the changing relationship with ULM and services under an agreement between the parties. It was also noted that the Foundation had previously funded the organization to outfit space for the autism program at this pediatric clinic, and that this program was a reiteration of the previous ULM Autism Center funded by the Foundation. After discussion, upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to-wit:

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mrs. Massey Groves did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, she has refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation's best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, any staff reports, and the Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$13,300, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required under the Foundation's Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves rejoined the meeting at this time.

Franklin Parish HSD #1 dba Franklin Medical Center – "Rural Track Residency" – requested \$100,000 of \$723,457 total project, for contracted iDoc telemedicine services by physicians; equipment for a residency program with Ochsner/LSU Monroe; and, equipment to expand ICU capabilities. It was noted that services would be billable for physician components. It was also noted that the Foundation has funded the hospital for several years for large renovation and equipment projects. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,149 for the ICU equipment was unanimously approved (4-0).

Jackson Parish Schools – “Wraparound Services” – requested \$8,500 of \$32,700 total project, for dental services to Jackson Parish Schools students from a Shreveport mobile dental unit, including a dentist and hygienist. It was noted that the Foundation might pursue connection to local providers if collaborative arrangements could be established. Upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$6,000 for mobile fees was unanimously approved (4-0).

LA Emergency Response Network (LERN) – “Burn & Agricultural Incident Training for Community and Clinicians” – requested \$34,950 of \$47,382 total project, to provide education for first responders and clinical professionals (ER) to respond to trauma and burn-related emergencies. It was noted that the Ochsner/LSU Burn Unit Team would be providing the education. It was also noted that the Foundation has funded the organization several times in the past for clinical education in the region. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 for the contracted instructors was unanimously approved (4-0).

Life Choices Pregnancy Resource Center – “Mobile Unit” – requested \$157,300 of \$293,000 total project, for a nurse practitioner and setup of a mobile unit for pregnancy support within rural parishes. It was noted that this organization is approaching these services as a new project to reach the underserved population in rural areas. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$22,000 to assist with clinical supplies was unanimously approved (4 -0).

LSU Ag Center – “Read & Ride NELA” – requested \$12,314 of \$12,314 total project, for stationary bikes for evidence-based fitness programming including reading/writing proficiency. It was noted that equipment would remain with the settings for future programming. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$12,314 as a pilot project was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mercy Medical Health Center– “Mercy Medicine Medi-Mate” – requested \$83, 917 of \$125,875 total project, for a prescription dispensing system for automated medication provisions; improve patient and medication safety; reduce costs associated with medication errors. It was noted that the Foundation has funded this FQHC for several medical and dental health projects. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$42,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Ouachita Council on Aging – “Senior Wellness Re-Engagement Initiative” – requested \$30,000 of \$30,000 total project, for professional instructors; purchase exercise equipment for expanded physical fitness programming at the large Monroe regional senior center. It was noted that the exercise classes in these settings are very successful and have large participation. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Pinnacle Family Health, Inc. dba GO CARE Community Health Center – “Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Testing Program” – requested \$8,471 of \$26,571 total project, to purchase assessment kits for testing of ADHD; and, set up behavioral health components for the program. It was noted that the organization has a clinical psychologist on staff, and that the Foundation has funded this clinic for dental equipment and suites last year. Upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$8,471 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Seeker Springs – “Team Up” – requested \$15,300 of \$50,495 total project, to expand youth activity Team UP programming to Richland and Franklin Parishes; interactive group sessions; ropes course; work with school counselors and certified facilitators. It was noted that the Foundation previously assisted in funding the startup of this new programming years ago, and that the organization has been funded several times in the past. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$5,000 for equipment and certifications was unanimously approved (4-0).

St. Francis Medical Center, Inc. – “Beacon Community Connections Expansion”- requested \$50,000 of \$64,000 total project, to expand the pilot project for non-clinical case management for broader impact to ER readmissions, patient access to community services, and bridge gap between medical and social services for patients; serve patients more effectively; increase access to supportive community services; and, use staff more effectively for ER care and patient need. It was noted that the pilot project was funded last cycle with positive impact both to the hospital’s utilization of resources and community individual’s access to servings. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

The Arc of Ouachita (ARCO) – “Community Inclusion – Building Bridges” – requested \$88,912 of \$487,483 total project, to provide ancillary transportation costs (fuel, maintenance, repair, insurance) for a government funded van; and, provide bridge funding for required clinical personnel until government funding is again secured. It was noted that ARCO has been funded in past cycles for other needs. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$30,000 for the clinical personnel was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mrs. Rambo exited the meeting at this time due to the determined conflict.

The Center for Children and Families, Inc. – “Children’s Advocacy Center”- requested \$50,000 of \$621,034 total project, to provide bridge funding for mental health support services for children suffering from crisis-related trauma (abuse, sex-trafficking, other) due to 40% cut in funding by state and until other state funding sources are secured. It was noted that the Center has been funded in past cycles for other needs related to protection of children, and that the Center bills Medicaid for most services. After further discussion, upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to-wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mrs. Rambo did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, she has refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation’s best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation’s grant selection factors, any staff reports, and the Committee’s considerations, hereby approves the application for a total grant award of \$50,000 subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required under the Foundation’s Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Rambo rejoined the meeting at this time.

Town of Farmerville – “Farmerville Teen Center” – requested \$65,000 of \$985,522 total project, to build a music/performance space at the new Teen Center located by the current Boys/Girls Club building; purchase supplies/tools for special labs spaces; and, create a marketing campaign across social media and public radio. It was noted that the Foundation had assisted the municipality last cycle to start the Boys and Girls Club in Farmerville and provide equipment and supplies for the new center, with successful implementation and ongoing support from the community. Upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$25,000 for the music space and equipping the labs was unanimously approved (4-0).

ULM School of Allied Health – “Dementia Compassion Project Part 2” – requested \$11,400 of \$47,654 total project, to expand and build on the previously funded pilot program; provide a virtual dementia experience and train community and professionals in dementia care/support; provide innovative immersive simulation experiences and build on future education/training; improve quality of life for dementia patients and their caregivers; and, train clinical professionals to better support the population. It was noted that the pilot project funded last cycle was successful and well attended by clinical professionals, caregivers, and students. Upon motion by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$11,400 was unanimously approved (4-0).

ULM The GERO Institute – “Meeting the Mental Health Needs of the Caregivers of Dementia Patients through Support & Education” – requested \$13,600 of the \$23,600 total project, to provide education, mentoring, training for caregivers through face-to-face and virtual programs taught by professionals; provide supplies/tools for sessions; and, create a marketing campaign across social media and public radio. It was noted that the project was funded last cycle with successful results and response from those attending, with more local appeals for future services. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$13,600 was unanimously approved (4-0).

ULM School of Business & Social Studies – “Helping the Elderly Abolish Loneliness using Technology at Home (HEALTH)” – requested \$6,500 of \$10,000 total project, to purchase equipment for telehealth in the psychology and mental health areas; provide education for digital literacy; and, provide check-ups on elderly for continuity and stem loneliness. It was noted that this is a first request by this program at ULM. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$6,500 as a pilot project was unanimously approved (4-0).

Union General Hospital – “Enhancing diagnostic care with a New Bladder Scanner” – requested \$10,000 of \$25,000 total project, to purchase a special bladder scanner for medical diagnoses and care; reduce invasive procedures; support elderly with better care; and, improve diagnostic capabilities. It was noted the Foundation has funded successful projects in past cycles for several equipment and services needs for this parish hospital. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Village of Grayson – “Park Playground & Health Equipment” – requested \$95,201 of \$95,201 total project, to purchase fitness equipment for an existing walking trail; improve access for physically challenged children; and, provide accessible park equipment for outdoor activities. It was noted that this is a first-time request for this municipality. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$12,750 for equipment was unanimously approved (4-0).

Zion Helping Hands, Inc. – “Food Pantry Expansion”- requested \$12,050 of \$52,050 total project, to purchase additional freezers, dollies, laptop/printer, and, to support a large food provision program in the community. It was noted that the Foundation has funded this food distribution project in several past cycles, and that this organization is in collaboration with the Food Bank of NELA and other local businesses to address food disparity in Morehouse Parish. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the recommendation to partially fund the request at \$7,500 for additional equipment for a new food storage area was unanimously approved (4-0).

After these discussions and recommendations on grant requests, it was noted that the recommended total funding for these requests is \$532,534.

At this time, a discussion regarding the remaining grant request from the applicant, NELA Children’s Museum, was considered.

NELA Children’s Museum – “Support for the NELCM Healthcare Medical Zone” – The request from the NELA Children’s Museum and its relocation and expansion was then discussed, with special note that this project presented an opportunity for the Foundation to have a large community impact and support for the presence of the museum to the benefit of children not only locally but in the broader region. It was also noted that the museum has many outreach educational and interactive programs where they are able to include at-risk children or those who might not otherwise get to come to the museum in Monroe.

The Museum has requested \$100,000 of \$7,500,000 total project, for the healthcare and medical gallery within the Career Pathways area of the proposed Museum space, and which would include naming rights, assistance in design of the healthcare gallery, and other community projects and collaborations. It was noted that the Foundation had previously funded \$10,000 for the initial studies for the placement and feasibility of the Museum. To date, over \$4,150,000 has been raised, with other pledges forthcoming from state, Federal, Foundation, and other contributors and supporters, and the Museum staff and Board are very proactive in securing funding and support from the region. It was further noted that the assistance and opportunities for children to improve their behavioral health, to expose them to future life interests and possible career options, and to build their self-esteem and self-worth, thereby improving health and well-being, were evident in the programming and impact of this organization.

After discussion, and with focus to the collaborative and networking opportunities within the request, recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$100,000 and to request the Board to add monies to the budget to include this project in this cycle. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, the recommendation was unanimously approved (4-0).

Upon conclusion of these reviews and votes for all applications within the Grant Cycle 2024, excluding the school-based health centers requests, it was reported that the total amount proposed for funding was now \$632,534.

All these grant requests and recommendations will be presented to the Board at its next meeting, and thereafter to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners, dependent upon determined conflicts as applicable.

The Committee then considered the school-based health centers requests within the cycle. It was again noted that the SBHC Initiative budget is \$350,000 and is separate from the Grant Cycle 2024 budget.

Mrs. Massey Groves then exited the meeting due to the determined conflict.

CommuniHealth Services, Inc. – Downsville Community Clinic Renovation (SBHC Project) – requested 250,000 of \$585,000 total project, to renovate and update a new building for the existing clinic at the Charter School which is also a local community clinic; and provide more rooms, telehealth, and expanded capacity. It was noted that this clinic is a special model delivering both SBHC services as well as a full-service medical clinic for the community and is a successful delivery of services approach in that model.

It was also noted that CommuniHealth Services is a positive collaborative partner as an FQHC and reimbursement model for these types of services with the Foundation, and has been funded in the past for SBHC startups, expansions, and renovations. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez Corral, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to-wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mrs. Massey Groves did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, she has refrained from participation in the discussion and the vote relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant application is in the Foundation's best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant application is fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, any staff reports, and the Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$150,000 subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and, if required under the Foundation's Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves rejoined the meeting at this time.

HSD #1A of the Parish of Richland, State of LA, dba Richland Parish Hospital – Mind Matters: Strengthening Student Mental Health Project (SBHC Project) – requested \$19,557 of \$83,054 total project, to add mental health counselors at the Mangham SBHC; train all SBHC counselors in specialized child trauma therapy services; purchase additional equipment/supplies for sessions; and, provide first aid trainings for suicide prevention/intervention. It was noted that the Foundation funded the startup of the SBHC mental health services at Mangham in the last cycle. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Rambo, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 for personnel, equipment, and supplies was unanimously approved (4-0).

HSD #1B of the Parish of Richland, State of LA, dba Richardson Medical Center – SBHC Expansion - requested \$137,266 of \$137,266 total project, to expand to 3 new sites (Rayville Elementary, Start Elementary, and Holly Ridge Elementary); and, provide supplies/equipment/salaries (nurse and licensed social worker). It was noted that the Foundation funded the provision of AEDs to this hospital for Richland Parish and that the project was very well implemented with ongoing education and support. Upon motion by Mrs. Rambo, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$135,000 for personnel and equipment was unanimously approved (4-0).

After the reviews and discussions of the school-based health centers requests, it was reported that the total amount recommended for funding within the SBHC Initiative was \$300,000. These school-based health centers requests, recommendations, and votes will be presented to the Board at its next meeting, and thereafter to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners, dependent upon determined conflicts as applicable.

Upon conclusion of the reviews, it was agreed that this cycle had presented very positive opportunities for the Foundation to fund, collaborate, and expand the impact in improving the health and well-being for the service area, and that there were more opportunities to assist organizations in grant-writing, fund-raising education, and other networking educational sessions. All expressed their enjoyment of considering these requests and how the Foundation was interacting and working with these organizations.

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.

Vice-Chair

Secretary