

**A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS/GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION  
ON MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025, AT 12:00 P.M.  
AT THE FOUNDATION OFFICE,  
3711 CYPRESS STREET, SUITE 1, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

**MINUTES**

***Members Present:***

Dr. Bob Huffstutter, Vice Chair  
Melanie Massey Groves  
Ken Phillips  
Jason Pleasant  
Doug Seegers

***Staff Present:***

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

***Others Present:***

none

***Members Absent:***

None

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

**Minutes** – The minutes from the January 29, 2025, meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, the minutes were unanimously approved (5-0).

**Grant Cycle Parameters and Provisions** – A review was held on the priority and focus for the grant cycle, including qualifying criteria as previously approved and budget provisions. 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 may be considered to have a conflict, although there may be different determination by the Board of Directors as to those relationships.

Mrs. Massey Groves provided information pertaining to her conflict disclosures and exited the meeting.

The potential conflicts of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves were then considered regarding the following grant applicants, City of West Monroe and Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc., related to her leadership development business, MoCo. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mrs. Massey Groves with respect to the grant applicants, City of West Monroe and Wellspring Alliance for 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. 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.

The potential conflicts of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves were then considered regarding the grant applicants, Children's Coalition for NELA and CommuniHealth Services, Inc., related to her leadership development business, MoCo. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mrs. Massey Groves with respect to the grant applicants, Children's Coalition for NELA and CommuniHealth Services, 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. Massey Groves DOES NOT have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant applications disclosed and may participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves was then considered regarding the grant applicant, BRFHH Ochsner LSU Monroe, related to her business, Melanie Massey Physical Therapy. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mrs. Massey Groves with respect to the grant applicant, BRFHH Ochsner LSU Monroe, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship 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 application;

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

At this time, Mrs. Massey Groves returned to the meeting. Dr. Huffstutter presented information on his potential conflict of interest regarding the five applications submitted by different departments and curricula at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and then exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 five different grant applications from the University of Louisiana at Monroe 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 five grant applications;

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

Dr. Huffstutter returned to the meeting, and Mr. Phillips then presented further information on his potential conflict of interest related to the applicant, CommuniHealth Services, Inc., and thereafter exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mr. Phillips with respect to the grant applicant, CommuniHealth Services, Inc., 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 Mr. Phillips DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application disclosed and may not participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Mr. Phillips returned to the meeting. After providing further information regarding his conflict disclosures, Mr. Pleasant exited the meeting. The Committee then considered a potential conflict of interest for Mr. Pleasant regarding the grant applicants, City of West Monroe and CommuniHealth Services, Inc. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mr. Pleasant with respect to the grant applicants, City of West Monroe, and CommuniHealth Services, Inc., and has had the opportunity to propound questions to him regarding the relationships 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 two grant applications;

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

Mr. Pleasant then rejoined the meeting. Mr. Seegers exited the meeting after providing further information regarding his relationship to the grant applicant, City of West Monroe. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mr. Seegers with respect to the grant applicant, City of West Monroe, 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 Mr. Seegers 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.

Furthermore, the potential conflict of interest for Mr. Seegers was considered regarding the applicant, Ouachita Green. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (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 Mr. Seegers with respect to the grant applicant, Ouachita Green, 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 Mr. Seegers DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application disclosed and may not participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

The considerations for all notices of conflict of interest as presented to the Committee were determined to be completed. All notices will be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting prior to any grant considerations.

**Grant Cycle 2025 Applications** – The overall process for review of grant requests was discussed, and it was noted that there were 37 grant applications at a total request of \$1,703,170 to be considered within a budget up to \$950,000. 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.

Discussion was held on each grant applicant, including detailed reviews and follow up information, and it was noted that all applications were impressive and with merit. The consideration of grant applications in alphabetical order was then begun, with a reminder that Committee members with determined conflicts would exit the meeting at the appropriate times.

**65 Alive, Inc. – “Medicare Access & Advocacy Initiative”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$25,000 of \$30,000 total project, for educational seminars to help seniors navigate choices for Medicare and Medigap coverage as well as Medicare provisions. It was noted that these services are typically provided at no charge by local Medicare insurance representatives, although these agents are compensated by the insurance plans. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

Mrs. Massey Groves then exited the meeting due to her determined conflict pertaining to the next applicant, and considerations continued.

**BRFHH Monroe – Ochsner LSU Monroe – “Pelvic Floor Education & Support”** – requested \$10,171 of \$13,494 total project, to improve provider education by training residents and support patient care for pelvic floor dysfunction, expand community awareness, and request funds for supplies and equipment. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,171 was unanimously approved by all members then present (4-0), 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.

RESOVLED, 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 fully funded grant award of \$10,171, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves then rejoined the meeting.

**Children's Coalition for NELA – "Al's Pals: Making Healthy Choices Program"** – requested \$64,804 of \$94,500 total project, for expansion of an evidence-based program of social-emotional learning for children, ages 3-6 years old, to 50 more classrooms in Lincoln Parish and provide specialized training for teachers. Upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$32,000 for teacher training and programming kits was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Children's Coalition for NELA – "Signs of Suicide"** – requested \$170,000 of \$224,729 total project, to continue to expand this evidence-based program and add elementary schools to the training focus, expand to Lincoln Parish and reinforce existing presence in other parishes. It was noted that this is the third year of initiative focus by the Foundation for suicide prevention/intervention, and that this organization continues to expand impact within that initiative in its requests. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$120,000 for the professional clinical director of the program and consultant educators was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Citizens Medical Center – "Sterile Sync"** – requested \$75,000 of \$77,112 total project, to acquire an autoclave sterilization unit for 400+ surgeries a year. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$75,000 was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mrs. Massey Groves and Mr. Pleasant both exited the meeting at this time due to a determined conflict of interest for each of them pertaining to the next applicant.

**City of West Monroe – "Police Department Electric Cart & AEDs"** – requested \$20,448 of \$22,970 total project, to acquire an all-access vehicle with EMS capabilities for emergency and rescue use and acquire AEDs to be placed in police and emergency vehicles. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$20,448 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 and Mr. Pleasant did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, both 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, any staff reports, and the Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$20,000 for City of West Monroe – Police Department Electric Cart & AEDs, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and 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, while Mr. Pleasant remained out of the meeting. Mr. Phillips exited the meeting and joined Mr. Pleasant at this time due to the determined conflict of interest for each of them pertaining to the next applicant.

**CommuniHealth Services, Inc. – "First Responder Mental Health & Wellness Pilot Program"** – requested \$27,150 of \$39,650 total project, to assist access to mental health services for first responders (police/fire/EMS/other) related to trauma and challenging situations in emergency rescue and law enforcement work and to start a nonprofit agency for sustainability over time. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$27,150 as a Pilot Project was unanimously approved by all members then present (3-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pleasant did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grant application or the grant applicant, both 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.

RESOVLED, 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 the fully funded grant award of \$27,150 for CommuniHealth Services, Inc. – First Responder Mental Health & Wellness Pilot Program, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pleasant both rejoined the meeting at this time.

**Cool Kids Youth Center – “The Well – Being Project”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$25,000 of \$110,000 total project, to expand food access, deploy a mobile screening unit, train a navigator to help with accessing services, and provide mental health services. It was noted that the proposal was very broad in various services and had limited funding or financial input. Upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Franklin Parish Council on Aging, Inc. – “NEST (Nutrition, Exercise, Socialization, & Therapy) Program”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$40,417 of \$50,408 total project, for providing classes 4 times a month by dietician, exercise specialists, and OT and PT aides, and purchase exercise equipment and recreational supplies. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 for equipment and consultants was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Friends of Crowville – “STEM Workshops & Camps”** – requested \$22,500 of \$35,000 total project, for providing STEM education and equipment for all public schools in Franklin/Richland Parishes in partnership with school boards and the NELA Children's Museum. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$22,500 was unanimously approved (5-0).

**HSD #1B, Richland Parish, dba Richardson Medical Center – “Parenting & Infant Safety Simulator Education Program”** – requested \$7,583 of \$17,983 total project, to purchase 7 infant simulators for high school education programs for well-baby care, healthy body care, and sex education. Discussion was held on the fetal infant mortality rate in northeast Louisiana and state statistics, as well as education programming and access. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$7,583 as a Pilot Project was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Kiroli Foundation – “Kiroli Park Amphitheater ”** – requested \$45,000 of \$53,700 total project, for renovation of amphitheater seating, sound/lights, stage, and flooring, to support performances and education programming for the public park. It was noted that over 160,000 people access the park annually, with diverse populations and all ages represented. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$45,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

**LC Center – “Mobile Pregnancy Center”** – requested \$68,920 of \$90,920 total project, for providing pregnancy tests, ultrasound, STD tests, & prenatal care through the mobile unit in outlying parishes. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$57,000 for the personnel was unanimously approved (5-0).

**LA Center for the Blind – “Health & Wellness Hub”** – requested \$11,440 of \$21,620 total project, for expanding health and wellness services for their students and for purchasing equipment. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$11,440 was unanimously approved (5-0).

**LA Tech University – “Community Health Worker/Health Informatics Specialist at the Health Hut”** – requested \$24,782 of \$24,782 total project, to provide outpatient case management for patients to enhance patient engagement, connect to community resources, and improve patient outcomes. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$7,000 for the proposed position and the printing, supplies, and equipment was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Love Impact Coalition – “Free Dental, Vision, & Medical Clinic”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$20,000 of \$157,700 total project, for funding for rental of dental and vision equipment for a 1-day free clinic for vision and dental services by clinical professionals. It was noted that this organization is based in Baton Rouge, and there are several testing centers within federally qualified health centers, health units, and other settings in NELA, and that one-day services may not result in changed behaviors or improved access over time, especially in rural areas of NELA. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Market Umbrella – “Addressing Community Health & Food Insecurity with Greaux the Good”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$87,295 of \$2,607,214 total project, for increasing access to food, expanding SNAP benefits and partners, and create awareness for eligibility, through a state-wide nutrition incentive program. It was noted that this organization is the non-profit that owns and manages the Farmer’s Market at the French Market in New Orleans, and that state funders and programming are supportive of this non-profit expansion to other parts of the state due to the challenges of continued food disparity. It was also noted that the Foundation cannot fund vouchers or cash incentives within the proposal. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Dr. Bob Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$20,000 for proposed positions and printing and supplies was unanimously approved (5 -0).

**Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center – “Delta Care: Enhancing Breast Health Access through Mobile Mammography”** – requested \$19,375 of \$178,550 total project, for providing cancer screenings by the mobile unit team, partial salary for nurse practitioner, and screening costs. A review of the past funding and project reporting was held, as well as access and follow-up within the rural areas of NELA especially related to positive screens and referrals. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$7,500 for the nurse practitioner was unanimously approved (5-0).

**NELA Youth, Inc. – “At Risk Youth Mentoring & Education (Staying Active Physically & Mentally)”** – requested \$12,000 of \$73,500 total project, to provide mentoring and activities with at-risk children. It was noted that financial depth and fundraising information were difficult to ascertain, and that cash incentives for participation or scholarships were not eligible. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Ouachita Council on Aging – “Meals on Wheels”** – requested \$25,000 of \$200,000 total project, for assistance in funding the meals on wheels program and to address food disparity for seniors. It was noted that the State only provides about 68% of funds for food access and that COA’s must collect funds from other sources for the difference. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$25,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

Mr. Seegers exited the meeting at this time due to his determined conflict pertaining to the next applicant.

**Ouachita Green – “Growing Healthy Communities”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$50,000 of \$56,000 total project, for educating communities on healthy lifestyles and clean environments, creating community gardens, and help with food insecurities, as well as building social and community interactions for families, children, and business. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$25,000 for education and signage needs was unanimously approved by all members then present (4-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Programs/Grant Review Committee hereby determines that as Mr. Seegers 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, any staff reports, and the Committee’s considerations, hereby approves the application for the partially funded grant award of \$25,000 for Ouachita Green – Growing Healthy Communities, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mr. Seegers then rejoined the meeting.

**Reeves Memorial Medical Center Foundation – “Healthy Smiles, Strong Bodies: Pediatric Dentistry & OP Therapy Program”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$207, 892 of \$692,174 total project, to establish both a pediatric physical therapy program and a dental care program at a small rural hospital in Bernice. It was noted that Farmerville is 18 miles from Bernice and Ruston is 20 miles away, both via major highways for connection and access. It was also noted that dental care programs are some of the most expensive programs to implement due to equipment costs, and that there is a shortage of both dental and physical therapy professional personnel in NELA. Upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Ross Lynn Charitable Foundation – “North LA Artist-in-Residence Hosts and Operation Installation”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$5,000 of \$10,966 total project, for bringing artists from Pennsylvania and Arizona with an interactive exhibit regarding the body, mental health, and emotional and self-image awareness. It was noted that “art as therapy” is an approach to address mental health awareness and education especially post-COVID, and that education programming for children would be included. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

**Salvation Army – “Beacon of Hope Community Pantry”** – requested \$85,000 of \$85,000 total project, to renovate existing space, expand the emergency pantry program, and add a clothes closet and laundry service. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$85,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).



**St. Frederick High School – “Warriors Track: Improving Health & Well-Being for All Ages”** – as a first-time applicant, requested \$97,258 of \$497, 258 total project, for the construction of a 5-lane running track at the school for the students and community, expand to host track meets, provide youth summer track events, and provide youth camps. It was noted that provisions would be made to encourage community participation with designated days to access the track, sign up community participation, and encourage other involvement outside of the school. It was also noted that over \$400,000 for the project had been raised. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$10,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

The Committee then agreed that the remainder of the applicants would be considered at the next scheduled meeting on April 30, 2025, to complete the reviews and recommendations for grant awards, due to time constraints for some Directors. It was noted that the recommended funding sub-total for these 25 considered requests is \$622,792, and that there were 12 additional requests to be considered.

Upon completion of the considerations of funding at the next Committee meeting on April 30, 2025, as scheduled, all grant applications and recommendations for funding will then be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting, May 7, 2025, and thereafter to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners, dependent upon determined conflicts as applicable.

As a final recap of the meeting, it was agreed that this cycle had presented very positive opportunities for the Foundation to fund, collaborate, and expand 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 while learning of newly formed agencies.

**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