

**A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025, AT 7:30 A.M.
AT THE WMWO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
112 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Dr. Bob Huffstutter, acting Chair
Brad Cammack
Melanie Massey Groves
Leah Martin
Ken Phillips
Chris Pittard
Jason Pleasant
Doug Seegers

Members Absent:

Jim Allbritton
Todd Burgess
Michelle Getret-Ford
Brandon Welch

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Wade Bishop, HSD Commissioner

In the absence of the Board Chair and as the Vice Chair of the Programs/Grant Review Committee, Dr. Huffstutter called the meeting to order, and the presence of a quorum was verified, followed by the invocation. Mr. Bishop was welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes – Minutes from the February 5, 2025, meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Mr. Pittard, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the minutes were unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0).

Items to Consider from the Finance/Investment Committee:

March 2025 Financial Statements – The March 2025 financial statements, including the bond and cash basis worksheets, and the Argent statement, were reviewed. Revenues continue to increase upon reinvestment of maturing bonds and notes at higher rates, and expenses are below budget. No deficits were noted. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the financial statements for March 2025 were unanimously approved by all members now present (8-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners for their quarterly review.

Revised Investment Policy – The proposed revisions to the Investment Policy were reviewed, including approval processes and investment strategies, with note that the Regions investment professionals had also provided input on certain items. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the revised Investment Policy as presented was approved (8-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners.

Investment Strategies – A review of portfolio performance and the maturity log both submitted by Argent was held. The summary of the proposed investment strategies for management of the investment portfolio upon transfer, as discussed with the Regions Institutional Services professionals, was then discussed. Types of investments and market opportunities were also reviewed, with note that the current maturing bonds and notes will be held in the Federated money market account with Argent until transfer of the account. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the investment strategies as presented were unanimously approved (8-0).

Contract for Investment Management – The proposed contract for investment management was reviewed, with the latest revisions to noted items as discussed with the Regions representatives and the Foundation attorney and President/CEO. It was reported that discussions on items of variance were very positive and agreeable, and that final contract terms were imminent. The remaining items to be addressed were noted, including a clarification to include the RFP (request for proposal) documents as (Exhibit G) to the contract. Recommendation was made to finalize the contract with the Foundation attorney and President/CEO review, with agreement by the Board Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance/Investment Committee, and upon agreement by Regions representatives, with submission thereafter to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the recommendation was unanimously approved (8-0).

Update on 2024 Audit – An update was given on the 2024 audit, with presentation of the audit planned for the next Audit Committee meeting May 21, 2025. It was reported that the Foundation staff has also received a two-year engagement proposal from the current auditor, Woodard and Associates. No action was required on this item.

Item to Consider from the Executive Committee:

Update on Sponsorship for Poverty Simulation Event – A sponsorship of \$750.00 for an event in September 2025, previously approved by the Committee, was presented. It was reported that this collaboration with the WMWO Chamber of Commerce and including municipalities, nonprofit agencies, and civic leaders, under the guidance of a consulting professional, will assist leaders from northeast Louisiana to gain a greater understanding of how the community can better address poverty and its related challenges. No further action was needed on this item at this time.

Items to Consider from the Programs/Grant Review Committee:

Potential Conflicts of Interest for Grant Cycle 2025 – Prior to the discussion of grant applications for funding, the potential conflict of interest disclosure statements as submitted from Board directors were considered.

Mrs. Massey Groves provided information pertaining to her disclosures regarding several applicants, including the City of West Monroe, CommuniHealth Services, Ochsner LSU Monroe, and Wellspring Alliance for Families, and thereafter exited the meeting. The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves regarding the grant applicant, City of West Monroe, as related to her leadership development business, MoCo, was then considered. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Cammack, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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, City of West Monroe, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Mrs. Massey Groves 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.

The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves was then considered regarding the grant applicant, Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc., also as related to her leadership development business, MoCo. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Pittard, seconded by Mr. Cammack, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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, Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc., and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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.

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., as related to her leadership development business, MoCo. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to either of the grant applications;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Mrs. Massey Groves DOES NOT have a conflict of interest with respect to either of the grant applications disclosed and MAY participate in any discussions or votes relating to those matters.

The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves was then considered regarding the grant applicant, Ochsner LSU Monroe, as 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 (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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, BRFH dba Ochsner LSU Monroe, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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.

The potential conflict of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves was then considered regarding the grant applicant, ULM Physical Therapy Program, as related to her business, Melanie Massey Physical Therapy. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Seegers, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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, ULM Physical Therapy Program, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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.

Mrs. Massey Groves returned to the meeting. Dr. Huffstutter then presented information on his disclosure statement regarding the five applications submitted by different departments and curricula at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and thereafter exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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. Mr. Phillips presented further information on his disclosure statement related to the applicant, CommuniHealth Services, Inc., and thereafter exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Cammack, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether he has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Mr. Phillips 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.

Mr. Phillips returned to the meeting. After providing further information regarding his disclosures, Mr. Pleasant exited the meeting. The Committee then considered potential conflicts of interest for Mr. Pleasant regarding the grant applicants, City of West Monroe and CommuniHealth Services, Inc. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 discussions or votes 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 Mrs. Martin seconded by Mr. Cammack, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether he has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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 Mrs. Martin, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether he has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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.

Mr. Seegers then returned to the meeting, and Mrs. Martin presented further information regarding her relationship to the applicant, LC Center, and exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Committee by Mrs. Martin with respect to the grant applicant, LC Center, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to her regarding the relationship disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether she has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant application;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Mrs. Martin 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.

Mrs. Martin returned to the meeting, and Mr. Pittard provided further information regarding his relationship to three applicants, HSD #1B of Richland Parish dba Richardson Medical Center, Citizens Medical Center, and Union General Hospital, and then exited the meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Massey, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Committee by Mr. Pittard with respect to the grant applicants, Citizens Medical Center, HSD #1B of Richland Parish dba Richardson Medical Center, and Union General Hospital, and has had the opportunity to propound questions to him regarding the relationships disclosed;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has discussed, without the presence of the foregoing individual, whether he has a conflict of interest with respect to the grant applications;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Mr. Pittard DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to each of the three grant applications disclosed and MAY NOT participate in any discussions or votes relating to those matters for any of the three applicants.

After the completion of consideration of the potential conflicts of interest for all Board directors with submitted disclosures, it was noted that any Directors with determined conflicts of interest would depart the discussions of those grant applications and would not participate in any discussion or vote related to those.

Grant Cycle 2025 Applications – The overall process for the Grant Cycle 2025 was then reviewed, 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 as recently approved by the Finance/Investment Committee. The Board recognized the staff's input and work for the details and tools provided on the grants, including follow-up work after the Committee considerations, and acknowledged Dr. Florencetta 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 approved grants with determined conflicts of interest were then discussed in the following order.

Mrs. Massey Groves exited the meeting due to her determined conflict pertaining to the next applicant.

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 purchase supplies and equipment. Upon motion by Mr. Cammack, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,171 was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would not 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 Board of Directors, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, staff reports, and the Programs/Grant Review 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 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, and Mr. Pittard exited the meeting due to the determined conflicts pertaining to the next three applicants considered.

Citizens Medical Center – “Sterile Sync” – requested \$75,000 of \$77,112 total project, to acquire an autoclave sterilization unit for 400+ surgeries a year. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$75,000, contingent upon the terms of the resolution following consideration of these three applicants.

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. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request as a Pilot Project at \$7,853, contingent upon the terms of the resolution following consideration of these three applicants.

Union General Hospital – “Behavioral Health Integration Program” – requested \$129,836 of \$228,386 total project, to expand behavioral health services at the new rural health care clinic and add clinical behavioral health staff. It was noted that the Foundation had assisted to fund the new rural health care clinic construction, and these expanded services will be important to that parish. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$65,000, contingent upon the terms of the resolution following consideration of these three applicants.

After consideration of the three applications, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the recommendations to fund the requests as determined and detailed above were unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Mr. Pittard did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to each of the three grant applications or the grant applicants, he has refrained from participation in any discussions and the votes relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, (b) the proposed grant applications are in the Foundation's best interest and for its own benefit, and (c) the proposed grant applications are fair and reasonable to the Foundation.

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors, having evaluated each of the three proposed grant applications in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, staff reports, and the Programs/Grant Review Committee's recommendations, hereby approves each of the three applications, Citizens Medical Center for a fully funded grant award of \$75,000, HSD #1B of Richland Parish dba Richardson Medical Center for a fully funded grant award of \$7,583, and Union General Hospital for a partially funded grant award of \$65,000, each subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and each subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mr. Pittard then rejoined the meeting, and Mr. Pleasant exited the meeting due to the determined conflicts pertaining to the next applicants considered, City of West Monroe and CommuniHealth Services, Inc.

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 for police and emergency vehicles. Upon motion by Mr. Cammack, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$20,448 was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), contingent upon the terms of the resolution following consideration of these two applicants.

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 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 Mr. Cammack, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$27,150 as a Pilot Project was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), contingent upon the terms of the resolution following consideration of these two applicants.

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Mr. Pleasant did have a potential conflict of interest with respect to each of the grant applications or the grant applicants, he has refrained from participation in either of the discussions and votes relating to those matters, and it is not appropriate under the circumstances to appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives.

RESOVLED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would not 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 Board of Directors, having evaluated each of the proposed grant applications in light of the Foundation’s grant selection factors, staff reports, and the Programs/Grant Review Committee’s considerations, hereby approves both of the applications, City of West Monroe for a fully funded grant award of \$20,448 and CommuniHealth Services, Inc. for a fully funded grant award of \$27,150, each subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and each subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No.1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mr. Pleasant rejoined the meeting at this time, and Mr. Seegers exited the meeting due to the 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, help with food insecurities, and building social and community interactions for families, children, and business. Upon motion by Mr. Pittard, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$25,000 for education and signage needs was unanimously approved by all members then present (7-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors 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.

RESOVLED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that (a) the Foundation cannot obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable efforts from another person or entity that would not 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 Board of Directors, having evaluated the proposed grant application in light of the Foundation's grant selection factors, staff reports, and the Programs/Grant Review 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. At this time, the remaining grant applicants, with no determined conflicts of interest, were then considered.

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 and Medicare provisions. These services are typically provided at no charge by local Medicare insurance representatives, although these agents are compensated by the insurance plans. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

Children's Coalition for NELA – “AI'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, with specialized training for teachers. Recommendation was made to partially fund this request at \$32,000 for teacher training and evidence-based program kits.

Children's Coalition for NELA – “Signs of Suicide” – requested \$170,000 of \$224,729 total project, to provide this evidence-based program and add elementary schools to the training focus, expand to Lincoln Parish including LA Tech University, 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. Recommendation was made to partially fund this request at \$120,000 for the professional director of the program and the subcontractors/educators.

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 reporting in its submission. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

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. Recommendation was made to partially fund this request at \$15,000 for equipment and subcontractors.

Friends of Crowville – “STEM Workshops & Camps” – requested \$22,500 of \$35,000 total project, for providing and expanding STEM education and equipment for all public schools in Franklin/Richland Parishes in partnership with school boards and the NELA Children's Museum. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$22,500.

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 programs. As a public park, over 160,000 people visit, with diverse populations and all ages represented. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$45,000.

LC Center – “Mobile Pregnancy Center” – requested \$68,920 of \$90,920 total project, for providing pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STD tests, & prenatal care by mobile unit in outlying parishes. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$57,000 for the proposed personnel.

LA Center for the Blind – “Health & Wellness Hub” – requested \$11,440 of \$21,620 total project, for expanding health and wellness services for students and for purchasing equipment. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$11,440.

LA Tech University – “Community Health Worker/Health Informatics Specialist at the Health Hut” – requested \$24,782 of \$24,782 total project, to provide external case management for patients, connect patients to community resources, and improve outcomes. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$7,000 for the proposed position and supplies/equipment.

Love Impact Coalition – “Free Dental, Vision, & Medical Clinic” – as a first-time applicant, requested \$20,000 of \$157,700 total project, for rental of dental and vision equipment for a 1-day free clinic by local clinical professionals contracted through this Baton Rouge based organization. After further review, recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

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 food access, expanding SNAP partners, and awareness for nutrition incentive program eligibility. This nonprofit organization owns and manages the Farmer’s Market at the French Market in New Orleans, and state funders support the expansion of services due to the challenges of continued food disparity. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$20,000 for the proposed positions and supplies.

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center – “Delta Care: Enhancing Breast Health Access through Mobile Mammography” – requested \$19,375 of \$178,550 total project, for cancer screenings and a nurse practitioner on the mobile unit. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$7,500 for the nurse practitioner as included.

NELA Youth, Inc. – “At Risk Youth Mentoring & Education (Staying Active Physically & Mentally)” – requested \$12,000 of \$73,500 total project, for mentoring activities with at-risk children. Financial depth and fundraising information were difficult to ascertain, and cash incentives for participation or scholarships are not eligible. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

Ouachita Council on Aging – “Meals on Wheels” – requested \$25,000 of \$200,000 total project, for the meals on wheels program to serve seniors’ food disparity. The State provides 68% of funds, and COA’s must provide the balance. Recommendation was made to fully fund this request at \$25,000.

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 dental care and pediatric physical therapy programs at a small rural hospital in Bernice. The hospital is 18 miles from Farmerville and 20 miles from Ruston, both via major highways. Dental care programs are very expensive to implement due to equipment costs, and there is a shortage of dental and physical therapy clinicians in NELA. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

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 on the body, mental health, and emotional and self-image for children. “Art as therapy” is a new program approach to address mental health especially post-COVID, but local collaborations might be more impactful with more follow up opportunities for the region. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

Salvation Army – “Beacon of Hope Community Pantry” – requested \$85,000 of \$85,000 total project, to renovate space, expand the emergency pantry, and add a clothes closet and laundry service. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$85,000.

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, host track meets, provide youth and community summer track events and camps, and encourage community participation. Provisions would be made to encourage community participation with designated days to access the track and organize other events. It was also noted that over \$400,000 for the project had been raised. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$10,000.

The Arc of Ouachita (ARCO) – “Nursing Support for Independent Living” – requested \$100,100 of \$116,958 total project, to fund the required nursing services for the specialty setting. Licensing requirements and reimbursement from the state continue to have gaps in funding. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$50,000.

The Center for Children and Families, Inc. – “Trauma Informed Care Training & Technical Assistance” requested \$50,000 of \$124,999 total project, for trauma-informed training and care for children, expansion of services with trained professionals, and provide a conference sponsorship for trauma-informed care. State funding for mandated services and requirements continues to have gaps in funding for these referred services. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$50,000.

The NELA Children’s Museum – “Reducing Childhood Trauma through Evidence-Based Trainings & Increased Communication Skills” – requested \$24,420 of \$34,170 total project, for trauma-informed programming for parents, children, and caregivers in partnership with The Center for Children and Families and build a new interactive exhibit to be relocated to the new museum location. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$16,500 for the supplies and exhibit.

ULM – Pharmacy – “Empowering Rural Healthcare Providers with tPA/TNK Education to Enhance Stroke Outcomes” – requested \$10,436 of \$14,906 total project, to develop and implement a pharmacist-led education program and web app as quick resources for rural healthcare clinicians and first responders for administration of medications for stroke intervention. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$10,436.

ULM – Psychology – “Helping the Elderly Abolish Loneliness using Technology at Home (HEALTH) - Phase II” – requested \$6,500 of \$10,000 total project, to expand on the previous grant services, using technology with seniors for better communication and interaction when isolated, and expanding impact to other rural areas. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$6,500.

ULM – PT – “Warhawks Care: Advancing Health & Well-Being for Schools & Families”- as a first-time applicant, requested \$23,970 of \$24,544 total project, for free wellness checks and health education at schools. Collaboration with the nursing department could be helpful for health checks, and a large list of equipment was requested. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

ULM – School of Allied Health – “Dementia Compassion Project – Part 3” – requested \$15,050 of \$51,103 total project, to continue dementia/Alzheimer’s education and simulation work with clinicians and medical residents at SFMC, Ochsner LSU Monroe, and VCOM. This is year three of the Foundation’s focused initiative to address cognitive deficit disorders, including dementia and Alzheimer’s. The impact of the initiative is ahead of expectations and with expanding opportunities and interest. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$15,050.

ULM – The GERO Institute – “Implementing Education, Training, & Support Services for Caregivers of People Living with Dementia” – requested \$14,200 of \$25,750 total project, for education, mentoring, and training for caregivers via in-person and virtual programs taught by professionals. As an ongoing approach, this project could benefit from more goals and impact focus and structure of sessions for more outcomes and follow-up. Recommendation was made for no funding at this time.

Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. – “The Prism Project” – requested \$36,203 of \$218,330 total project, to provide mentoring, social emotional support, and group sessions for LGBTQ+ children and youth, and for partial coverage of the cost for the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) Coordinator, a therapist, and the Assistant Director of Professional Services. There is strong need and great practical value for all children for mentoring and social emotional support within mental health services, especially post COVID, as well as coping and thriving skills related to issues challenging them. After consideration of impact and needs within NELA regarding children’s mental health, and the services proposed within all grant applications submitted in this cycle, as well as limited access to licensed professional clinical personnel, recommendation was made for no funding at this time.



West Monroe High School – “Stop the Bleed Kits & Narcan/Epi-Pens” – as a first-time applicant, requested \$23,416 of \$23,416 total project, to purchase equipment and supplies for Stop the Bleed training for teachers, staff, and students, and emergency response medications for drug overdoses and allergy reactions. Collaboration with LERN and the SBHC will assist to comply with all requirements and to further educate, and Stop the Bleed kits can be located strategically for best access. Recommendation was made to partially fund the request at \$15,000.

Zion Helping Hands, Inc. – “School Backpack & Family Food Assistance Project” – requested \$22,004 of \$26,004 total project, for freezers, dollies, and laptop/printer, as a large food provision program. This organization collaborates with the Food Bank of NELA and other local businesses to address food disparity in Morehouse Parish. Recommendation was made to fully fund the request at \$22,004.

The consideration of all grant requests was hereby determined to be completed. Total funding approved in Grant Cycle 2025 is \$873,282, of total requests of \$1,703,170. With the sponsorship of \$750.00 previously approved, the total amount funded for 2025 is now \$874,032, within the approved budget of \$950,000. All grant applications or applicants with determined conflicts of interest will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Other Comments – No other discussion at this time.

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


Chair

Secretary