

**A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS/GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025, 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
Melanie Massey Groves
Ken Phillips
Jason Pleasant
Doug Seegers

Staff Present:

Alice M. Proffit, 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.

It was reported that minutes for both meetings, April 28, 2025, and this meeting, April 30, 2025, would be reviewed and approved at the next Programs/Grant Review Committee meeting.

At this time, a review of the conflicts determinations was held to ensure completeness for the remaining grant considerations. A review of the recommended funding from the previous meeting was held in comparison to the budget and total funding requested in these remaining applications

The Committee then considered the remaining requests submitted for Grant Cycle 2025.

The Arc of Ouachita (ARCO) – “Nursing Support for Independent Living” – requested \$100,100 of \$116,958 total project, to fund the RN services required by the state for the specialty setting. It was noted that ARCO has been bridge funded in past cycles for other needs. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$50,000 for the clinical personnel was unanimously approved (5-0).

The Center for Children and Families, Inc. – “Trauma Informed Care Training & Technical Assistance”- requested \$50,000 of \$124,999 total project, to provide training for trauma informed care for children and the expansion of services with trained professionals in the region, and provide a conference sponsorship for trauma-informed care. 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, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$50,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

The NELA Children’s Museum – “Reducing Childhood Trauma through Evidence-Based Trainings & Increased Communication Skills” – requested \$24,420 of \$34,170 total project, to provide specialized trauma-informed programming for parents, children, and caregivers in partnership with The Center for Children and Families, and construct a new interactive exhibit that can be relocated to the new museum upon relocation. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$16,500 for the supplies and exhibit construction was unanimously approved (5-0).

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 to offer quick resources for rural healthcare clinicians and first responders for administration of medications for stroke intervention. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$10,436 was unanimously approved (5-0).

ULM PT – “Warhawks Care: Advancing Health & Well-Being for Schools & Families”- as a first-time applicant, requested \$23,970 of the \$24,544 total project, to provide free wellness checks and education by physical therapy doctoral students at schools with funding for personnel, meals, equipment, and supplies. It was noted that collaboration with the nursing department could be helpful for health checks and that there was a large list of equipment being requested. Upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

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 for using technology with seniors for better communication and interaction when isolated, and expanding impact to other rural areas. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Pleasant, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$6,500 was unanimously approved (5-0).

ULM School of Allied Health – “Dementia Compassion Project - Part 3” – requested \$15,050 of \$51,103 total project, to continue the dementia/Alzheimer’s education and simulation work with clinicians and medical residents at SFMC, Ochsner LSU Monroe, VCOM, and other clinical settings. It was noted that this is year three of the Foundation’s focused initiative for addressing cognitive deficit disorders, including dementia, Alzheimer’s, and other cognitive deficit diseases, and that the impact of the project was ahead of expectations and with new expanding opportunities and interest. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to fully fund the request at \$15,050 was unanimously approved (5-0).

ULM The GERO Institute – “Implementing Education, Training, & Support Services for Caregivers of People Living with Dementia” – requested \$14,200 of \$25,750 total project, to provide education, mentoring, and training for caregivers via in-person and virtual programs taught by professionals. It was noted that this was year 3 of the Foundation initiative, and that this project could benefit from more goals and impact focus and structure of the sessions for more effectiveness and participation. Upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved (5-0).

Union General Hospital – “Behavioral of 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 construction of the new rural health clinic, partially funded in 2024 by the Foundation, was complete and will have big impact for the region with expanded services. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$65,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

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

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 assist them to connect and grow in safe affirming spaces, and for partial coverage of the cost for the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) Coordinator, therapist, and Assistant Director of Professional Services. It was noted that these program staff positions have been a focus for re-implementation since the program (YEP) was discontinued years ago. Discussion was also held as to the importance and need for mentoring, social emotional support, and group sessions related to mental health services for all children, and their behavioral health and coping and thriving skills, within issues challenging them. After discussion, and consideration of impact and needs within NELA regarding children’s mental health, and limited access to licensed professional clinical personnel, upon motion by Mr. Pleasant, seconded by Mr. Seegers, recommendation to not fund the request at this time was unanimously approved by all members then present (4-0).

Mrs. Massey Groves rejoined the meeting at this time.

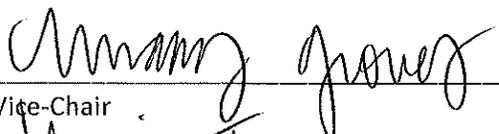
West Monroe High School “Stop the Bleed Kits & Narcan/Epi-Pens” – as a first-time applicant, requested \$23,416 of \$23,416 total project, to purchase equipment and supplies for Stop the Bleed training for teachers, staff, and students, and emergency response medications for drug overdoses and allergy reactions. It was noted that they will collaborate with LERN and the SBHC to further educate on these services, and that Stop the Bleed kits were likely not needed in all 175 classrooms. Upon motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Huffstutter, recommendation to partially fund the request at \$15,000 was unanimously approved (5-0).

Zion Helping Hands, Inc. – “School Backpack & Family Food Assistance Project”- requested \$22,004 of \$26,004 total project, to purchase additional freezers, dollies, laptop/printer, to support their large food provision program. 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. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the recommendation to fully fund the request at \$22,004 was unanimously approved (5-0).

The consideration of all grant requests was hereby determined to be completed.

It was noted that the recommended funding for these 12 requests is \$250,490. Including the previous recommendations for funding of \$622,792 by the Committee at its April 28, 2025 meeting, the total amount proposed for funding the Grant Cycle 2025 requests is now \$873,282, within the budget of \$950,000. All of the recommended funding for all projects considered at the April 28, 2025, meeting and this April 30, 2025, meeting will be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting May 7, 2025, and thereafter to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners for those with a determined conflict of interest.

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