

**A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LIVING WELL FOUNDATION
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026, AT 7:30 A.M.
AT THE WMWO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
112 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, WEST MONROE, LA 71291**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Todd Burgess, Board Chair
Jim Allbritton
Brad Cammack
P. Michelle Getret-Ford
Melanie Massey Groves
Dr. Bob Huffstutter

Julian Johnston
Leah Martin
Chris Pittard
Chief Jason Pleasant
Doug Seegers
Brandon Welch

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Wade Bishop, HSD Commissioner

Mr. Burgess called the meeting to order, and the presence of a quorum was verified. The invocation was given by Dr. Huffstutter. Mr. Bishop was welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes – Minutes from the February 4, 2026, meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mr. Welch, the minutes were unanimously approved (12-0).

Items to Consider from the Finance/Investment Committee:

March 2026 Financial Statements – The March 2026 financial statements, including the bond worksheet and the Regions statement, were reviewed. A deficit was noted in the change of assets for month-to-date due to the change in unrealized gains and market/economic conditions, with no deficit noted year-to-date. It was noted that all expenses were in line with budget expectations and that the budget required no amendment at this time. Upon motion by Mrs. Massey Groves, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the financial statements for March 2026 were unanimously approved (12-0). This item will be presented to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners for their quarterly review.

Regions Portfolio Review – An overview was provided on the portfolio performance report recently presented to the Committee by Regions Institutional Services. Economic trends and recent world events continue to impact the portfolio, while purchases at discounts to par value continue to have a positive impact on portfolio fixed income principal. The return on the portfolio continues to outperform benchmarks, with US Treasuries as preferred instruments at this time. With no questions or other comments by Board Directors, no action was required on this item.

Update on 2025 Audit – An update was provided on the 2025 audit, with the on-site visit by the auditor on May 11, 2026, and presentation of the audit planned for the next Audit Committee meeting May 27, 2026. It was also noted that the due date of the IRS Form 990 report, due May 15, 2026, will again be extended, so that the audit report can be prepared and include all information that is required. No action was required on this item.

2026 Annual Event Timeline – Discussion was held on the rescheduling of the 2026 Annual Event from October 29 2026, to November 19, 2026, due to timing of campaigning related to the scheduled election and anticipated conflicts. It was reported that input from the Chambers, local businesses, and availability of event location and caterer, was received as to possible alternative dates. Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the rescheduled date of Thursday, November 19, 2026, was unanimously approved (12-0). This information will be shared to the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners and the public.

Items to Consider from the Programs/Grant Review Committee:

2026 Grant Cycle Provisions and Process – A review was held on the provisions and process of the grant cycle, including qualifying criteria, budget provisions, and some of the Louisiana data related to healthcare gaps and the needs of this area. It was explained that the applications were categorized by type of project for this cycle, and that these designations were very helpful in discussions and considerations of awards. No further action was required on this item.

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

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

The potential conflicts of interest for Mrs. Massey Groves related to MoCo, her leadership and mentoring consulting services, were then considered for certain grant applicants, Children’s Coalition for NELA, Food Bank of NELA, and The Center for Children and Families. After discussion, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Board by Melanie Massey Groves with respect to the grant applicants, Children’s Coalition for NELA, Food Bank of NELA, and The Center for Children and Families, 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 the grant applications;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that Melanie Massey Groves DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to each of the grant applications disclosed and MAY NOT participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters for any of those applications.

Additional information related to Mrs. Massey Groves’s previous relationships with other current applicants, the City of West Monroe and CommuniHealth Services, was disclosed, but it was determined that there were no active or current interests or activities that would require further consideration or vote at this time.

Mrs. Massey Groves returned to the meeting.

Dr. Huffstutter then presented information regarding grant applicants, Boys and Girls Club of North LA, and University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Allied Health, 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 (11-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Board by Dr. Bob Huffstutter with respect to the grant applicants, Boys and Girls Club of North LA, and University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Allied Health, 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 Dr. Bob Huffstutter DOES NOT have a conflict of interest with respect to Boys and Girls Club of North LA and University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Allied Health, and MAY participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters for the grant applicants.

Dr. Huffstutter then rejoined the meeting.

Chief Pleasant exited the meeting after providing further information regarding his relationship with the grant applicants, City of West Monroe Fire Department, RESET Foundation, and Ouachita Outreach. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Board by Chief Jason Pleasant with respect to the grant applicants, City of West Monroe Fire Department, RESET Foundation, and Ouachita Outreach, 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 Chief Jason Pleasant DOES NOT have a conflict of interest with respect to City of West Monroe Fire Department, RESET Foundation, and Ouachita Outreach, and MAY participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Chief Pleasant then rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Seegers exited the meeting after providing further information regarding his relationship with the grant applicants, City of West Monroe Fire Department and Ouachita Outreach. After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Chief Pleasant, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0) to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Board by Doug Seegers with respect to the grant applicants, City of West Monroe Fire Department and Ouachita Outreach, 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 Doug Seegers 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.

Mr. Seegers then rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Pittard exited the meeting after providing further information regarding his relationship with the grant applicants, Citizens Medical Center, HSD #1B of Richland Parish dba Richardson Medical Center, Morehouse General Hospital, Union General Hospital, and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). After discussion, upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Massey Groves, the following was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received and reviewed the Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest presented to the Board by Chris Pittard with respect to the grant applicants, Citizens Medical Center, HSD #1B of Richland Parish dba Richardson Medical Center, Morehouse General Hospital, Union General Hospital, and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), 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 Chris Pittard DOES have a conflict of interest with respect to each of the grant applications disclosed and MAY NOT participate in any discussion or vote relating to those matters.

Mr. Pittard then returned to the meeting.

After the completion of consideration of the potential conflicts of interest for Board Directors related to submitted disclosure statements, Directors with determined conflicts of interest were reminded to depart the meeting and would not participate in any discussion or vote related to those applications.

2026 Grant Cycle Applications – A summary of the grant cycle was then provided, and it was noted that there were 39 grant applications at a total request of \$1,876,625 to be considered within the current total grants and initiative budget of \$1,185,000, and that the 2026 Special Funding Projects for funding of \$10,000 each to Salvation Army of Monroe and Food Bank of NELA related to the January 2026 ice storm disaster recovery are included within this grant cycle budget. The Board recognized the staff's input and work for the details and tools provided on the grants, the Committee's work on grant 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 by the staff, by the outside grant reviewer, and by the members of the grants committee, and it was noted that all applications were impressive and with merit. The 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 and their three separately submitted applications.

Children's Coalition for NELA – "Signs of Suicide" – requested \$173,000 of \$215,270 total project; expand evidence-based programming; add elementary schools to the training; reinforce existing schools presence; continued coverage of the mental health coordinator, program director, education subcontractors; and some supplies. It was reported that this project is considered as a part of the focused suicide prevention/intervention initiative by the Foundation now funded through the grant cycle, and would continue those activities based upon the expansion, impact, and success of the projects to date.

Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Getret-Ford, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$120,000 for the professional and clinical staff was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Melanie 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$120,000, 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 temporarily departed the meeting at this time unrelated to Foundation activities to accept a phone call.

Children's Coalition for NELA – "The Pretend Play Project" – a new request for this program within Children's Coalition, requested \$100,000 of \$123,000 total project, for training teachers; play kits; life skills training; and to assist in adherence to state requirements for academically approved childcare centers. It was noted that play kits for this program are expensive, and that this program is funded as a line item budget within the Coalition's overall fundraising efforts. Upon motion by Mr. Pittard, seconded by Mr. Cammack, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$10,000 to provide support to the evidence-based programming within their designated program budget was unanimously approved by all members then present (10-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Melanie 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$10,000, 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 returned to the meeting.

Children’s Coalition for NELA – “Stronger Together: A Truancy Reduction Program – a new request for this program within the Children’s Coalition; requested \$90,000 of \$122,910 total project, for implementation of training series with families; work with schools and teachers for family engagement; and work with court-ordered programs related to truancy and youth graduation goals. It was noted that the Coalition has active youth mentoring programs in the region with positive outcomes, and this evidence-based program is a budgeted item within their overall fundraising efforts. Upon motion by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mrs. Martin, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$20,000 to support the program with youth and high school graduation was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Melanie 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 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 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 Committee’s considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$20,000, 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 remained out of the meeting for the discussions and votes related to the next two applicants due to her determined conflict of interest.

Food Bank of NELA – “Produce on the Geaux” – requested \$25,000 of \$150,000 total project, to purchase produce to assist in food distributions throughout NELA. It was noted that food insecurity remains a major issue and need within northeast Louisiana according to all data and state funders information. Upon motion by Mr. Cammack, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the recommendation to FULLY fund the request at \$25,000 was unanimously approved by all members then present(11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Melanie 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a fully funded grant award of \$25,000, 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.

Southern Center for Children & Families dba The Center for Children and Families, Inc. – “Training & Education” - requested \$100,000 of \$225,000 total project, to establish a specialized department to provide professional training and education focused on child trauma intervention and care; and teach children to recognize unsafe situations. It was noted that the request was for professional staff to lead the department. Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mr. Pittard, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$50,000 to assist to fund the leadership and professional position for the new department was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Melanie 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$50,000, subject to the negotiation and execution of a formal written grant agreement and the approval of Board of Commissioners of the Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Ouachita.

Mrs. Massey Groves rejoined the meeting at this time. Mr. Pittard exited the meeting due to the determined conflicts pertaining to the next five applicants.

Citizens Medical Center – “Fortifying IV Safety” – requested \$114,800 of \$114,800 total project, to purchase IV infusion pumps and medical equipment as additional funding to a state grant. It was noted that the capital budget of the hospital did not include provisions for this new equipment at this time, and the hospital would likely have to wait for future budgets to include this equipment, but that partial funding would provide assistance to purchase equipment sooner. Upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$65,000 to assist the hospital to purchase the medical equipment now was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Chris Pittard 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$65,000, 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.

HSD #1B, Richland Parish, dba Richardson Medical Center – “Innovative Hysteroscopy Equipment” – requested \$61,321 of \$61,321 total project, to purchase specialized ob-gyn surgery equipment. It was noted that there were several hospitals and specialists within close proximity to this hospital, and that META funding was being focused to government settings in Richland Parish at this time. Upon motion by Chief Pleasant, seconded by Mr. Seegers, the recommendation to NOT fund the request at this time was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0). As the vote was for no funding, there was no resolution required.

Morehouse General Hospital – “Rural Acute Care Stabilization & Patient Safety Initiative” – requested \$45,000 of \$90,000 total project, to acquire equipment; expand the patient safety improvement program; ensure appropriate clinical education; support clinical care and rebuild services for compliance to the state initiative. It was noted that the hospital has undergone leadership and hospital board changes, with local leadership and oversight, and that they appear to be on track to establish a stable nursing delivery of care. Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Welch, recommendation to FULLY fund the request at \$45,000 was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Chris Pittard 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application to fully fund the grant award of \$45,000, 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.

Union General Hospital – “Adult Memory Care Program” – requested \$112,294 of \$215,573 total project, to develop a new senior mental health program; train staff in dementia care at new rural health care clinic; and modify therapy space. It was noted that the Foundation had funded the new rural health care clinic, and that therapeutic services would be billable.

Upon motion by Dr. Huffstutter, seconded by Mrs. Martin, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$10,000 for the modifications in clinic space only was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Chris Pittard 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$10,000, 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.

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) – “Resilient Power, Security Upgrades, & Initial Maintenance for MMU’s & Disaster Response Facility” – requested \$154,750 of \$154,750 total project, for equipment and outfitting the new mobile medical unit (MMU) facility and disaster response site, including a generator, security system, and maintenance for the mobile units. It was noted that ensuring the ability of the organization to respond to emergency medical care and ongoing operations during power outages would be vital for impact. Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Getret-Ford, recommendation to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$47,000 for half of the cost of the 3-phase generator was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0), to wit;

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby determines that as Chris Pittard 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 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 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 Committee's considerations, hereby approves the application for a partially funded grant award of \$47,000, 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. Pittard then rejoined the meeting.

All grants with determined conflicts of interest had now been considered and voted upon, and the Board then continued consideration of all remaining applications and recommendations for funding by the Committee.

Mr. Welch then departed the meeting due to a previously scheduled conflict.

At this time, due to time constraints and the Board's support of the work done by the Committee in preparation for this meeting, Mr. Cammack made a motion to fund all remaining applications at the recommended amount by the Committee, except for the City of West Monroe Fire Department to be funded at the full requested amount due to the impact of safety and rescue operations by first responders for our immediate area. Discussion was then held regarding any other questions that any other Director might have on any of the remaining applicants or recommended funding.

After extensive discussion and consideration of the motion as presented, and no further questions or input by any Director on any other application or changes of recommended funding by the Committee as presented, it was determined that the application for the City of West Monroe Fire Department would be discussed separately at this time. Mr. Cammack then withdrew his first motion and presented an amended motion that the City of West Monroe Fire Department be fully funded at the requested amount of \$44,932 instead of the Committee recommendation of \$22,500. Further discussion was then held regarding the need and impact of this project within the geographical area comprising the original Ward 5 and this immediate area. After the discussion, and as motioned by Mr. Cammack, then seconded by Mr. Allbritton, the recommendation to FULLY fund the request at \$44,932 was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0).

After this action, it was recommended that all remaining applications be funded at the recommended amounts as presented by the Programs/Grants Review Committee. It was noted and agreed by all Directors that the work done by the Committee had been thorough and well considered. Further discussion was held, and with no further questions or input by any Director, and no changes to the recommended funding on the remaining applications, upon motion by Mr. Seegers, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the recommendation to fund all remaining applications as presented by the Committee was unanimously approved by all members then present (11-0).

Based upon the approved funding, the following applications were approved as defined.

Category of Initiative Focused Projects:

Ouachita Council on Aging– “Alzheimer’s Initiatives Training & Education” – requested \$30,000 of \$30,000 total project; provide supportive tools/education for families caring for dementia patients; purchase additional van for transport services. It was reported that dementia education could likely be a collaboration with the ULM School of Allied Health at no charge, and transportation funding is typically matched by local community support to Federal/State funds. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$17,000 for the van purchase.

ULM – School of Allied Health – “Dementia Compassion Project Part 4” – requested \$27,400 of \$63,654 total project, for continuing the dementia/Alzheimer’s education/simulation work with clinicians and medical residents at local hospitals and VCOM; provide follow up education for those who have previously attended the simulation. It was noted that funding would provide for the specialist’s travel and education sessions.

Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$25,000 for the professional fees and travel expenses.

Category of Hospital/Medical Setting:

Pinnacle Family Health – “EMDR Training” – requested \$10,344 of \$10,344 total project, to provide online training/certification for 4 behavioral health clinicians; expand access to evidence-based trauma care; serve more patients in the behavioral health program. It was noted that EMDR training is an individual training program and is not train-the-trainer based or transferable. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$5,000 for training/certification of 2 behavioral health clinicians for the setting.

Reeves Memorial Medical Center Foundation – “Reeves Community Table Initiative” – requested \$25,730 of \$37,511 total project, to start a fresh vegetable garden; provide nutrition education; and purchase outdoor equipment. It was noted that there are LSU Ag-Center programs for food insecurity, and multiple farmers markets in the area. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to NOT fund the request at this time.

Category of Other Medical/Mental Health:

Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) – “Regional Fall Prevention Initiative” – requested \$14,405 of \$27,471 total project, for healthcare clinical personnel and first responders' education in assessing fall risk/intervention, and to prevent falls/injury. It was noted that the data presented supported the risks for our region and the need for caregivers to provide further preventive education. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to FULLY fund the request at \$14,405.

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center– “Closing the Gap: Rural Cervical Cancer Early Detection - requested \$7,500 of \$31,716 total project; provide mobile cervical cancer screening in NELA; provide community education, improve awareness. It was noted that cancer incidence is high in NELA, and that access to screening and appropriate follow up are important. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to FULLY fund the request at \$7,500.

Responders Experiencing Support, Empowerment, & Therapy (RESET) Foundation – “RESET Foundation Service Expansion” – requested \$38,850 of \$60,510 total project, to provide mental health services for first responders in an anonymous safe environment; and a conference with a nationally recognized speaker. It was noted that this was phase 2 of a previously funded project to address first responders' mental health needs in a safe and anonymous environment, and that the organization was on target to further ensure viability, with the support of other law enforcement and first responder agencies. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$33,600 for certification training and professional mental health services.

Friends of Chennault Aviation & Military Museum of LA – “Warrior Wellness” – as first-time applicant, requested \$8,712 of \$15,702 total project; expand veterans mental health services to Ruston using licensed professional counselors & evidence-based programming. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to FULLY fund the request at \$8,712.

Jackson Parish Ambulance Service District – “CARE360” – as first-time applicant, requested \$80,000 of \$118,000 total project, for preventative health safety education by first responders, purchase program supplies and teaching materials, fall prevention tools, and outreach materials and partial coverage of medical oversight. It was noted that this organization currently provides education throughout the parish and will address all ages with various clinical topics. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$50,000 for equipment and supplies.

Lazarus Health Services – “Mobile Unit Expansion” – as first-time applicant, requested \$16,000 of \$22,500 total project, to provide supportive clinical services to under-served populations; and to modify a donated van for mobile medical services after hours and weekends by clinical professionals as volunteers. It was noted that there are minimal free services on a regular basis for access to healthcare by those who cannot afford copays, who are underinsured, and who may not access regular care intervention. Recommendation was made by the Committee to fund the total project, including all other projected costs outside of the requested funding. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to fund the project at \$22,500 instead of the requested \$16,000.

LA Cancer Foundation of Research & Education – “Healthy Futures Cancer Screening” – as first-time applicant, requested \$50,000 of \$61,699 total project, for expanding free cancer screenings for uninsured; expansion of outreach for awareness; and follow up on additional diagnostic services. It was noted that there was a large budget proposed for advertising and media coverage, and that the Foundation could assist on other methods of building awareness. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$23,000 for screening costs only.

Category of Food Insecurity/Community Shelters:

Salvation Army – “Pathways to Wellness and Stability Project” – requested \$55,000 of \$55,000 total project, for expansion in community food access; offer career and workforce education; replace mattresses; and facility upgrades; and implement a community garden. It was noted that updates to the location and services are vital for our community and the clients, but that community gardens are typically difficult projects lacking ongoing maintenance and impact. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request for \$45,000 for upgrades, career/workforce needs, and equipment only.

Zion Helping Hands – “Food Access Initiative” – requested \$26,100 of \$43,204 total project; expand food distribution; purchase additional food; outfit an additional building; and support a school backpack program. It was noted that this food pantry serves over 450 families/clients in Morehouse Parish and is a designated pantry with the Food Bank of NELA.

Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$17,500 for building and food expenses only.

5 Loaves: 2 Fish Ministry – “Feed the Hungry” – as first-time applicant, requested \$29,075 of \$61,075 total project, for funding a modified van for meal distribution and needed equipment and supplies. It was noted that this ministry has broad community support in Lincoln Parish and that transportation could ensure food security in outlying locations. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$17,000 for the van conversion and van outfitting supplies only.

The Renewal Center of NELA – “Securing a Better Future for the Homeless, Addicted, and Unemployed” – as a first-time applicant, requested \$25,485 of \$25,485 total project; secure a safe environment at the new setting; do land clearing and fencing. It was noted that this was previously the Desiard Street Shelter which provides daytime sheltering and food services for those at risk or homeless. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$20,000 to assist in the lot/site preparation and security.

Category of Other Non-Profit Agency:

After-School Programming Requests:

Boys and Girls Club of North LA – “Capacity Building, Strategic Expansion, and Strengthening of Youth Service Sites” – requested \$50,000 of \$150,000 total project; add a new NELA club development director; expand number of youth mentors; provide food/snacks. It was noted that coordination within NELA could benefit from leadership on a local level, and that this organization typically requests funds to support overall programming and fundraising. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$20,000 to support the new NELA club development director position.

Broaden Horizons – “Broaden Horizons East Ouachita” – requested \$30,000 of \$97,050 total project, for the expansion of 2 new school sites within Monroe City Schools for after school programming. It was noted that this organization has successfully implemented several programs to support children and youth and has strong school board relationships. Upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to FULLY fund the request at \$30,000.

NELA Youth, Inc. – “Community Wellness & Youth Stabilization Expansion” – requested \$20,000 of \$27,000 total project; provide mentoring and activities with at-risk children; provide food/snacks, sports equipment, games, and fees to outings. It was noted that organizations such as NELA Youth typically request funds to offset operational expenses related to activities for children/youth as after school and summer programs and may involve art projects, field trips, games, sports, and other activities in a safe supportive setting. It was also reported that references and support for the work by NELA Youth are recognized locally and with high regard. As this was a third year request, with 2 previous denials by the Board, and to support the services being provided after school, upon the Committee's recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$5,000 for equipment and supplies for the program.

The NELA Children’s Museum – “Teacher Professional Development and Student STEM Programming in NELA” – requested \$40,000 of \$91,000 total project, to provide free STEM education; assist teachers going onsite to schools/communities to provide education; and training in STEM education for teachers. It was noted that, while this is state requirement for K-12 STEM education, most school boards and teachers could benefit from other professional support to implement and advance the education. This organization has strong relationships to community, school boards and teachers, and has access to broad-based funding support. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$10,000 as requested for the proposed position only.

Other Requests within this Category:

The Arc of Ouachita (ARCO) – “Supporting Healthy Independence for Adults with Developmental Disabilities” – requested \$50,000 of \$59,146 total project, to fund the RN services required by the state for the specialty setting. It was noted that some funding by the state had been received, while not all coverage requirements were met. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$35,000 for the required RN position.

Latinas Unidas – “Strong Families, Strong Future: Familias Fuertes, Futuros Fuertes”- as first-time applicant, requested \$21,226 of \$25,126 total project, for programming which will focus on education, health, and leadership advancement for the Latino population; support literacy, education, common tasks within community to ensure success among all children; and address disparities affecting growth and opportunities in the Latino population. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$15,000 for workshop speakers and some program supplies.

Shreveport Opera – “Shreveport Opera Express (SOX)”– as first-time applicant; requested \$5,000 of \$216,250 total project, to expand to NELA offering children’s programs for underserved youth/children through musical performance and appropriately moral stories. It was noted that performing arts and involvement by children and youth can be supportive to mental health and well-being, and that local connections would be needed with schools in NELA, and further, that this might qualify better as sponsorship in the future with follow-up by Foundation staff as to status and opportunity. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to NOT fund the request at this time.

The Monroe Symphony Orchestra – “MSO Symphony in the Park” – as first-time applicant; requested \$10,000 of \$13,500 total project, to develop a new community wellness initiative offering a free outdoor concert paired with a picnic to promote health, physical activity, and social connection. It was again noted that performing arts and creative outlets are supportive of mental health status and well-being, and that this request might best be considered also as a sponsorship opportunity for the Foundation based on further follow-up. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to NOT fund the request at this time.

Turning Pages NELA – “Adventure into Reading”- as a first-time applicant, requested \$50,300 of \$87,400 total project; provide an evidence-based program for literacy improvement in underserved areas for children; educate caregivers/families; offer a summer tutoring program with one-on-one literacy instruction. It was noted that this literacy work was previously administered by these education professionals through Carmel Hill Foundation, which has discontinued its presence locally, but has endowed this organization with a large funding amount over 5 years for sustainability. It was also noted that operating costs, including salaries, appeared out of normal ranges and were high for start-up nonprofits. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$37,800 for the fees for the evidence-based program only.

Category of Education Setting:

LA Tech University – Department of Curriculum, Instruction, & Leadership – “Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) for Families & Educators: Building Community Capacity” – requested \$55,170 of \$67,307 total project; provide training for educators regarding children & youth trauma; offer a camp for supporting caregivers and children, as well as a conference for clinical professionals and teachers. It was noted that trauma education for professionals is important for child safety/security, and that some parts of the request might be provided through other support. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$17,500 for equipment and workshops/camps.

LA Tech University Department of Kinesiology – “Health Coaching Internship” – requested \$42,511 of \$49,711 total project; training for health coaches in community settings for public health monitoring and improved health outcomes. Information was also reviewed regarding this new certification and potential employment and programming. It was also noted that there is little individual monitoring or follow-up for chronic disease management. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$20,000 for the equipment, as a pilot project.

West Monroe High School– “Emergency Medical Aid Vehicle for Events” – requested \$16,500 of \$16,500 total project; purchase a mobile cart equipped with medical/rescue equipment for various situations on a large school campus. It was noted that many challenges exist which create high risks at school campuses in current environments for safety and security. It was also noted that West Monroe High School is based in the original Ward 5 base for the Foundation, and it is important to support those schools. Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to FULLY fund the request at \$16,500.

Category of Government Agency – Not Education Setting:

Ouachita Outreach - “Senior Connection, Conversation, & Wellness” – requested \$20,220 of \$37,587 total project; provide support services and food access for seniors in a disadvantaged area in south West Monroe. It was noted that there is difficulty in getting communities to access available supportive services due to many variables, and that senior programs for socialization and interaction were important.

Upon the Committee’s recommendation as presented and as approved by all Directors in the unified vote, the final determination was to PARTIALLY fund the request at \$7,200 for the professional instructors only for the proposed health and fitness classes.

All considerations of the applications submitted during the 2026 Grant Cycle requests were hereby determined to be completed by the Board of Directors, with a total of \$957,149 approved for funding of 35 applications out of 39 total submitted, with 9 applications fully funded and 4 applications denied. With the previously funded special projects for the Food Bank of NELA at \$10,000 and Salvation Army at \$10,000 included within this grant budget, the total now funded for the 2026 Grant Cycle is \$977,149. It was noted that this was within the 2026 grants and initiative budget of \$1,185,000, which also includes the School-Based Health Centers Initiative, the Dental Hygiene Initiative, the general grant cycle budget, and sponsorships.

President/CEO Report – A reminder was presented for Directors to respond to an email that will be forthcoming from the auditor related to the 2025 Audit related to their knowledge and involvement to Foundation activities or any known issues. Thanks were offered to all for the work in this grant cycle.

Board Chair Report – Mr. Burgess thanked all Committee members for the diligent work in reviewing all the applications and making recommendations to the Board. He also commended the staff on the work done to prepare for the decisions, as well as the Board today for their attendance and the consideration of grant applications.

Other Directors Comments – Several Directors offered their input on the process, the work, and the projects themselves, and indicated that they were pleased and excited for the upcoming work and impact for our region.

Opportunity for Public Comment – No further comment 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