

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board Meeting
March 26, 2025
Via Zoom

Call to Order

Board Chair Eric Bedingfield called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:05 PM via Zoom. Those in attendance via Zoom and constituting a quorum were:

Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Eric Bedingfield, Vice Chair Aditi Bussells, Toby Chappell, Hon. H. Bruce Williams, Gary Mixon, Dr. Jared Stone

Excused: Steve Donaldson, Lisa Montgomery, Martine Helou-Allen

New Business

Post Award Amendment Request for Underestimated Carry Over Funds

SCORF Staff explained that this form request addresses cases where applicants underestimate their carryover from the previous year, resulting in underfunded applications for the next funding cycle. The form allows SCORF Staff to disburse the difference between estimated and actual carryover once confirmed, ensuring applicants receive full funding for Board-approved applications without requiring further Board review. Motion to approve this form by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Hon. H. Williams, m/c unanimous.

Town of Lexington Mini Application

Alana Williams, SFAA Director of Strategic Initiatives, presented a small application to the Board on behalf of the Town of Lexington, requesting the use of \$2,375.92 in carryover funds from 2023. Ms. Williams explained that the funds would be used to send one officer to a training in Phoenix, Arizona, in May 2025. This training is an approved abatement strategy. Motion to approve this request for the use of \$2,375.92 in carryover funds by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Hon. H. Williams, m/c unanimous.

Old Business

Board Chair Eric Bedingfield lead the revised GPS application review.

1. **Abbeville County.** This revised application requests \$162,045.51. The Board previously voted to table this application, requesting the following from this group: salary clarification, data to demonstrate the need for the LUCAS device, clarity regarding the definitions and opioid related need for requested medications, more information and details about the vehicle request, and Naloxone to be received instead from the Department of Public Health (DPH). This group received technical assistance from SCORF Staff to revise their application. Mr. Chappell said it was unclear if the group made changes to their application, and Ms. Williams confirmed some were made, leaving others to the Board's discretion. Staff noted this is the group's first application, written by their Fire Chief due to the lack of a grant writer. They were informed about Roll and naloxone for Fire Departments and reported 41 overdoses last year, all requiring paramedic resuscitation. Given

the uncertainty of need, they requested only a part-time position. Chair Bedingfield recommended line-item severance for concerns like the LUCAS device and naloxone request and Mr. Mixon supported severance to maintain SCORF's consistency. Dr. Stone questioned the group's request for vehicle lights, noting the request did not align with SCORF's opioid-related strategies. Staff confirmed the Board has not previously approved extended use of these devices, noting that this type of request is typically reviewed case by case. Board discussion about severing the vehicle lights request and obtaining a breakdown to remove funding for that item. Motion to approve revised Abbeville County application, with the line item requests for both the LUCAS device and Narcan severed and allow Staff to work with the group to eliminate the request for the lights and sirens, by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Dr. Stone, m/c unanimous.

2. **Clarendon County.** This revised application requests \$297,000 with authorization and line-item severability. The Board previously tabled this application, requesting the removal of Protonix machine and naloxone line items, along with a clearer budget and outcome measures. With SCORF Staff's assistance, the group revised their application, asking the Board to sever the Narcan request. The Protonix machine request was removed, with its cost reallocated to MAT for OUD patients. Motion to approve revised Clarendon County application, with the \$20,000 request for Narcan severed, in the adjusted amount of \$277,000 by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.
3. **Darlington County.** This application originally requested \$644,041.38 and this revised application requests \$599,976.90. The Board previously tabled this application, requesting the group adjust their fringe requests to the 40% cap and provide more details on SSP services and the need for a full Oxford House position in a single county. The revised application includes additional justification for these requests and reduces the fringe request to meet the cap. SCORF Staff confirmed the revised fringe calculations are correct. Motion to approve revised Darlington County application, with fringe adjustments, in the total amount of \$599,976.90 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Chair Bedingfield, m/c by majority vote, with five (5) ayes and one (1) dissenting vote from Mr. Chappell.
4. **Edgefield County.** This application originally requested \$199,000 and this revised application requests \$132,000. This request is to fund a post overdose response team. The program will include one Community Outreach Officer (COO) from the Sheriff's Office and one full time Community Outreach Paramedic (COP) from EMS. The Board previously tabled this application, requesting the removal of the naloxone line item, a salary breakdown, and data to justify the Level of Effort (LOE) for the COO and COP positions. The revised application removes a staffing request and provides the requested breakdown. Dr. Stone sought clarification on funding a full-time paramedic based upon the provided data of 47 overdoses per year, which Staff confirmed. Mr. Chappell remained concerned about sustainability, noting the group may run out of funds by year two. Attorney Libet stated their recurring amount is approximately \$80,000 annually and that the group could possibly sustain the project with its own funds once GPS funding decreases to 50% after two years. Attorney Libet advised that sustainability is not a legal reason to deny funding if

the request aligns with approved use. Dr. Stone and Vice Chair Bussells raised concerns about LOE and setting a precedent for funding requests not primarily focused on opioid-related activities. Dr. Stone felt the group should have better justified the salary request with more opioid-related data. The Board agreed the application needs to identify clearer opioid-focused activities. Chair Bedingfield reminded the Board that approved strategy requests should not be denied funding. Motion to deny revised Edgefield County application by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Dr. Stone, m/c unanimous.

5. **York County.** This application requests \$174,954 for a new probationary drug court. The Board previously tabled this application, seeking clarification on drug court budgeting and confirmation that the probation program is a new, unbudgeted initiative. The Solicitor's office confirmed that the proposed probation drug court is separate from the existing drug court, serving only probationers. Mr. Chappell supported the program contingent on SCORF Staff ensuring proper oversight to prevent fund supplantation. Ms. Williams noted that awarded groups must submit midyear and annual reports detailing fund use, while Staff added that site visits will verify financial separation, with full audits if concerns arise. Mr. Chappell and Chair Bedingfield expressed concerns about potential commingling of funds. The Board agreed they are open to the probationary drug court but emphasized the need to keep it distinct from the existing program. Motion to approve this application in the total amount of \$174,954 by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.

6. **City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal.** The City of Beaufort requests \$84,958.30 and the Town of Port Royal requests \$29,432.18. This request consists of two applications for a joint project to establish an opioid abatement officer for both the city and town. The Board previously raised concerns about salary sustainability beyond the first year. The applicants submitted documentation stating they would seek additional grants and use their budget to sustain the position. Mr. Chappell noted they are requesting their full available amount, which is not sustainable long-term. However, Mr. Mixon pointed out that the applicants provided the requested sustainability plan. Motion to approve this application in the total amount of \$84,958.30 for the City of Beaufort and \$29,432.18 for the Town of Port Royal by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Chair Bedingfield, m/c by majority vote, with five (5) ayes and one (1) dissenting vote from Mr. Chappell.

Chair Bedingfield reminded the Board that the next SCORF Board meeting is on 6/11/25 and the SCORF public comment session on 5/2/25.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.