

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board Meeting  
December 15, 2023  
Edgar A. Brown Building, 1205 Pendleton Street, Rm 252  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Eric Bedingfield called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:09 AM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

**Board Members Present:** Chair Eric Bedingfield, Vice Chair Dr. Aditi Bussells, Hon. H. Bruce Williams, Toby Chappell, Steven Donaldson, Martine Helou-Allen, Gary Mixon, and Lisa Montgomery via Zoom

**Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Motion to approve minutes from the September 22, 2023, SCORF Board meeting was made by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, all ayes, minutes approved m/c unanimous.

**Attorney General's Office Report**

Jared Libet, Assistant Attorney General, reported the 5 new opioid settlements have been paid to national settlement but not yet to the states. There was a payment of \$2.7 million from Mallinckrodt in November. This is one of the companies that is going through bankruptcy and then renegotiated bankruptcy, so this is the last payment and is for less money than was expected to be received over time. Settlement from Purdue Pharma is still tentative as the matter is in the Supreme Court. There are still some smaller companies that may end up paying in a few extra million dollars.

**Fund Financial Report**

Denise Carraway, SFAA Director of Budget and Finance, presented the Statement of Activities (attached). Earned interest is moved to DSF per the settlement agreement. The Dec. 31, 2022, audit has been published, and the letter from the auditor and financial statements are included in the board packet. The current plan is to have all documents submitted to the auditor by the end of February with the 2023 audit planned from March-April.

**SFAA Administrative Report**

Alana Williams, SFAA Director of Strategic Initiatives, presented the SFAA Administrative Report. There is now a posted position for a program coordinator for SCORF, and the goal is to fill it early in the new year. Website updates coming soon and a fraud hotline that links to the AG's office.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bedingfield did not have an additional Report to give to the Board at this time.

**New Business**

- A. **Administrative Budget**. Ms. Williams reviewed the 2023 administrative costs and SCORF came in under budget in the total amount of \$311,917. The proposed 2024 administrative budget is

\$624,925, which is under the estimate of \$700,000 per year, and incorporates costs for contractual services, supplies, Board travel and meeting expenses and administrative operations. Motion to approve 2024 administrative budget made by Steven Donaldson and seconded by Gary Mixon, motion approved, all ayes.

- B. **Nonallowable list review.** SCORF Program manager, Ms. Braneck, led a committee of state fund administrators from Colorado, California, Nevada, and Washington to create a nonallowable lists. A nonallowable list helps applicants understand what may be approved and what may be severable from their application. The proposed list has items aligned with federal grants, other states, the abatement strategies, and/or intent of the funds. The list is not all inclusive and is a work in progress. More information is needed from the Board about what may be allowable related to real estate. Board discussion about the draft list and goal of providing guidance to streamline applications by giving applicants a list of things that will not be approved. Board discussion included police vehicles, BolaWraps, non-FDA approved medicines, meals and snacks. Staff was asked to revise the list based upon Board discussion for additional review. Board discussion about requests for training and travel for conferences and the number of people that can be included. Vice Chair Bussells suggested not limiting the number of people but allotting a percentage of the budget. Staff will draft revised language relating conference travel and training parameters.
- C. **Interest earned by recipients.** Pursuant to the settlement agreement, interest earned by recipients on SCORF Funds are to be returned. Ms. Williams asked about a preferred time frame for recipients to report earned interest and transfer earned interest back to the Board. The Board discussed exercising rights to the earned interest under the settlement agreement and providing recipients an example list of approved uses for the interest funds. Staff will develop a policy for Board discussion at the next meeting.

### **Executive Session**

The Board went into executive session for legal advice. No action was taken during executive session.

- D. **GPS Application review.**
1. **Anderson County.** Mr. Donaldson noted the PlaySafe initiative asked for 10% administrative costs but only 5% is allowed. Discussion regarding the PlaySafe initiative is that they provide athletic trainers to schools and want to do education regarding prescribed medication for athletes. This is a targeted prevention service, not a program. Motion to remove the 8 AED requests by Chairman Bedingfield, all ayes, motion approved. Staff can ask them to submit a new budget that removes the AEDs. The insurance policy is expensive, and Attorney Libet said the Board should consider reasonableness of these expenses. The Board decided PlaySafe, EMS drug education in schools, state conferences, meeting sponsorships, and reporting software were approved. Motion to approve request after removing the cost of

AEDS, removing references to D.A.R.E. as a program they will rely on, and reduce 10% administrative costs to 5%, by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.

2. **City of Beaufort.** Mr. Donaldson recused himself. The request is for a prevention media campaign. Hon. H. Bruce Williams asked about and how the Board should address funding media campaigns and their effectiveness. Staff said recipients will report impressions about how many hits, etc. for these campaigns to show effectiveness. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$25,000 by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.
  
3. **Charleston County.** Mr. Donaldson recused himself from discussion. Request in the amount of \$1,276,759 as a continuation application. Ms. Helou-Allen discussed the process of receiving continuation requests when the Board does not yet know what has been done with already-distributed funds as far as performance and outcomes. Board discussion about a continuation process to ensure programs have continuity and asking applicants to detail project expense status when requesting the continuation of a strategy to clarify for the Board that the request is not a duplicate. Questions relating to the application including the 908-drug detection device, which DAODAS is still currently funding. Additional discussion about the requested salaries and the spectrometer request. Vice Chair Bussells suggested denying the application because there are too many questions to approve in part, and allowing the applicant to address the Board's questions about the application and resubmit. Motion to deny request by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, all eyes with one abstention.
  
4. **City of Chester.** Ms. Helou-Allen thought this was a good application. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$81,972.67 by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.

Board Chair Bedingfield declared a recess for a 45-minute lunch break.

5. **Chester County.** Funding request for the Hazel Pitman Center that would combine with the request from the City of Chester. The Board discussed a handheld chemical detection device and whether this is an approved strategy. The Board decided handheld devices used solely for public health measures can be appropriate. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$249,024.23 by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.
  
6. **Chesterfield County.** Alpha Behavioral Health request with authorization from the county. Board discussion about the application's strategies not aligning with the budget, staff heavy costs and sustainability concerns, 5% administrative costs twice, gift cards and how those could present an issue, and other line items like a fingerprint machine that are not related to opioid abatement. Attorney Libet suggested the Board may want to send this application back to the group to redo it because the group's budget does not align with the narrative.

Motion to deny by Mr. Chappell based upon all the questions raised and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous. Staff will provide technical assistance.

7. **Fairfield County.** A new project for Fairfield Behavioral Health Services with authorization from the county. Ms. Helou-Allen likes that their request includes evidence-based prevention for youth and sees no issues with this application. Mr. Donaldson agreed but noted the request for a first-responder breakfast is an issue. The Board decided to approve and inform the applicant that funds should not be used for the first responder breakfast as this is not an abatement strategy. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$62,180 with the condition that Staff talks with them about the first responder breakfast to allocate funds to another strategy by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.
  
8. **City of Florence.** There are multiple partners within this application for \$582,860. The city administrator authorizes the Board to consider each partner application individually.
  - a. Circle Park Behavioral Services. Requests \$55,860 for MAT funding.
  - b. House of Hope. \$250,000 request for a treatment and recovery house with staff. Board discussion about funds paying retroactively for salaries and the issue with the applicant making a prior commitment without getting approval of funds. Board discussion about real estate purchases, the fact they are an asset, and the lack of rules in place for this. Board also discussed who would get proceeds of a future sale from real estate purchases, and Attorney Libet said for this reason he is hesitant to approve them until the Board decides which entity receives any proceeds from future sale of approved asset purchases. Board discussion about salaries for security officers and whether this is related to opioid abatement, and Board determined these salaries can be approved in some instances.
  - c. Resurrection Restoration Center for the Homeless. \$105,000 request for recovery housing wrap-around services for pregnant and postpartum women. including childcare for, housing, etc. which are important services for OUD.
  - d. Tenacious Grace. \$172,000 request for housing/recovery for women leaving prison with OUD. The cost per year breakdown is \$34,400 per bed, with a total of five beds which would serve several women. Board discussion about the proposed costs and noted the itemization in the budget does not equal the total requested amount because a \$7,000 budget item appears to be repeated. Motion to approve the City of Florence request in the amount of \$582,860 subject to a \$7,000 adjustment in Tenacious Grace request by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Vice Chair Bussells, m/c unanimous. (This motion was reconsidered, and a new motion made and approved during the below discussion about Florence County.)
  
9. **Florence County.** The total amount of this request is \$949,906.67. There are multiple partners within this application and the county authorizes the Board to consider each partner application individually.

- a. Circle Park BHS- Chrysalis Center. \$176,148 request for a women's program to support extended stay of an extra 30 days beyond what Medicaid will cover, and up to 12 months post partem.
- b. Circle Park BHS- Lake City. \$235,368 request to open a new satellite office with new services in this geographic region.
- c. House of Hope. \$500,000 request which includes a mortgage payment, assistant director, security officer, salaries, etc. Board discussion about the budget, requested salaries that appear to be the same positions requested in the City's application, and other areas of potential application cross-over which raise a lot of questions for this partner's application submitted by both the city and county Board needs a detailed budget with clarity regarding the request for salaries.
- d. EMS. \$38,390.67 request for 2 years of naloxone and training. Because applicant is asking for two years of funding rather than one year of funding that is allowed, this request can be adjusted to \$19,195.34 for one year.

Motion to reconsider the vote approving the **City of Florence's** application by Hon. H. Williams and seconded by Vice Chair Bussells, m/c unanimous. Motion to approve **City of Florence** request in the amount of \$332,860 minus House of Hope by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous. Motion to approve **Florence County** request in the amount of \$430,711.33, minus House of Hope and approve EMS with an adjusted budget for one year by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.

10. **Fort Mill**. Keystone Substance Abuse Services with authorization from the county. Application is for a MAT program for adults and pregnant and postpartum women, a prevention specialist for schools, and a media campaign. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$92,213.43 by Mr. Mixon and seconded Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.
11. **Horry County**. A continuation application with a new request for a crisis intervention team. Request includes push bars for police cars, bullet proof vests that go under clothes for civilian counselors, etc. Board discussion determined the budget costs are excessive including vehicle packages and compensation costs which have other sources of funding and would amount to supplanting, and the application has a lot of line items that are not necessary for opioid abatement. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$444,553.23, striking item 4, crisis intervention, by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Hon. H. Bruce Williams, m/c unanimous.
12. **Kershaw County**. This request is to continue work that began in phase 1 by Alpha Behavioral Health. The Board noted this is a drafted application with identified strategies for continuation. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$340,283 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Vice Chair Bussells, m/c unanimous.
13. **Lancaster County**. Request for \$197,438 for SUD assessments in courts; Coroner's request for autopsies, toxicology; training for first responders; naloxone for EMS; electronic MH help

for first responders. Mr. Donaldson mentioned the issue of \$9,600 for probate contract exams because it is DMH's responsibility to do these exams according to SC Code §44-52-70. Board Discussion about other line items that may need to be stricken. Mr. Chappell raised the issue of the request for autopsies. Board discussion about what qualifies as an abatement strategy and what is meant by using funds for interdiction because funds are not to be used for interdiction; however, collected data can be used for any purpose. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$187,838 minus the court probate piece with a statement not to use funds for interdiction by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Chair Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.

14. **Lexington County.** This is a new application with authorization for severability from the deputy county administrator.

- a. Courage Center. \$343,000 for substance abuse social workers, peer support specialists and family recovery coaches.
- b. Lexington County Coroner's office. \$14,800 for supplies to take for education and prevention efforts; drug take back program and education by drug recognition expert.

Motion to approve request in the amount of \$357,800 subject to a new letter of intent from the county administrator and not the deputy county administrator by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.

15. **McCormick County.** This is a new application to employ contract staff to support efforts to prevent or reduce overdose deaths or other opioid related harms. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$40,000 by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.

16. **Mt. Pleasant.** City of Mt. Pleasant Police Department with authorization from the city administrator. This application is a continuation for distribution of naloxone through Wake-Up Carolina. Mr. Donaldson confirmed this is in a zip code not covered by DAODAS. Board discussion about youth and co-occurring substance misuse. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$63,367.77 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.

17. **Myrtle Beach.** This application is a continuation. The Fire Dept. community deflection program has been implemented and they request funds to continue. Ms. Helou-Allen offered to recuse due to a personal conversation, but the Board did not find this necessary. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$431,066.55 by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.

18. **North Charleston.** This is a new application with a letter of severability attached. Mr. Donaldson suggested striking projects 1 and 3 which are cellular detection devices and AED vitals monitors. Board discussed eliminating projects 1 and 3 because they are punitive strategies rather than abatement strategies. The Board determined the vehicle request is

- allowable and clarified the vehicle cost in their budget. The Board also discussed whether the remaining projects could stand alone. Motion to sever projects 1 and 3 and approve projects 2 and 4 with a question about miscellaneous Costs in project 4 in the amount of \$176,000 by Mr. Donaldson and seconded Chair Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.
19. **Orangeburg and Calhoun County Joint Application.** This is a new application with attached letters from each county administrator, submitted by Tri-County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Mr. Donaldson recused himself from the discussion. Ms. Helou-Allen asked if the board was ok with paying for vehicle leases. There was a board discussion about fringe and the part time deputy employee salary. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$202,631.62 subject to explanation of \$70,000 for a part time deputy in Orangeburg County by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Vice Chair Bussells, m/c unanimous.
  20. **Pickens County.** This application is a continuation for neonatal abstinence syndrome program extension. Mr. Chappell recused himself from discussion. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$313,908 by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Vice Chair Bussells, m/c unanimous.
  21. **City of Summerville.** This is a new application from the City of Summerville Police Department to hire an opioid education coordinator for the department and the public, with authorization and letter from the city administrator allowing for severability. Board discussion about the requested equipment and a question about whether a taser is needed for opioid abatement. Board discussed issues with vehicle add on equipment because the additional equipment is not an approved opioid abatement strategy. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$140,351 minus all items of equipment except the basic vehicle by Vice Chair Bussells and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.
  22. **Williamsburg County.** This application is a continuation from Circle Park Behavioral Health Services to expand and enhance MAT delivery services. Chairman Bedingfield stated they are now the only MAT provider in the county, and there was board discussion about this. Motion to approve request in the amount of \$128,961 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.
  23. **York County.** This application is a continuation from Keystone Substance Abuse Services for staffing and operational cost for inpatient unit and MAT program and for school-based programming and media campaign. Vice Chair Bussells said they are not to supplant funds and said the application would be ok if they reframe their request with impact statements rather than outlining reimbursements. Mr. Donaldson agreed that reimbursement rates are unfavorable and is confused about their ask. Chair Bedingfield said the bulk of the application is requesting funds for salaries. Staff asked to speak with the finance team and provide technical assistance. Motion to deny application and encourage applicant to focus

on impact of funds and not ways in which it will supplement existing funds by Vice Chair Bussells and second from Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.