

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board Meeting
April 11, 2023
Via Zoom

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present via Zoom: Eric Bedingfield, Martine Helou-Allen, Toby Chappell, Hon. H. Bruce Williams, Gary Mixon, Mayes DuBose

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the March 15, 2023, SCORF Board meeting was made by Chairman Bedingfield and seconded by Dr. DuBose, all ayes, minutes approved m/c unanimous.

New Business

Chairman Bedingfield began the revised GPS application review.

1. Berkeley County. Board Staff consulted with Berkeley County to ask whether the partner applications needed to remain bundled for consideration by the Board or could the applications be considered separately. The County agreed the applications can be approved or denied individually.
 - a. Children in Crisis. The implementation plan and budget are related to their strategies. Mr. Mixon noted all the Berkeley County applications appear evenly divided rather than the money being divided according to their strategies. Motion to approve request for \$142,627 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Helou, m/c unanimous.
 - b. Changed Lives Ministries. While the implementation plan is loosely related to their strategy, there is no information on how the program is directly related to opioid use. Ms. Helou-Allen reminded the Board if the applicant's plan is not opioid specific, the Board does not have authority to issue the GPS Subfunds. Attorney Libet agreed and stated the Board must look at the words of application to make this determination. Chair Bedingfield and Mr. Mixon agreed w/ Ms. Helou-Allen that this application was not opioid specific and did not meet the criteria for approval. Motion to deny by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.
 - c. Wake up Carolina. Strategy includes Naloxone, fentanyl testing strips, MAT distribution, and other opioid-related treatment. Ms. Helou asked whether the available DAODAS supplies meet their demand. The Board discussed the availability of funds to applicants through other sources and Attorney Libet stated the applicants may diversify their funding sources. Chair Bedingfield stated the \$29,000 budgeted line item is reasonable, and although the board can ask them to use this portion of funds elsewhere, they cannot require this. Motion to approve request for \$142,627 by Ms. Helou-Allen, and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.

- d. Ernest Kennedy Center. Strategy includes Naloxone and MAT and other opioid related treatment. Ms. Helou asked about the requested funds for a training source, and brought up LEON and ROLL free training, which is only for first responders. Mr. Mixon said they are asking for this funding to expand training to school officials and support groups. Motion to approve request for \$142,627 by Mr. Mixon, and seconded by Mr. Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.
 - e. Coroner's Office. Staff spoke with their office and confirmed the funds are requested to perform autopsies and toxicology rather than a system to collect and disseminate data. These funds will supplement their budget to pay for opioid related deaths. Board discussion about how the data collection will assist with opioid epidemic and the application does not appear to clearly indicate what the funds will used for and how Coroner's offices could use some assistance especially if this relates to loss revenues expended to combat the opioid crisis. Attorney Libet commented there needs to be more information and a clear connection of data collection to the approved strategy. There was some discussion about developing a strategy with the coroner's office, and whether staff would communicate with them about the directness of their application. Motion to deny by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.
 - f. Remnant House Outreach Ministries. The implementation plan and budget relate to their strategy; however, the plan is not opioid specific. Strategy includes recovery and support services for men but not clear that serving opioid use population. Motion to deny by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Helou, m/c unanimous.
 - g. Fairhaven Home for Men. The request is not opioid centered. Strategy includes recovery support wraparound services for men. Serving the opioid use population Chair Bedingfield said we will continue to run into issues with applicants needing to be opioid centric in funding requests, and there was some discussion among the board with ideas of how to remedy this. Motion to deny by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Gary Mixon, m/c unanimous.
2. Barnwell County. The implementation plan and budget relate to their strategy; however, the budget needs more detail. Attorney Libet stated the application can be approved upon condition of more budget detail information. Motion to conditionally approve request for \$242,235.99 by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Ms. Helou, m/c unanimous.
 3. City of Charleston: This is a revised and resubmitted application. Revisions responded to the Board's prior concerns including removal of request for police overtime, removed request for technology to get into cell phones, and Naloxone for emergency services since they have DAODAS for these funds. Attorney Libet commented this is a good example of the process of revising applications. Motion to approve request for \$554,360.67 by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.
 4. Edgefield County: The implementation plan and budget are only loosely related to their strategy. Board discussion that the application needs to be narrowed, more directly tied to their strategy, and be more opioid specific. Also the application seems like more law enforcement focused but not related to the opioid crisis. The applicant has time to revisit and really consider community needs and opportunities. Motion to deny by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Judge Williams, m/c unanimous.

5. Hampton County: Board discussion about whether to approve or deny because applicant asking to supply Naloxone to first responders and police which are LEON and ROLL fund eligible, although EMS Naloxone is not funded by DAODAS. Attorney Libet said Board should not deny this request solely on this basis, however the Board can provide information about these other programs. There was a discussion about the best way for staff to make this suggestion to groups to help them stretch dollars. Motion to approve request for \$60,666.71 by Ms. Helou, and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.
6. Kershaw County: The implementation plan includes leadership planning and coordination, training for staff and networking, programs to improve capability, Naloxone distribution, and prevention among other items. Will need to see if they are a community distributor for Narcan. Discussion and explanation about the purpose of a Naloxone vending machine and how it works. Motion to approve request for \$339,499 by Chair Bedingfield, and seconded by Mr. Ms. Helou, m/c unanimous.
7. City of Columbia: The strategy is for expansion of recovery services. Application needs a more detailed breakdown of the budget, and more details about salary. Board discussion about salary sustainability and budget tie-in related to this request and how is the strategy opioid centric. Motion to deny by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Martine Helou, m/c unanimous.
8. City of Spartanburg Fire Department: This is the second request for GPS funds. They were previously awarded \$229,634 for salaries, and they do have funds left for which they can apply. This request is for prevention wellness support of first responders. Motion to approve request for \$34,350 by Ms. Helou, and seconded by Judge Williams, m/c unanimous.
9. Pickens County: Motion to approve request for \$151,300 by Mr. Chappell, and seconded by Ms. Helou, m/c unanimous.
10. City of West Cola: Application is for services for care in recovery. Motion to approve request for \$205,308.02 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.
11. Georgetown County, and Georgetown County First Responders: Mr. Chappell raised some concerns which included request for flexible funding for material transportation and recovery scholarships and uncertainty about what this is, funding for narcotics officers long-term and whether this is opioid specific since the wording in the application says fentanyl only, and the budget breakdown does not equal their request. Attorney Libet said both applications can be funded. Board discussion about these issues and whether GPS applicants are aware of their year over year allocation amounts and how that will vary. Attorney Libet said we can give them projections and ask them if that is what they want to do with funds and inform them. Mr. Chappell said they need to provide more detail about how officers can be targeted specifically for opioid and fentanyl. Motion to deny both applications by Mr. Chappell and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.

12. Keystone for York County: Board discussion about clarification of details in application to avoid supplantation particularly to understand if they are diversifying funding versus supplanting. Attorney Libet said there needs to be more detail about the link between requested funds and abatement strategy. Motion to deny, pending further clarification about funding from DAODAS and exactly what will do with SCORF funds, by Ms. Helou and seconded by Chair Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.
13. Richland County: Application for Alvin S Glenn Detention Center to support treatment for incarcerated persons and address their treatment, and for data collection. Board discussion that the data gathering strategy is not clear. They did not provide descriptive information about the software, and strategy is not opioid specific, but more like general software for prison inmate tracking. Motion to deny by Chair Bedingfield and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.
14. Aiken County: This is a clear application with broad strategies for Naloxone and OUD treatment. Motion to approve request for \$123,927.43 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Mr. Chappell, m/c unanimous.
15. City of Irmo: Application is for community distribution of Narcan, media campaigns and communications. Discussion about budget and Tall Cop line item. Motion to approve request for \$50,000 by Ms. Helou and seconded by Chair Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.

Chair Bedingfield the next Board meeting has already been scheduled for May 22, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.