

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board Meeting
January 19, 2023
Via Zoom

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Bedingfield called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. via Zoom. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Board Members Present: Martine Helou-Allen, Toby Chappell, Eric Bedingfield, Hon. Bruce Williams, Aditi Bussells

New Business

Chairman Bedingfield began the review of the revised GPS applications.

1. City of N. Charleston. Prior issue of application including EMS supplies and Board needed legal clarification about what is allowable. Also, certain strategies in application did not include a cost. The City updated the application to include details about supplies. A question was raised whether the updated application included sufficient detail and whether requested EMS supplies have to be exclusively used for opioids. Attorney Libet indicated the updated application fits the requirements for allowable supplies. Judge Williams raised the issue of whether the funds are being used to supplant or supplement and there was a discussion about reminding applicants that supplanting funds is not allowed. Motion to approve and seconded, m/c unanimous. The City of North Charleston's request for \$347,050 request was approved.
2. Town of Lexington Police Department. Prior issues related to funding requests for canine training, drug recognition experts and needing more information connecting the request to abatement strategies. The updated application aligns funding with strategies and resolves other issues. Motion to approve, seconded, m/c unanimous. The Town of Lexington Police Department request for \$121,924.45 was approved.
3. Florence County. Prior issue that budget requests needed to align with approved abatement strategies and applicants cannot request all future funds be immediately transferred upon receipt. The updated application includes new strategies and budgets, but still asks for future funds to be forwarded as received and does not relate funds to specific abatement strategies. Mr. Chappell expressed concern with the lack of detail in Section E of the application where funds are not allocated to a strategy and will be moved around at the applicant's discretion. Attorney Libet noted that funds have to be used for the specific purposes for which they are requested and the Board cannot approve requests seeking an allocation for funding without knowing yet what the funds will be used for. There needs to

be more clarity about the proposed programs and the applicant should possibly only ask for the portion of their allocation for which there are specific strategies. Ms. Helou-Allen noted the application does not appear to have a plan for the strategies. A recommendation was made to deny this request. Motion to deny, it was seconded, all ayes. Judge Williams asked Board staff to explain the specific concerns to the applicant.

4. Clarendon County. Attorney Libet stated the application is still not opioid specific enough and seems to be treating addiction and drug problems in general. Chairman Bedingfield agreed and suggested since the Board is so close to a new GPS application period, the applicant can reapply in February. There was a motion to deny, and seconded, all ayes.
5. The agenda lists Charleston County Government in error. The application from City of Charleston is before the Board for revised review.
 - a. City of Charleston. No updated application information at the time of this meeting for the Board to review.

Chairman Bedingfield informed the Board that a Doodle poll will be sent out with times for the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.