

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 08, 2011**

Attendance:

Members

Director Sidney Rubenstein, DDS – Chair
Director Glen Grayman, MD

Staff

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer
Tricia Wheeler, Program Manager

Committee Members

Bev Greer, Administrator, Stroke Recovery Center
Robert Taylor, Superior Court Judge (retired)
Kim McNulty, Project Manager, CVEP
Matthew Keane, PA-C, ICON
Allen Howe, City of Cathedral City

Via Conference Call

Mitch Nieman, Community Member

Absent Committee members

Elizabeth Toledo, Program Manager, Building Healthy Communities

Guests

Terry Green, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Ernie Rios, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Chris Thompson, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Heather Basye, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Lenea Pollett, Palm Springs Unified School District
Pebbles Miller, Palm Springs Unified School District

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Director Grayman. (Chairman Rubenstein joined the meeting at 10:20am and requested Director Grayman continue as acting Chair for the duration of the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion was made by Committee member Taylor and seconded by Committee member McNulty to approve the agenda. Motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Grayman requested guests introduce themselves to the Committee. Mr. Rios, Mr. Green, Mr. Thompson and Ms. Basye introduced themselves and explained they represent the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, whose grant application will be discussed as presented on the agenda.

Ms. Pollett and Ms. Miller introduced themselves and explained that they have been hired by the Palm Springs Unified School District to administer the 3 ½ year program funded by DHCD (Grant #624 “Nutrition Education and Physical Activity for School Children”). Ms. Pollett informed the Committee of the activities currently underway and will provide Program Staff with a calendar of upcoming events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Committee member Taylor and seconded by Committee member Keane to approve the minutes of February 08, 2011 as submitted. Motion was approved.

GRANTS

a. Grant administration reports

Members received the latest update of current active grants.

c. Pending requests for consideration

ID# 640. The Committee reviewed a request for \$80,000 from Desert Women for Equality to support We Care Mammogram Program. A Motion was made by Committee member McNulty and seconded by Committee member Taylor to recommend approval of this request to the Board. Motion was approved.

ID# 643. The Committee reviewed a request for \$125,000 from the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership/Pathways to Success to support Healthcare Professionals Scholarship Fund (2011).

Discussion ensued regarding the students who received the first of the DHCD/Pathways to Success scholarships in 2009. One of these students has graduated; the rest continue in their education with graduation dates ranging from 2011 to 2013. The main topic was: Should these students be eligible to re-apply? If so, should they receive priority? And how much funding from this request (if any) should be earmarked for this purpose?

Key points:

- The Program Committee supported the concept of having the returning students re-apply so long as they met with Pathways to Success criteria (attendance, grades, compliance with the Pathways to Success program).

- The Program Committee supported the concept of additional funding being made available for this purpose, rather than have new students competing with existing students for the same dollars.
 - It was discussed that new students have been prepared through the High School Health Academies to be expected to be able to apply for various scholarships, including from DHCD. It was felt that should the funds from this grant be decreased by allowing returning students to compete for the same funding, it would discourage new students from attending college.

A Motion was made by Committee member Taylor and seconded by Chairman Rubenstein to recommend approval of this request to the Board, and to encourage the Board to consider funding of renewal applicants. Staff was requested to work with Terry Green to determine the number of returning students who would require one year of funding, those that would require two years of funding and a dollar amount (to be matched by Pathways to Success) that would enable scholarships to all of these students. Motion was approved; Community Member McNulty abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ms. Craig informed the Committee that Staff continues to meet with agencies receiving Food Assistance Grants. Staff is in the process of determining the needs of individual programs, and continues to work with Lisa Houston of FIND Food Bank and Christy Porter of Hidden Harvest. The findings and recommendations on the Food Assistance Program will be presented to the Board at their next meeting being held on March 22, 2011 at 2:00pm. All Committee members are invited to attend.
- b. Ms. Craig informed the Committee of the outcomes from the February 22, 2011 Board Meeting study session regarding HEALNet. It was determined that the frequency of the monthly general sessions of HEALNet will be decreased; the individual workgroups will meet as needed; the CDC Baseline Measurements will be completed by March 31, 2011 and the work plan (as approved in the original grant contract) will be updated to include current timelines.
- c. The O'Bayley Communications Summary of Public Relations Activities for 2010 was included in the packet for Committee member information. The Committee expressed they were pleased by the amount of new coverage the District receives on press releases. The report discusses an upcoming news release regarding a parking lot. Mr. Young informed the Committee that the District is financing a new Solar Parking lot for the Hospital, including car charging stations. The energy generated by the solar parking lot will feed into the Comprehensive Cancer Center. The lot is located on Mel Avenue (the vacant lot behind Hanson House). Construction is scheduled to begin March 14, 2011 and scheduled end July 11, 2011.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None

STAFF COMMENTS

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30a.m.

DRAFT