

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2011**

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Attendance:

Members

Director Sidney Rubenstein, DDS – Chair

Staff

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer  
Tricia Wheeler, Program Manager  
Peter Young, Chief Executive Officer  
Steve Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant

Committee Members

Bev Greer, Administrator, Stroke Recovery Center  
Robert Taylor, Superior Court Judge (retired)  
Mitch Nieman, Community Member  
Elizabeth Toledo, Program Manager, Building Healthy Communities  
Matthew Keane, PA-C, ICON  
Allen Howe, City of Cathedral City

Absent Committee members

Director Glen Grayman, MD  
Kim McNulty, Project Manager, CVEP

Guests

Diana Nancy DeLeon, Project Manager, HEALNet  
Lucy Moreno, Administrative Assistant, HEALNet  
Orville Bigelow, Project Manager, Palm Springs Unified School District  
Linea Pollett, Nutrition Coordinator, Palm Springs Unified School District

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Director Rubenstein.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linnea Pollett of Palm Springs Unified School District introduced Orville Bigelow to the Program Committee. Mr. Bigelow has been hired by Palm Springs Unified School District under funding from the Desert Healthcare District (for Grant #624, "Nutrition Education and Physical Activity for School Children"). Mr. Bigelow shared with the Committee an update on the progress of grant activity (hand-out attached).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A Motion was made by Committee member Taylor and seconded by Committee member Howe to approve the minutes of April 12, 2011 as submitted. Motion was approved; due to her absence at that meeting Ms. Toledo abstained.

## **GRANTS**

### **a. Grant administration reports**

Members received the latest update of current active grants.

### **b. Progress reports**

Ms. Craig informed the Committee that staff will include each month in the Committee Packet the progress reports from pilot programs, large dollar grants, multi-year funding, etc so that the Committee stays informed regarding programs they have recommended to the Board for funding.

Chairman Rubenstein reviewed the progress grant reports from:

- Grant #572, Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation, "Low Wage Healthcare Worker Live Improvement Pilot Program"
- Grant #608, Cielo Vista Charter School, "Soaring to Change the Community"
- Grant #560, Regional Access Project Foundation, "Healthy Eating Active Living Network (HEALNet)"

Committee Member Neiman asked what the next steps of the program will be. Ms. DeLeon explained that the results of the CDC Baseline Data will be presented to the HEALNet members at their May 18th meeting; then the HEALNet workgroups will convene in June for review of the work plan and begin its implementation.

### **c. Pending requests for consideration**

ID# 636. The Committee reviewed an updated request for \$202,482 from Hidden Harvest to support "Fresh and Healthy".

Discussion regarding the grant budget – Committee member Neiman asked for clarification on the percentage of Hidden Harvest's total budget this request represented. Ms. Porter explained that \$623,480 is the total organizational budget for

the year. 56% of the produce they provide is utilized by agencies within the District (this is a ratio based upon 10 years of service within the entire Coachella Valley).

Hidden Harvest is requesting \$202,482 to offset the cost of providing fruits and vegetables to the agencies within the District. In answer to questions regarding the budget, Ms. Porter will clarify the total cost of providing produce to the agencies *within* the District and resubmit the updated budget to accompany her agency's request to the Board.

A Motion was made by Committee member Toledo and seconded by Committee member Greer to recommend approval of this request to the Board. Motion was approved.

**d. No-cost grant extension**

ID# 505. The Committee reviewed a 17-month no-cost grant extension from Regional Access Project Foundation to support "Technical Assistance Program".

A Motion was made by Committee member Keane and seconded by Committee member Howe to recommend approval of this request to the Board. Motion was approved. Ms. Toledo abstained from the vote as she is employed by Regional Access Project Foundation.

ID# 488. The Committee reviewed a 3-month no-cost grant extension from Alzheimer's Association to support "Latino Healthcare Project".

A Motion was made by Committee member Neiman and seconded by Committee member Taylor to recommend approval of this request to the Board. Motion was approved.

**e. Pending Grants Under Review & Discussions with CBOs**

Director Rubenstein informed the Committee that the report was in the packet for their review. Ms. Craig asked if the Committee had any questions or comments. Ms. Greer updated the Committee regarding the status of her organization's request for capital equipment – as mentioned at the April 12, 2011 meeting of the Program Committee, representatives from Stroke Recovery Center (SRC), Mizell Senior Center and Joslyn Senior Center have been in negotiations for SRC to be the provider for the Meals on Wheels programs. As the first step, SRC has begun to provide congregate meals to the Mizell Senior Center and this has been a success. It is anticipated that by July 01, 2011 SRC will begin to provide Meals On Wheels to both Senior Centers. Additionally, Ms. Greer has met with Ron Stewart, Interim Deputy Director - CalFresh, General Relief, Medi-Cal & Homeless Programs County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services, and he is requesting the Federal Government approve a pilot program that would enable senior citizens to utilize Cal Fresh dollars to pay for meals provided by Meals on Wheels and for the clients of SRC to pay for the lunch meal served at SRC.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Director Rubenstein informed the Committee that at its April 26, 2011 meeting the Board of Directors approved Grant #652, "Physical Fitness Challenge" as per the Committee's recommendation. Additionally, at the same meeting, the County of Riverside's "Desert Hot Springs Family Care Center" was reviewed and it was suggested by the Board that consideration be given to authorize the funds in exchange for 5 acres of land. The topic was tabled for vote so that the County representatives had time consider this request.

Director Rubenstein updated the Committee on the status of the District Chief Executive Officer search, stating that the application process is complete and the Board will be reviewing the applications and will begin the interview process. Director Rubenstein stated that the Board has been very fortunate to have Mr. Young filling in as the Interim Chief Executive Officer.

Director Rubenstein informed the Committee that he, Ms. Craig, Ms. Wheeler and Mr. Brown attended the opening of the Jim and Jackie Lee Houston House at Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation. He stated that if any Committee member has the opportunity to attend such an event, it would reinforce their resolve to be sure to do the right thing at the right time and thanked the Committee for doing so.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Toledo, in her role of Project Manager with Building Healthy Communities, is working with the Palm Springs Cultural Center to expand their Farmer's Markets into the City of Coachella. The markets are certified to accept Cal Fresh as a form of payment, and the California Endowment will match Cal Fresh dollars spent at the market, doubling the amount of produce clients can purchase.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.