

ADVOCACY & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Thursday March 9, 2023

Fond du Lac Office – Head Start Activity Room

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Gary Will, Mary Fleischman, Danielle Viau, Don Nussbaum, Connie Anderson, Darlene Bilstad

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Christina Fowler, Sadie Vander Velde

STAFF

Tanya Marcoe, Tony Beregszazi, Deb Shepro, Kathy Doyle, Diane Radue-Branson, Pam Ziegler, Jason VanderVelden, Kelly Mauer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Gary Will. A quorum of 6/8 was present.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Don Nussbaum with a second by Gary Will to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Darlene Bilstad to approve the November 10, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Business Development: SBA Microloan TA, PRIME, and Skills Enhancement – Kathy Doyle presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs Business Development program which provides training and technical assistance such as business marketing, financial plan development, assessing borrower's skills and inventory of resources, and personalized training in accounting. ADVOCAP is seeking the Committee's authorization to apply for \$98,000 in SBA-PRIME funding to assist 150 rural low-income people, and ADVOCAP will match the funds for a total project cost of \$196,000. The Microloan Technical Assistance grant acts as an annual assessment of our success in meeting milestones, and ADVOCAP has been allocated \$54,808 for TA funds from the SBA.

Kathy presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs skills enhancement program that helps low-income people get training they need through educational courses by helping to pay for college/training courses, assisting with paying for books and class materials, and promoting stackable credential opportunities. ADVOCAP also assists in removing barriers for those individuals such as transportation and childcare to help aid in their skill enhancement activities. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization to apply for funding from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to support our 3-county service area through the Skills Enhancement program. This is a state allocated grant and ADVOCAP has been awarded \$20,833.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Mary Fleischman to approve application for the Federal and State Based Grants as presented. Motion carried.

Food and Nutrition: Senior Nutrition Program Funding – Deb Shepro presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs Senior nutrition program which helps older adults improve their physical health, maintain their independence, and increase their quality of health. ADVOCAP provides them with 5 meals a week, health education by our dietitian as well as providing participants an opportunity to socialize during the congregate meal or home delivered meals, and provide participants with hygiene products, special nutritional drink, and medical equipment to those who are in need. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization from the Committee to apply for a Community Development Block Grant- City of Neenah in the amount of approximately \$10,000 to support program costs. Approval to apply for a Community Services Block Grant- Oshkosh Funding Consortium Grant for approximately \$25,000 to support the program cost, and the approval to submit a continuation application to United Way Fox Cities for approximately \$53,131 to help support the costs of the program.

A motion was made by Don Nussbaum with a second by Connie Anderson to approve application for the United Way Fox Cities Grant, Community Development Block Grant- City of Neenah, and a Community Services Block Grant- Oshkosh Funding Consortium Grant as presented. Motion carried.

Homeless Prevention: EHH and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation- Deb Shepro presented an overview of ADVOCAPs Homeless Prevention Programs which assists individuals and families in securing permanent housing by identifying their needs, help with finding resources and applying for those resources, help with finding housing whether it's through Housing Choice voucher or public housing, and advocating with landlords. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization from the Committee to apply for funding through the EHH grant application which includes the Emergency Solutions Grant, the Homeless Housing Program Grant and the Homeless Prevention Program Grant. The grant provides funds for rapid rehousing assistance in all 3 counties, motel vouchers in Green Lake County, financial assistance for the Solution Center, St. Katherine Drexel Shelter, and the Day-by-Day Warming Shelter. ADVOCAP is seeking the Committee's authorization to apply for the renewals for the current programs in the amount of \$273,947 and to be a sub-recipient for the City of Appleton Grant for \$60,100.

ADVOCAP is also seeking authorization to request funds from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$57,000 for the Green Lake County Basic Needs Grant to support our Green Lake Community Response Fund. This fund provides one-time emergency financial assistance to cover a need in a household, car repairs, employment equipment/clothing, medical and other costs to keep a stable household.

A motion was made by Mary Fleischman with a second by Connie Anderson to approve application of the EHH Grant, renewals for the current program, and funds from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation for the Green Lake County Basic Needs Grant as presented. Motion carried.

Head Start: State Supplement, COLA & Quality Improvement – Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs Head Start program that offers Center Based programming in Early Childhood Development and Health Services for the children enrolled in the program. Head Start is a family focused program designed to foster the parents' role as the principal influence on the child's development, and they complete a family partnership agreement which helps develop the parents' strengths to meet personal and family goals. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization of the Committee to apply for three Grants, the Head Start State Supplement Grant in the amount of approximately \$107,828, the COLA Grant in the amount of approximately \$64,144, and the Quality Improvement Grant in the amount of approximately \$12,595.

A motion was made by Don Nussbaum with a second by Connie Anderson to approve application for the Head Start Supplement Grant as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Don Nussbaum with a second by Mary Fleischman to approve application for the COLA Grant as presented. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Darlene Bilstad with a second by Connie Anderson to approve application for the Quality Improvement Grant as presented. Motion Carried.

Volunteer Services: Foster Grandparent Program – Deb Shepro presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs Foster Grandparent Program which provides a stipend to low-income seniors who volunteer to support area elementary students on a one-to-one basis or in small groups to help them stay focused and understand the content of their class lessons. Foster Grandparents also provide emotional support, meaningful praise, motivate, listen, talk to, and encourage students to do their very best in school and in life. ADVOCAPs Foster Grandparent program also provides volunteers with educational and social opportunities, helping the grandparents live a well-rounded and emotionally healthy life. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization to apply for a renewal application to AmeriCorps for \$238,020 in Federal Funding.

A motion was made by Mary Fleischman with a second by Don Nussbaum to approve application for the AmeriCorps application as presented. Motion carried.

Weatherization: Home/Housing Rehab: Jason VanderVelden presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs Weatherization Program which helps low-income individuals and families purchase a home, maintain a home, and provide foreclosure prevention. ADVOCAP is seeking authorization to submit an application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration: Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources to request \$165,000 from the HOME Homebuyer and Rehabilitation Program. ADVOCAP is also seeking the Committees authorization to apply for the Housing Cost Reduction Initiative Program in the amount of approximately \$120,000.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Darlene Bilstad to approve application for the HOME Homebuyer and Rehabilitation Program, and the Housing Cost Reduction Initiative Program as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of revision to HOME Rehab Loan Program

Tanya presented to the Committee an overview of ADVOCAPs HOME Rehabilitation Loan Program current policy which provides a 0% deferred loan to the homeowner in the form of a mortgage for the total amount of work that is done. There is no payment due on the mortgage until the time the home is sold, or it is no longer the owner's primary policy. The two issues with the current policy are one useful life ends and there is still a mortgage in place, and no equity is built so when homeowners request more work to be done, they can't get it done because there is not enough equity. The second issue is that in 2016, the State changed what ADVOCAP could do with loan repayments. The State required us to pay them back for any loans that we collected, and we can no longer re-loan that money to individuals in our community. Since 2016, we've collected from our community over \$1 million in loans that we ultimately had to send back to the State, and that money is no longer in our community.

Management proposed that we change our current policy as follows:

ADVOCAP will provide a 0%, deferred loan to the homeowner in the form of a mortgage for the total amount of work that is done. There is no payment due on the mortgage until the time the home is sold, or it is no longer the owner's primary residence. After 10 years from the date of the mortgage, the loan will be forgiven.

Management is also requesting that we forgive all existing HOME rehab loans that are older than 10 years. This is an estimated investment in our community of approximately \$3.5 million and will affect approximately 250 households. This money will now stay in our community.

Gary Will recommended a 15-year loan forgiveness and Don Nussbaum made a motion to change the 10-year loan forgiveness to a 15-year loan forgiveness.

A motion was made by Don Nussbaum with a second by Darlene Bilstad to change the 10-year loan forgiveness to a 15 year loan forgiveness. Motion carried.

2022 Annual Plan Year End Report

Deb Shepro presented to the Committee ADVOCAPs 2022 Year End Report where in many areas we came in at well over 100% on our outcomes and goals. This past year ADVOCAP served more than 7,500 people and 3,500 households with different services.

Representative for Nominations Committee

Tanya Marcoe asked the Committee for volunteers to be on the Nominations Committee, and Darlene Bilstad nominated herself for the Nominations Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REPORTS

Tanya informed the Committee of the Childcare Incubator Program that is being brought to the Planning and Program Development Committee for approval. She also informed the Committee of Beth Z. resignation as the Director of HS.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- a) Board meeting, April 20th in Oshkosh at JP Coughlin Center
- b) Annual Meeting in Green Lake County, May 11th- TBD
- c) Committee meeting, June 8th in Fond du Lac ADVOCAP Office- HS Activity Room

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Don Nussbaum to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes By: Pam Ziegler