

ADVOCACY & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Thursday, November 9, 2023
JP Coughlin Center – Room B
625 E. County Rd Y | Oshkosh, WI 54901

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Gary Will, Raina Lyman, Connie Anderson, Danielle Viau

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mary Fleischman, Don Nussbaum, Ed Jeziorny

STAFF

Tanya Marcoe, Tony Beregszazi, Pam Ziegler, Kathy Doyle, Brian Jacobson, Amy Lang

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chair Gary Will. A quorum of 4/7 was present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tanya Marcoe requested the addition of ADVOCAPs 2023 final CSBG Report as item 6c, and the edition of RSVP Volunteer Transportation/Mileage Reimbursement Rate as item 6d.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Danielle Viau to approve the agenda with the addition of ADVOCAP's 2023 final CSBG Report and the RSVP Volunteer Transportation/Mileage Reimbursement Report. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2023, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Gary Will to approve the November 9, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

- a) Business and Workforce Development: Kathy Doyle presented to the Committee the SBA-Microloan Technical Assistance Grant for their approval to apply. Kathy informed the Committee that the grant is used to provide technical training and assistance to eligible low-income local micro-entrepreneurs. ADVOCAP would like to apply for \$61,321 in funding.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Raina Lyman to approve applying for the SBA Microloan Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$61,321 as presented. Motion carried.

- b) Food and Nutrition: Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee the City of Neenah Community Development Block Grant to help support our Senior Nutrition Program. ADVOCAP is looking to apply for \$20,000 to support the costs of the program including labor, vehicles, gas, food, hygiene supplies, nutritional drinks, ect.

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Connie Anderson to approve applying for the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$20,000 as presented. Motion carried.

- c) Homeless Prevention: Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation from The Green Lake County Basic Needs Grant. This grant is used to provide one-time, emergency financial assistance to individuals who live in Green Lake County. It will also be used for housing costs, utilities, car repairs, employment equipment/clothing, medical and other costs to keep households stable. ADVOCAP is looking to apply for \$10,000 for the 2024-2025 grant year. The Committee was discussing other ideas to raise money for Green Lake County and recommended talking to Flash Trucking, Badger Mining, and Del Monte.

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Connie Anderson to approve applying for the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation from The Green Lake County Basic Needs Grant in the amount of \$10,000 as presented. Motion carried.

- d) Homeless Prevention: Amy Lang presented to the Committee a renewal grant for Project ASPIRE through the Department of Justice in the amount of \$500,000 to be distributed over a 3-year period, to include a subcontract with Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services (CADASI). The grant will be used for domestic abuse survivors to provide rental housing for up to two years and any supportive services that they may need. ADVOCAP and CADASI will personalize the activities of Project Aspire to meet the individualized needs of the clients. These services include rental and utility assistance, case management, safety planning, childcare assistance, transportation, career counseling, financial and credit counseling, support groups, individual counseling, job training, education attainment, legal assistance, and housing advocacy.

A motion was made by Connie Anderson with a second by Danielle Viau to approve applying to the Department of Justice in the amount of \$500,000 to be distributed over a 3-year period, to include a subcontract with Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services (CADASI) as presented. Motion carried.

- e) Volunteer Services: Brian Jacobson presented to the Committee a renewal application to AmeriCorps to renew the Federal funding for the Foster Grandparents Program. We anticipate receiving \$238,020 in Federal funds, and we receive \$36,521 in State funds to support this program which covers our required match. The Foster Grandparents Program provides services in schools and other early childhood programs to help students increase their academic engagement, their social skills, and remedial skills.

A motion was made by Raina Lyman with a second by Gary Will to approve applying to AmeriCorps to renew the Federal funding for the Foster Grandparents Program as presented. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REPORTS

Tanya Marcoe informed the Committee that ADVOCAP has a Spring All-Staff meeting coming up on March 22, 2024, in Oshkosh at La Sures from 8am-12:15pm.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- a) Board Meeting, March 7, 2024, at the Fond du Lac Office. Tanya informed the Committee that we will have speaker Chad Dull at this meeting speaking on poverty informed practices.
- b) Committee Meetings, April 18, 2024, in Oshkosh
- c) Deb Presented to the Committee ADVOCAPs 2023 summary of CSBG Funded Programs and how many clients we have helped over the year. The total number of unduplicated persons served is 6,252, and unduplicated families served is 3,369.

- d) Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee a recommended policy change for the RSVP Volunteer Transportation/Mileage Reimbursement Rate that would go into effect on April 1, 2024. Our current policy pays volunteers half the IRS rate for employees and caps the monthly amount to \$30 if volunteers worked 9 days or less, and up to \$50 if volunteers worked 10 or more days in a month. The recommended policy change is to provide mileage reimbursement to RSVP participants at 20 cents per mile, with a cap at 150 reimbursable miles per month which is equivalent to \$30 maximum per month. This change is needed due to us exceeding our budget last year and we are on track to exceed the budget again this year.

A motion was made by Gary Will with a second by Connie Anderson to approve the Policy change for the RSVP Volunteer Transportation/Mileage Reimbursement Rate as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Connie Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes By: Pam Ziegler