



HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the November 12, 2014 Board Meeting

Members Present:

Nancy Isserlis, Chair; Marty Martin, Vice Chair; Kevin Oldenburg, Jason Thackston, Dave Vachon, Frank Velázquez and Mike Wilson

Members Absent:

Jeff Collins, Gary Pollack

Staff Present:

Susan Ashe, Executive Director

Gaylene Lewin, Accountant

Guests:

Alison Card White and Lu Eagle, Empire Health Foundation

Brian Schaeffer, Assistant Fire Chief, Spokane Fire Department

1) Call to Order

Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3 p.m. The meeting was held in the McKinstry SIERR Building, Roundhouse 1 & 2, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 & 2 conference rooms.

2) Approval of Minutes

Gary Pollack moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2014 Board meeting and Kevin Oldenburg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Board Actions

- A) Kevin Oldenburg moved that the HSSA Board approve both the minutes of the regular August 6, 2014 Board meeting, as well as the minutes of the Strategic Investment Plan, also held on August 6th. Mike Wilson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- B) Marty Martin moved to approve a co-cost extension to the grant period for the Dahl Natural LLC, now doing business as BioSense Solutions, to April 30, 2015, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the modified agreement. Jason Thackston seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.
- C) Mike Wilson moved on behalf of the Grants Committee that the HSSA Board approve two HSSA RFP #10 grants to Partners with Families and Children in the amount of \$44,982, and to Spokane Prescription Assistance Network in the amount of \$30,000. Kevin Oldenburg seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

4) Chair's Report

Board Chair Isserlis reported that she had signed a series of warrants since the Board last met on August 6th, and when a warrant required two signatures these were provided by either Marty Martin, Board Vice Chair, or Jason Thackston, Finance Committee Chair.

She asked the Board to review the Action Plan developed from our Strategic Investment Plan Review held on August 6th. Questions, changes, or other counsel from the Board would be well received. Let Susan know.

She said that she had joined meetings of both the Finance and Grants Committee as they discussed certain items in the Action Plan for which they have responsibility. And, remember, strategic plans help guide us but they are "living" documents and will evolve over time, so they may change.

Given everyone's busy holiday schedules, she announced that the next Board meeting would be Wednesday, February 4, 2015. If the Board needs to meet between now and then, a "special meeting" will be called for a phone conference with only action items to be discussed.

5) Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ashe referred Board members to the written report in their Board package in the interest of time. She told the Board that just prior to today's meeting she had spoken with Dean Larsen, CEO, Spokane County Medical Society, and had subsequently received a letter from him withdrawing his Foundation's proposal for a HSSA RFP #10 grant for its Hot Spotters program. A copy of the letter was provided members.

6) Better Health Together Presentation

Grants Chair Mike Wilson introduced Alison Carl White who made a brief presentation about Better Health Together, as well as details about its \$50,000 grant proposal. A copy of the BHT presentation is attached. Assistant Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer also commented on the Hot Spotters program. The Board asked Ms. White and Assistant Fire Chief Schaeffer to get together and consider a combined, collaborative proposal for potential HSSA funding that more efficiently and cost effectively addressed the needs of these frequent users of the community's emergency services. The parties agreed to do so.

7) Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Finance Chair Jason Thackston reported that he had reviewed HSSA's financial through October 31st and found HSSA to be in good financial shape. The total tax remittance for the year through October is \$1,400,754, and an additional \$78,620 from Spokane County Allocated Earnings. The HSSA's ending cash balance as of Oct. 31 is \$12,450,630 with

committed payroll tax, grants and bond liabilities of \$10,997,433. Operating expenses year to date remain below 10% at 7%. The next bond Principal and Interest payment of \$1,080,712 will be December 1, 2014. The Debt Fund Services account balance for October is \$1,210,807.

Mr. Thackston also reported that he had participated in an exit interview with the Washington State Auditor's Office auditors regarding the three-year accountability audit that had just been completed. HSSA had a clean bill of health, no findings whatsoever, and serve as a model to other small agencies. He thanks Susan Ashe, Executive Director, and Gaylene Lewin, Accountant for their great work.

B) Grants Committee

Committee Chair Mike Wilson communicated his committee's recommendation in a motion to approve two grants from the organization's 15% Access to Care fund as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1) Partners with Families and Children | \$44,982 |
| 2) Spokane Prescription Assistance Network | \$30,000 |

Kevin Oldenburg seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the HSSA Board.

He noted that the Grants Committee had instructed the Executive Director to send a letter to both the Spokane County Medical Society and Better Health Together outlining questions the Committee had and seeking answers to a few key questions, as well as inviting both parties to the HSSA Board meeting to present. The Committee concluded it could not fund both proposals and thought that there could be some overlap, so it has set aside some funding in the event of a revised, collaborative proposal.

Mr. Wilson also reported on the Committee's discussion of items in the Strategic Investment Plan Action Plan the Committee was responsible for, such as the following:

HSSA RFP #5 - Invest in Human Capital to Accelerate Spokane's Health Sciences Research Capacity. The balance in this category is \$1,357,137.

- Continue to match funds (now up to \$750,000) for research faculty who spend 65% of their time in actual research and the balance is teaching and administrative functions.
- Continue to support laboratory equipment purchases and lab staff.
- Encourage commercialization from funded researchers and/or team members.
- Both state research universities, Washington State University and the University of Washington, are eligible for these funds as long as they are spent in Spokane County and meet other HSSA criteria and conditions.
- Prioritize clinician-researchers to strengthen translational research capabilities.

HSSA RFP #6 - Fund Innovative Research to Expedite Commercialization and Spur Job Growth. The balance in this category is \$3,132,767.

- Grantee is allowed a total of no more than \$1 million in HSSA grant funding.

- Grantee must have SBIR/STTR matching grants, or Foundation proof-of-concept grants to meet criteria for HSSA funding.
- Funded projects must be located in Spokane County.
- Grantees must be able to show a financial advantage to the community with economic development.

HSSA RFP #7 – Support Innovative Research that Advances Spokane as a National Leader in Health Delivery Research. The balance in this category is \$800,000 after one grant.

- The Board wishes to revisit this category and its validity. For the time being criteria remains the same, which is as follows:
 - These grants must demonstrate economic benefit for the region, by reducing cost of health care, reducing patient use of emergency care or hospital visits, or other community economic benefits.
 - Research examples include innovative approaches to clinic education and/or clinical service provision, helping to implement health science innovations into community-based clinical practices, and potential links between clinical innovations and public health indicators. Other examples include efficacy/effectiveness research that addresses the adoption of evidence-based practice by medical and health providers. The category also supports pilot studies, methodology studies, healthcare workforce, and/or feasibility studies examining the potential of healthcare innovations.

Additionally, the Committee will in the future visit the establishment of a “Flex Fund” category that would allow the Board the ability to invest in health sciences related research, medical devices and other opportunities that may not be covered in the three research categories.

Board Chair Isserlis concluded the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, February 4, 2015**.