



HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the November 4, 2015 Board Meeting

Members Present:

Nancy Isserlis, Chair; Olu Ekundayo, Kevin Oldenburg, Gary Pollack, Jason Thackston and Dave Vachon

Members Absent:

Dean Martz, Francisco Velàzquez, and Mike Wilson

Staff Present:

Susan Ashe, Executive Director
Gaylene Lewin, Consulting Accountant

Staff Absent:

James Emacio

Guests:

There were no guests.

1) Call to Order

Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The meeting was held in the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 & 2 conference rooms.

2) Approval of Minutes

Board member Kevin Oldenburg moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2015 Board meeting and Jason Thackston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Chair's Report

Board Chair Isserlis reported that she had signed a series of warrants since the Board last met on May 6, 2015, and when a warrant required two signatures these were provided by Jason Thackston, Finance Committee Chair.

Ms. Isserlis reported that she had received a letter from Washington Governor Jay Inslee reappointing Dr. Gary Pollack to the HSSA Board for a second four-year, effective October 21, 2015 through October 14, 2019.

There are currently no HSSA Board vacancies.

The Chair and Board discussed and reached agreement on its 2016 board meeting schedule and it is as follows:

Tuesday, January 12

Tuesday, April 5

Tuesday, July 12

Tuesday, October 11

Unless otherwise noted, all HSSA Board meeting will be held at 3 PM at the McKinstry Building, 850 E. Spokane Falls Boulevard, in the Roundhouse 1 and 2 conference rooms.

4) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's Report was included in the Board packet members received at the meeting. Ashe included a copy of an email she had sent to Board members describing the very successful 17th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference, held Oct. 27-29 in Seattle. She served on the statewide planning committee for the event, at which 650 people attended. She organized a group of Spokane organizations and companies and raised \$10,000 funding from these companies to ensure a good Spokane presence at the event. By all accounts, it was quite successful, particularly from the view of Spokane attendees and sponsors.

On behalf of HSSA, Ashe participated, along with WSU and Ignite NW, in the development of a \$2 million proposal to the Life Sciences Discovery Fund for an "Ecosystem" grant that improves commercialization opportunities from a center that serves local and state needs and carries on some of the LSDF's mission. The proposal is among six finalists, however significant revisions are required based on feedback from the LSDF. An earlier similar proposal for \$500,000 to the US SBA was declined.

5) Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Jason Thackston reported that he had reviewed HSSA's financials and found HSSA to continue to be in good financial shape. We are "better than budgeted in terms of results," he said. The total state tax remittance for year-to-date through September is \$1,322,943, and an additional \$65,856 from Spokane County Allocated Earnings. The HSSA's ending cash balance as of September 30, 2015 is \$11,088,956 with committed payroll tax, grants and bond liabilities of \$8,680,606. Operating expenses through March remain below the 10% goal at 6%.

B) Grants Committee

The HSSA Grants Committee met October 20, 2015 and in its discussions reached consensus on its \$235,000 annual HSSA RFP #11 Access to Care Grant to recommend to the full Board funding for four (4) projects. The recommendation was made by Gary Pollack and seconded by

Kevin Oldenburg, and the HSSA Board unanimously approved the recommendation. The approved grants are as follows:

Better Health Together	\$125,000
NECC Youth Counseling Services	
Expansion	\$ 45,000
Partners with Families & Children	\$ 35,000
Spokane Prescription Assistance Network	\$ 30,000
Total	\$235,000

The Executive Director will send grant letters to the awardees and to those proposals not funded, and she was asked to include a statement that suggests that while the HSSA is very supportive of the work contained in the proposal, continued funding at the same level should not be assumed, particularly for multi-year awardees who have reached success in its original goal. This grant is intended to encourage a competitive process that funds new innovative proposals for a start-up or transitional phase or idea. In fact, HSSA itself is currently only authorized until 2023, notwithstanding the success of any reauthorization effort. Ashe also will send a Grant Award Agreement to each recipient for signature.

In addition, the Grants Committee recommended that 2nd Sight Bioscience be awarded a grant of up to \$5,000 for SBIR grant-writing assistance under its new grant program intended to increase the potential success of small health/bio-science businesses to receive SBIR/STTR federal grants. The business has a patent and is developing a much more fast and less expensive way to develop new drugs by creating a fluorescent “fingerprint” of proteins and small molecules, and it could be a “game changer” in how clinical analysis is done. Gary Pollack moved the Board’s support and Dave Vachon seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed with the abstention by Kevin Oldenburg.

A third matter was presented by the Executive Director. In the interim between the Grants Committee meeting and the Board meeting, a request for a no-cost, six-month extension of the WSU Spokane Genomics Core Laboratory. This proposal was moved by Nancy Isserlis and seconded by Kevin Oldenburg. It was unanimously approved with one abstention by Gary Pollack.

Board discussed a proposal made during the Grants Committee meeting to support grants up to \$5,000 for grant-writing consultant assistance academic faculty members who are resubmitting an SBIR/STTR proposal for a multi-year project that has been deemed “acceptable” (in NIH terms, “scored”) but not funded. The applicant must be able to articulate a novel intellectual property that potentially leads to a commercializable product, process or service. It was discussed that this grant was modeled from the new \$5,000 grant-writing consultant assistance grant for small businesses recently approved by the Board. The Board determined it need not wait until its January 2016 meeting to approve; therefore a motion was presented by Gary Pollack, seconded by Kevin Oldenburg, and unanimously passed. The Executive Director will develop a document about both grant-writing assistance grants for announcement.

6) Counsel's Report

Counsel was not in attendance.

Board Chair Isserlis concluded the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m. The next Board meeting will be **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**, at 3 p.m. and will be held at the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 and 2 conference rooms. **Please note your calendars!** Subsequent meetings in 2016 will be held on April 5, July 12 and October 11, all Tuesdays at 3 p.m.