



Board Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 12:00PM, Spokane Public Library, Central Branch Events Room B

HSSA promotes bioscience based economic development and advances new therapies and procedures to prevent disease and promote public health.

The HSSA Board and staff comply with the Washington State Ethics in Public Service Act, chapter 42.52 RCW and the HSSA Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Policy.

A conflict of interest exists when a Board Member or employee has a direct or indirect Beneficial Interest in a proposed grant or other contract.

For purposes of disclosure a “Beneficial Interest” means a direct or indirect through business, investment, or family:

1. Ownership or Investment interest in any entity that has submitted a proposal for a contract or grant;
2. a current compensation arrangement with any entity or individual that has submitted a proposal for a contract or grant with the HSSA, a reasonably foreseeable potential future ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement; or
3. a current compensation arrangement with any entity or individual that has a significant competitive interest that would be affected by a grant or contract awarded by the HSSA.

If a Board Member or employee has conflict of interest, they should disclose the conflict to the Board Chair and not participate in discussion, approval, administration, or monitoring any such grant or contract.

Rev 8.21.2024

In attendance: Dr. Francisco Velázquez, Lewis Rumpler, Robin Pickering, Alex Jackson, John Powers, Vange Ocasio Hochheimer, Chandima Bandara, Julie Orchard, Alisha Benson, Allie Glasunow, Erin Williams Hueter, Amanda Hatcher, Patrick Jones joined at 12:15pm

1. Welcome- Board Chair Dr. Francisco Velázquez
2. Public Comment: No comments brought forward.
3. Board Chair Report and Executive Committee Update- Dr. Francisco Velázquez
 - A. Review of [Conflict of Interest](#) Policy and importance of transparency.
 - B. Brief review of HSSA grant-making history in the past 12 months
 - C. Strategic Plan Review and imperatives in 2025-2028
4. Executive Director Overview - Erin Williams Hueter

A. Phased Granting System

- i. Review of a Potential Phased Granting System to better meet the needs of grantees and the goals and expectations of HSSA:
- ii. Early Stage Startup, including grant writing assistance, proof of concept, legal services and business development consultation.
- iii. Level 1, including continuing Research and development efforts, exploration of commercialization, marketing, job creation and collaboration with Spokane County contractors.
- iv. Level 2, including commercialization and corresponding job development in Spokane County.
- v. Discussion regarding instituting an award amount limit which corresponds to the Grant Level being applied for. General consensus of the board was to consider implementing a limit on award amounts based upon the level being applied for. No formal vote was taken by the board regarding this issue at this time.

B. Lifetime Maximum Grant Award

- i. Discussion regarding implementation of a lifetime maximum grant award. General consensus of the board was to consider implementing a lifetime maximum grant award amount. No formal vote was taken by the board regarding this issue at this time.

C. Matching Grant Applicant Interviews

- i. Discussion regarding the inclusion of Grants Committee Interviews with Applicants
- ii. General consensus of the board was to consider performing qualified applicant interviews prior to the Grants Committee recommending awards to the board. No formal vote was taken by the board regarding this issue at this time.

D. Defining Bioscience

- i. Discussion regarding defining "Bioscience:" HSSA Founding Document Language vs NIH Language for clarity and transparency.
- ii. General consensus of the board was to rely on HSSA founding documents to define Bioscience. No formal vote was taken by the board regarding this issue at this time.

E. Match Recency

- i. Discussion regarding assessing a risk tolerance and value assessment in a start-up vs. a sophisticated enterprise. General consensus of the board was to consider factoring in a matching grant award timeframe to the application process. No formal vote was taken by the board regarding this issue at this time.

F. Brief overview of Access to Care Grant priority

- i. Addressing HSSA's goals to increase the capacity of Spokane County's healthcare system to improve the health outcomes through the advancement of innovative practices, therapies, procedures, diagnostics and treatment. A more in depth review of this topic to be had at a later date.
- 5. Adjourn- Dr. Francisco Velázquez at 3:14pm
- 6. Next Meeting May 28, 2025