

**HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the Sept. 28, 2016 Board Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Nancy Isserlis, Chair; Kevin Oldenburg, Gary Pollack, Jason Thackston, Dave Vachon, Francisco Velàzquez and Mike Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Olúgbémiga T. Ekúndayò

Dean Martz

**Staff Present:**

Susan Ashe, Executive Director

James Emacio, Counsel

Gaylene Lewin, Consulting Accountant

**Guests:**

Jeff Philipps, Rosauers; Marcel Morales; Dr. Jeff Collins, Providence Health Care; Todd Mielke, GSI; Dr. Sam Selinger, Spokane Prescription Assistance Network; Kelly Armstrong, Spokane Prescription Network; Collins Sprague, Avista; Todd Mielke, GSI CEO and Anne Marie Axworth, GSI

1. **Call to Order**

Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 & 2 conference rooms.

1. **Board Actions**
2. Board member Kevin Oldenburg moved to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 Board meeting and Mike Wilson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. Board member Dave Vachon moved to approve a 9-month extension (at no additional cost) of Dr. Salah Ahmed’s Start-Up grant. Mike Wilson seconded he motion, which passed. Gary Pollack abstained from the vote.
4. Board member Kevin Oldenburg moved to approve a $350,000 HSSA RFP #5 Start-Up grant for Dr. Zhaokang Cheng, and Jason Thackston seconded the motion, which passed. Gary Pollack abstained from the vote.
5. **Chair’s Report**

Board Chair Isserlis reported that she had signed a series of warrants since the Board last met on May 10, 2016, and when a warrant required two signatures these were provided by Jason Thackston, Mike Wilson or Dave Vachon.

The Chair introduced Dr. Sam Selinger, Spokane Prescription Assistance Network, an organization HSSA has previously funded through its annual Access to Care grant program. After thanking HSSA for its support, Dr. Selinger mentioned a report published in the April 2016 *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy* that relayed the outcomes of Spokane-based research for prescription assistance participants. The key result was a 51% decline in rate of Emergency Department and Hospital utilization, particularly for patients taking pulmonary medicines. The ROI to date on the $1.6 million worth of medicines from national sources totals more than $15 million since inception of the program. For a $30,000 grant donation, that equals some $500,000 in medicines, and that happens to be the amount of HSSA’s grant. HSSA was recognized in the published research paper.

Next a group of Spokane leaders involved in Greater Spokane Incorporated’s Vision 2030 presented to the Board. Jeff Philipps, Rosauers CEO, provided the Board an overview of the Vision 2030 vision “to create a comprehensive, world-class center for health and medical sciences education and life sciences research and commercialization, resulting in robust healthcare and life sciences industry growth with unprecedented economic impact to the Spokane region.” Philipps cited the economic impact findings of an earlier TrippUmbach analysis of $1.7 billion annual economic impact and 9,000+ new jobs.

Board members Frank Velázquez and Jason Thackston, both members of the Vision 2030 group, and co-chairs of the life sciences research and commercialization subcommittee, presented. Dr. Velázquez mentioned the four key attributes acknowledged in the U.S. for this industry to grow, and they are 1) Dense proximity to higher education, strong K-12 and STEM; 2) world-class health care industry and services; 3) growing medical education and research; and competitive “attractive” cost of living. Spokane has all four attributes. He stated his opinion that Spokane has a 3-5 year window of opportunity.

Marcelos Morales closed the presentation with information about the strong need for funding for graduate medical education (GME) residencies. Washington State’s allocation is underserved and Eastern Washington’s allocation is extremely underserved, particularly with the growth in Spokane of two medical schools. He also believes with need more information technology skills in the region. He said that they hoped the presentation would allow us areas where we might align. The Board responded with questions and thoughts.

The Board and guests had a good discussion and exchange of thoughts after the presentation.

1. **Executive Director’s Report** The Executive Director’s Report was included in the Board packet members received at the meeting.
2. **Committee Reports**
3. Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Jason Thackston reported that he had reviewed HSSA’s financials through August 31, 2016, and found HSSA to continue to be in good financial shape. The total state tax remittance for the year to date is $1,239,929, a 6.7% increase for the same period a year ago, and an additional $52,395 from Spokane County Allocated Earnings. Operating expenses through March remain below the 10% goal at 7.5%.

B) Grants Committee

Mike Wilson, Grants Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had met on September 8, 2016. Dave Vachon chaired the meeting, as Mike was unable to attend. The Committee reviewed three letters of intent (LOIs) for research funding, none of which met criteria and staff was instructed to inform the applicants by letter. The Committee also reviewed and approved to submit to the full Board for approval a request to extend by nine (9) months HSSA RFP #5 *Start-Up Grant for D. Salah Ahmed* from February 14, 2016 to November 14, 2016, at no additional cost.

The Committee also reviewed and approved to move to the full Board for action a request under HSSA RFP #5 from the WSU College of Pharmacy for a $350,000 *Start-Up grant for Dr. Zhaokang Cheng*. Dr. Cheng would transfer $747,000 in a federal NIH NOA R00 award for “Promoting Chemo-resistance in the Heart.” Dr. Cheng would transfer from the University of North Carolina to WSU Spokane. HSSA funds would be used to fund capital equipment for Dr. Cheng’s laboratory to include a Vevo 2100 ultrasound imaging system, and equipment to process tissue samples such as a paraffin embedding station, slide stainer and tissue processor. Together these instruments will form a new Histology Core Lab Facility to be operated as a service center for the Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine and available to research throughout WSU and the community. Gary Pollack did not participate in the discussion.

The Grants Committee also reviewed a letter from Better Health Together informing the Board it would only be providing Hot Spotter services through its HSSA grant until the end of 2016, at which time those services will transfer to Volunteers of America, assuming community support. To date, 115 hot spotters were served this year, and 98 have health insurance and 24 have been permanently housed.

1. **Counsel’s Report**

Counsel had no report.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM by Board Chair Isserlis.

**The next meeting of the HSSA Board is scheduled for November 30, 2016, 3 PM at the McKinstry Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, in the Roundhouse 1 & 2**

**conference rooms.**