

Memo

To: Board Members
From: Amy Abrams
Date: September 26, 2025
Subject: Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – **September 25, 2025**

The Committee met on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Members of the public were able to participate by telephone, Zoom, or in-person at the Grossmont Healthcare District Conference Center, located at 9001 Wakarusa Street, La Mesa, California. In some cases, discussion of items may have taken place out of sequence during the meeting.

Attendees: Director Maggie Watkins, Chair
Director Nadia Farjood, Member
Aaron Byzak, Interim Chief Executive Officer (via Zoom)
Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
Mark Allan, San Diego Oasis, Guest
Kim Keane, Noah Homes, Guest
Ashley Smith, Noah Homes, Guest
Maggie Lengyel, Mama’s Kitchen, Guest
Lani Lutar, Guest (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Director Farjood at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as posted. Agenda items 3. Grants and 4. Sponsorships were switched due to the interest of the guests in attendance.
- C. Public Comment:**

The meeting began with brief introductions by Mark Allan from San Diego Oasis, Kim Keane and Ashley Smith from Noah Homes, and Maggie Lengyel from Mama’s Kitchen.

D. Guest Presentations: There were none.

E. Reports/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. FY25-26 Monthly Grant and Sponsorship Tracking Report

Director Farjood stated the budget for sponsorships FY25-26 is \$200,000 with \$57,500 awarded and \$142,500 available. There is currently \$3.8 million in total available for grants.

2. Staff Rubric Scoring Review

CCHO Abrams explained the implementation of a new scoring rubric system FY25-26 to help evaluate the sponsorship and grant applications. There is a different rubric applied to each of the four programs: two kinds of grants and two kinds of sponsorships. The staff does the initial scoring and makes sure the applicant is eligible. Once that is confirmed, the rubric, with the points that have been established by the Board of Directors, is used to assign scores to each of those items of the rubric. The final score is seen as a percentage.

3. Grants

a) Timeline for Review, Recommendations, and Board Vote

In preparation for the October 1st meeting to evaluate the grant and sponsorship applications, the Committee will review the applications and scoring rubric spreadsheets in the binders. CCHO Abrams noted that the executive summary is very helpful in reviewing the applications.

The Committee scheduled a special committee meeting for Thursday, October 2 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to continue reviewing the applications. The Committee will decide if another meeting needs to be scheduled prior to the October 24th meeting. The Committee is aiming for recommendations to be completed by November 2.

Director Watkins inquired about the philosophy for approaching the value of requests versus the funds available. Director Farjood explained her focus on prioritizing well-aligned projects rather than immediately worrying about specific dollar amounts. CCHO Abrams will send the Directors an Excel spreadsheet containing all pertinent information for sorting and analysis.

CCHO Abrams noted that while sponsorship applications can be submitted year-round, they would only be considered if funds remain in the \$200,000 budget. A sponsorship request was received on September 3rd, and CCHO Abrams asked the Committee if funds should be set aside, either from the sponsorship budget or from the grant budget, for future requests that might come in. There is also the option of requesting a budget adjustment. The Committee will revisit the sponsorship policy after this grant cycle ends and consider implementing year-round sponsorship requests separate from the grant process.

Director Watkins inquired about the difference between a simplified grant and grant. CCHO Abrams explained that a simplified grant is a request of \$25,000 or less and does not require audited financials.

b) Collaborative Grant Proposals and Independent Funding

CCHO Abrams advised the Committee that two of our partners, Feeding San Diego and San Ysidro Health, submitted a proposal for the same project which has never happened before. She clarified they could be evaluated separately but it might be useful to look at them together. There are three outcomes for collaborative grant proposals: support neither, support one, or support both. CCHO Abrams explained collaborative projects are encouraged by the District and will receive 5 points in rubric scoring for working together with a community partner.

CCHO Abrams explained that a few proposals came in that are clearly work-related projects including Walk (Circulate) San Diego, the East County Economic Development Council, Heartland Regional Fire Training Foundation, the University of San Diego and For Their Thoughts Foundation. These projects could be things that could be carved out of the grant budget. The Committee asked Interim CEO Byzak to evaluate these proposals before sending them to the Finance Committee as potential strategic initiative proposals. There is \$1.9 million in the FY25-26 budget set aside for strategic initiatives (\$950,000 of which is designated for Workforce-Related Strategic Initiatives).

Interim CEO Byzak stated he has developed a new more comprehensive workforce development initiative with feedback from the Ad Hoc Workforce Committee that is a branded initiative with multiply layers and may fit perfectly with these work-related projects.

The Committee also discussed a \$140,000 request from Grossmont Hospital Foundation asking for funds for a new social worker position. Policy dictates that this would not come from the grants budget, but out of the general fund, and it would have to be voted upon by 4/5 of the Board. The Committee recommends this request by Grossmont Hospital Foundation be put on the next Finance Committee agenda for consideration.

4. Sponsorships*

The Committee asked the public attendees if they had any comments to share before discussing sponsorships.

Public Comments:

- Kim Keane from Noah Homes presented an introduction to Noah Homes.
- Maggie Lengyel from Mama's Kitchen presented an introduction to Mama's Kitchen.
- Mark Allan from San Diego Oasis presented an introduction to San Diego Oasis.

Director Watkins inquired about the value of the outstanding sponsorship requests to help with the evaluation process. CCHO Abrams stated the total amount of all sponsorships of fundraisers plus programs is \$315,000. The budget is \$200,000 with about \$56,000 expended, leaving about \$150,000.

Director Farjood emphasized the criteria she cares about most is will the fundraiser directly benefit a community health program that provides services in East County since that is our mission and mandate.

Recommended for Funding: The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and recommends to the Board the amounts indicated. (Prior year's funding by the District is shown in parentheses.)

a) Sponsorship Requests* (totaling \$30,000)

- i. San Diego County Medical Society Foundation: Day at the Races - \$5,000 (FY24-25 \$7,500) (Event Date: 11/21/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$2,500**

- ii. Noah Homes, Inc.: 2025 Enchanted Village Gala - \$10,000 (FY23-24 \$5,000 Sponsorship; FY24-25 \$25,000 Grant) (Event Date: 12-06-25) **Committee Recommendation: \$10,000**
- iii. Mama's Kitchen: Mama's Pies - \$5,000 (FY24-25 \$30,000 Grant) (Event Date: 11/26/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$2,500**
- iv. San Diego Oasis: Moonlight Masquerade Gala - \$10,000 (No prior funding) (Event Date: 11/01/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$10,000**

5. Scholarships

The Committee reviewed and discussed updates to the scholarship policy, including changes to the essay prompts and disbursement schedules. CCHO Abrams proposed revisions to clarify the GPA requirements and timing for college students receiving payments.

a) FY25-26 Draft Scholarship Policy

i. High School

(a) FY25-26 Scholarship Disbursement Schedule: Recommended Policy Updates

The timeline for disbursement of scholarship monies would be within 13 months of the student's graduation from high school.

The Committee agreed to add the following question to the survey form for marketing purposes: "How has the GHD High School Health Career Scholarship influenced your life and/or career?"

(b) FY25-26 High School Healthcare Scholarship: Update regarding Potential Additional Schools

The Committee decided to hold off on presenting the new scholarship policy to the Board until the additional schools could be confirmed. Ari Rojas, our Community Health Program Specialist, opened the conversation with the schools, but has not heard back from all five. CCHO Abrams will get an updated list of high schools from her to be

presented at the next meeting. The application window for scholarships opens December 1st so there is still time to gather information.

ii. Post-Secondary

(a) FY25-26 Proposed Scholarship Rubrics

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

(b) FY25-26 Proposed Essay Prompts

The Committee reviewed and made the following revisions to the essay prompts:

- Edit to policy item 21a: Replace with “Responses to the essay prompt”
- Richard J. Bea: “In 500 words or less, please describe a) how volunteering or other community service experience has influenced your nursing education, and b) how you aspire to improve community health as a nurse.”
- Health Tech: “In 500 words or less, please describe a) your career plans in health technology, and b) the contributions you aspire to make within the larger healthcare system as a health technician.”
- Behavioral Health: “In 1,000 words or less, please describe a) your decision to pursue advanced education in a behavioral health field, b) your career plans upon completion of your degree program, and c) how you envision contributing to the future of behavioral health services.”
- Advanced Practice: “in 1,000 words or less, please describe a) your decision to pursue an advanced practice license, b) your career plans upon completion of this degree program, and c) the key contributions you seek to make as an Advanced Practice Clinician within an evolving healthcare landscape.”
- Certified/Clinical Nurse: “In 750 words or less, please describe a) your decision to pursue an advanced certification in nursing, and b)

how you aspire to contribute to the evolving healthcare landscape as a Certified Nurse or Clinical Nurse Specialist.”

CCHO Abrams will present a clean and redline version of the Scholarship policy, with the edits requested at the October 1st Committee meeting.

F. General Information/Communications

G. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting is on the calendar for Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

H. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.