

# Memo

**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Amy Abrams  
**Date:** March 7, 2025  
**Subject:** Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – **March 5, 2025**

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The Committee met on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 1:00 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 Gloria Chadwick, Chair  
Director Nadia Farjood, Member  
Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer (via Zoom)  
Jeffrey Scott, General Counsel (via Zoom)  
Ryan Purdy, Sharp Grossmont Hospital  
Scott Evans, Sharp Grossmont Hospital  
Daniel Kindron, Sharp Grossmont Hospital  
Jason Broad, Sharp Grossmont Hospital  
Cherryl Castro-Lector, San Diego Blood Bank (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Director Chadwick at 1:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as posted.
- C. Public Comment:** Cherryl Castro-Lector from the San Diego Blood Bank joined the meeting virtually for an update on their grant application. She was informed the grant application will go before the full Board on March 20, 2025.
- D. Guest Presentations:** (Please refer to E(1))
- E. Reports/Discussion/Possible Action Items**
1. Intergovernmental Transfer Request for 2026/27 (by Sharp Grossmont Hospital)  
  
Jason Broad with Sharp Grossmont Hospital gave a presentation on Sharp Grossmont Hospital's role as a safety net provider and the importance of the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funding program in offsetting costs. The Hospital is requesting \$8 million in IGT from the District. CAO Scaglione clarified that \$1

million is committed via the district's grants policy. This request will be moved to the Finance Committee for further consideration. CAO Scaglione will provide Director Farjood with Hospital financial statements, per her request.

## 2. Program Proposal Policy

The Committee discussed changes to the Program Proposal Policy with Counsel Scott who expressed concerns about potential legal issues. The Program Proposal Policy is considered a grant in legal terms. For this reason, grant agreements (not MOU's) must be used to protect the interests of the District. He also discussed potential problems with site visits, including circumventing AB 2019, which is the prohibition against individual meetings between the District (the Board, Officers, and staff) and applicants. He believes the Program Proposal Policy process can be simplified without compromising the legal requirements. Counsel Scott will review the document and make legal suggestions to the Policy for the Community Health and Community Grants & Sponsorship Committees before it goes to the full Board.

Director Chadwick recommended that CCHO Abrams go to Sacramento and meet the author of AB 2019 (or his staff) to get firsthand information on the bill.

## 3. SDSU CEAL Redline Changes to Grant Agreement

The Committee asked Counsel Scott to review the revisions San Diego State University (SDSU) made to their Grant Agreement. Due to liability issues, he recommended the District stay with their standard indemnity provision and not include the mutual indemnity and hold harmless provision requested by SDSU. The changes for the retention period to be changed from five to three years and for backup documentation to be provided "upon request," were acceptable from a legal standpoint.

## 4. FY25-26 Grants and Sponsorships Policy with Staff Suggested Redline Changes

The Committee discussed the need for financial audits for organizations they provide grants to. They debated the appropriate thresholds for these requirements, considering factors such as the size of the grants and the financial situation of the organizations involved. Audited financials are required with full grant requests, but smaller organizations may not be able to provide them. The use of 990's and unaudited financials were discussed as possible sources of financial information about the smaller non-profits. Counsel Scott emphasized that since this is public money, there is a high level of fiduciary responsibility on how that money is used. It is important, however small the organization, that there are protections in place

for the District and oversight regarding how the money is spent. It is up to the Board of Directors to determine what each threshold would require for financial disclosure from these organizations the District is providing funds to.

5. FY24-25 Monthly Grant & Sponsorship Tracking Report

The Committee will update the grants budget recommendation to \$5 million total, with \$1 million for Sharp Grossmont Hospital and \$4 million for community grants and sponsorships. There was a discussion about the impact of the increased budget on the staff and if they could manage the administrative work. If the thresholds were raised and larger grants were given, the amount of work would not increase. The issue was raised about the need to serve smaller organizations who provide services despite the increased thresholds and increased average grant amounts, and that the policy should not exclude small non-profits who do good work. There was a decision not to move forward with minimum thresholds at this time. Staff will update the Grants & Sponsorships Policy to remove the 4/5 supermajority vote requirement for increased grant amounts.

The Committee will make a recommendation for the \$5 million grants budget at the March 20 Board meeting.

6. Rubric Scoring

a) Proposed Rubric Scoring and Board Recommendations

The Committee discussed the need for a workshop so the Board can evaluate the different rubrics and approaches to scoring. Once the rubric is approved, it can be added to the FY25-26 Grants and Sponsorships Policy.

Committee and staff to prepare a rubric for evaluating scholarship applications.

b) Staff Rubric Scoring for Agenda Items E(7) and E(8)

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

## 7. Grant Requests

**Recommended for Funding:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and recommends to the Board the amounts indicated, based on each program's assistance in addressing the unmet healthcare needs of District residences, including an identified prioritized health need, a direct patient care benefit, and/or a strong healthcare nexus. *(Prior year's funding by the District is shown in parentheses.)*

- License to Freedom: Mental Health for Refugees in El Cajon - \$50,000 *(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote) **Committee Recommendation: \$19,290.33***
- San Diego Blood Bank: SDBB Bloodmobile - \$50,000 *(FY23-24 \$30,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote) **Committee Recommendation: \$19,290.33***
- Survivors of Torture, International: Health Education and Literary (HEAL) Program for East County Newcomers - \$75,000 *(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote) **Committee Recommendation: \$19,290.33***

**Not Recommended for Funding:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and recommends to the Board no funding be awarded, as indicated. *(Prior year's funding by the District is shown in parenthesis.)*

- East County Transitional Living Center: Call Center - \$25,000 *(FY21-22 \$35,000)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend East County Transitional Living Center's FY24-25 application.**

- FundaMental Health: Bolstering Mental Health Assistance in East County - \$25,000 *(No prior funding.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend FundaMental Health's FY24-25 application.**

- Resounding Joy Inc.: Sounds of Legacy-Grossmont Healthcare District - \$25,000 *(No prior funding.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Resound Joy's FY24-25 application.**

- Home of Guiding Hands: Continued Nursing Support - \$140,000 *(FY23-24 \$69,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Home of Guiding Hands' FY24-25 application.**

- Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank: East County Student Hunger Relief - \$20,000 *(FY23-24 \$18,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank's FY24-25 application.**

- East County Media: East County Wildfire and Emergency Alerts Plus Emergency Resources Update - \$7,950 *(FY23-24 \$7,500) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend East County Media's FY24-25 application.**

- Neighborhood Healthcare: Neighborhood Lakeside Health Center Expansion - \$450,000 *(FY19-20 \$25,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Neighborhood Healthcare's FY24-25 application.**

- Oncology And Kids, Inc.: Resident Oncology Camp - \$24,000 *(FY22-23 \$20,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Oncology And Kids' FY24-25 application.**

- San Diego Freedom Ranch, Inc.: Transportation and Community Support - \$78,293 *(FY23-24 \$152,296)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend San Diego Freedom Ranch's FY24-25 application.**

- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.: Alzheimer's Association Care and Support Programs - \$25,000

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association's FY24-25 application.**

- Meals-on-Wheels Greater San Diego, Inc.: New Kitchen & Senior Innovation Hub and Expansion of Free Meals - \$250,000 *(FY23-24 \$30,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Meals-on-Wheels' FY24-25 application.**

- American Lung Association: Support for Communities At-Risk of and Impacted by Lung Disease and Lung Cancer - \$40,000 *(FY23-24 \$20,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend the American Lung Association's FY24-25 application.**

- Therapy Center, Inc. dba Challenge Center: Improving Services and QOL for Seniors through Expansion and Collaboration - \$162,850 *(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Challenge Center's FY24-25 application.**

- Crisis House: Cuyamaca Student Safe Parking Program - \$35,000 *(FY23-24 \$8,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Crisis House's FY24-25 application.**

## 8. Sponsorship Requests

**Not Recommended for Funding:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the following request and recommends to the Board no funding be awarded, as indicated. *(Prior year's funding by the District is shown in parenthesis.)*

- Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Masquerade Gala - \$10,000 *(No prior funding.)*

**Due to the lack of District funding, the Committee is unable to recommend Legal Aid Society's FY24-25 application.**

## 9. Post-Secondary Scholarship Review

- a) Advanced Practice Clinician Scholarship (Five awards total in the amount of \$15,000 each)
- b) Behavioral Health Scholarship (Five awards total in the amount of \$15,000 each)
- c) Richard J. Bea Nursing Scholarship (Two awards total - \$7,500 (1<sup>st</sup> place) and \$5,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> place))
- d) Health Tech Scholarship (Ten awards total; Five in the amount of \$5,000 (1<sup>st</sup> place) and five in the amount of \$3,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> place))
- e) Certified/Clinical Nurse Scholarship (Two awards total in the amount of \$10,000 each)

The Committee shared their chosen winners for all five post-secondary scholarships. The Committee *recommends* to the full Board that the following 22 students win their award for their corresponding scholarship, as follows:

**Advanced Practice Clinician Scholarship (5 Awards at \$15,000 each):**

- (a) Leshia Brown (Azusa Pacific University)
- (b) Paulina Castleberry (University of Southern California)
- (c) Bryan Harter (California State University San Marcos)
- (d) Merna Nissan (Point Loma Nazarene University)

(e) Elizabeth Terrazas (Azusa Pacific University)

**Behavioral Health Scholarship (5 Awards at \$15,000 each):**

(a) Qamar Almwali (San Diego State University)

(b) Kikelomo Aluko (National University)

(c) John Edwards (San Diego State University)

(d) Priya Reddy (National University)

(e) Andrew White (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

**Richard J. Bea Nursing Scholarship (First Place Award at \$7,500 and Second Place Award at \$5,000)**

(a) Sarah Ali – First Place (Grossmont Community College)

(b) Chloe Hill – Second Place (Grossmont Community College)

**Health Tech Careers Scholarship (Five First Place Awards at \$5,000 each and Five Second Place Awards at \$3,000 each)**

(a) Shan Bamarni – First Place (University of California San Diego – Extended Studies; Clinical Laboratory Science)

(b) Shiwan Bamarni – First Place (University of California San Diego – Extended Studies; Clinical Laboratory Science)

(c) Allison Kaiahua – First Place (Grossmont Community College; Cardiovascular Technology)

(d) Karla Mena Perez – First Place (Grossmont Union High School District – Adult Education – Health Occupations Center; Licensed Vocational Nursing)

(e) Genesis Shepherd – First Place (Grossmont Union High School District – Adult Education – Health Occupations Center, Licensed Vocation Nursing)

(f) Travis Alexander – Second Place (Grossmont Community College; Cardiovascular Technology)

- (g) Jacob Castanho – Second Place (Grossmont Community College; Cardiovascular Technology)
- (h) Salwa Issac – Second Place (Grossmont Community Hospital; Cardiovascular Technology)
- (i) Kayleen Lowry – Second Place (Grossmont Community Hospital; Cardiovascular Technology)
- (j) Melissa Upchurch – Second Place (Grossmont Community Hospital; Cardiovascular Technology)

**Certified/Clinical Nurse Scholarships (Two Awards at \$10,000 each)**

- (a) Gisele Gomes (University of San Diego)
- (b) Abby Vandergriff (University of Cincinnati)

10. Healthcare Scholarship for High School Seniors List of Awardees (For Information Only)

The Committee was presented with the list of high school senior healthcare scholarship award winners and had no questions. It was noted that two of the high schools did not submit any winners this year.

11. FY23-24 Monthly Grantee Reporting Index

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

12. FY24-25 Monthly Grantee Reporting Index

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

**F. General Information/Communications**

The recipients of the Post-Secondary and High School Senior Healthcare Scholarships will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 22, 2025.

**G. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting is on calendar for Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**H. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.