

Memo

To: Board Members
From: Amy Abrams
Date: July 17, 2025
Subject: Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – July 16, 2025

The Committee met on Wednesday, July 16, 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 Nadia Farjood, Member
Aaron Byzak, Interim Chief Executive Officer (Absent)
Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
Ryan Purdy, Sharp Grossmont Hospital

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Director Farjood at 1:02 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as posted.

Director Farjood noted Director Chadwick’s resignation from the Board after nearly 30 years of service in community health. She expressed what a pleasure and honor it was to serve with Director Chadwick especially on this Committee, which Director Chadwick cares very deeply about.

C. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

D. Guest Presentations: There were none.

E. Reports/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. Grants and Sponsorships

a) Application Update

The Committee discussed the current grant application cycle, which opened on July 1 and has received 12 applications so far. Of the 12 applications, two are simplified grants, three are full grants, seven are sponsorships of a fundraiser, and there are no applications for sponsorship of a program. The Committee

discussed outreach strategies to increase awareness and applications including leveraging social media, events like Wellness Wednesdays, and collaborations with local organizations. CCHO Abrams mentioned distributing flyers at relevant meetings and events, while also planning to check with Interim CEO Byzak about a potential press release to announce the increased funding amounts. They prioritized sharing information with collaboratives like La Mesa and El Cajon, as well as similar organizations, and planned to follow up with Catalyst and request their assistance in spreading the word. The Committee expressed hope for a significant increase in grant applications following these outreach efforts.

CCHO Abrams reported that the main question from applicants is about appropriate funding amounts, and since there is no guidance on this, she advised applicants to describe their projects well and ask for what they need. Director Farjood would like to address this issue further and develop guidance for the next cycle on how to apply for an appropriate amount and then structure the project around the amount they are seeking.

CCHO Abrams has also been asked by applicants if Board priorities are going to change with the upcoming release of the CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment) report on August 19, and she stated she does not anticipate any changes. CCHO Abrams stated the District will share information on the CHNA virtual release by the Hospital Association soon as they have it. No questions have been asked about the rubric or changes to the application.

b) Sponsorship Requests for 2025 Events

The Committee discussed the timing of sponsorship applications, with six requests already received for events that will take place between September and December 2025. CCHO Abrams stated the staff is recommending the consideration of sponsorships as they come in. The staff will prepare the applications for these 6 current requests, along with any others that come in, and present them to the Committee for consideration and potential recommendation at the August 21 Board of Director's meeting. CCHO Abrams stated the staff is proposing reviewing sponsorship applications on a rolling basis, starting in August, rather than holding them for review on the same timeline as grants, which are less time-bound.

The Committee discussed making an exception to the Grants and Sponsorships Policy to allow for the review of sponsorship requests for events that are

scheduled to take place prior to January 31, 2026, which would allow staff and the committee adequate time for processing, review, and recommendation. Events scheduled to take place after January 31 will follow the established timeline in the current policy. CCHO Abrams to e-mail draft language to the Committee for modifying the Policy for sponsorship requests. The Committee *recommends* bringing the above concept forward during the August 5, 2025 Board meeting for consideration.

The Committee also discussed specific cases, such as the Sharp Grossmont Hospital's Heart Walk Team event and the Chamber of Commerce sponsorships, considering how to handle recurring events and multi-year requests within the current policy restraints. They discussed the possibility of adjusting sponsorship cycles to accommodate multi-year requests, which could benefit both applicants and the District's budgeting process.

The Committee also discussed plans to improve the website's accessibility and transparency.

CCHO Abrams will reach out to Sharp Grossmont Hospital about potentially submitting a multi-year sponsorship request.

c) Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) Health Pathways Application

The Committee discussed transitioning the GUHSD Health Pathways Program from a grant to a strategic initiative, due to its unique characteristics and long-standing relationship with the District. They ultimately agreed to process GUHSD's grant application for review in August, as a regular grant, with a decision on expedited funding to be made at the August 5 Board meeting. The potential to include this as a strategic initiative will be further discussed next fiscal year.

d) FY24-25 Monthly Grantee Reporting Index (For Information Only)

The FY24-25 Monthly Grantee Report was provided to the Committee for information only. All grantee reports were received this month.

2. Scholarships

a) FY25-26 Scholarship Policy: Staff Suggested Redline Changes

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Scholarship Policy for the upcoming fiscal year. They discussed several changes, including increasing award amounts, adding new high schools in the program, and revising essay questions to better align with evaluation criteria. They agreed to reach out to new schools before presenting the updated Policy to the Board. The addition of more schools will require a budget adjustment. They also decided to add language about using a rubric for evaluating essays and to develop a scoring tool in the future.

- CCHO Abrams to coordinate the outreach out to new schools to confirm their interest in participating in the scholarship program and gather their contact information.
- Staff to revise language in History/Background section of the policy (page 1) for accuracy: “Those public monies have benefited community-based organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and Grossmont Hospital.”
- CCHO Abrams to draft revised essay prompts for all scholarship categories.
- CCHO Abrams to add language about using a rubric for scholarship evaluation in the policy document.
- CCHO Abrams to add Sharp in front of Grossmont Hospital.

b) High School Scholarship Awardee Disbursement Schedule (Discussion Only)

The Committee discussed the current process for high school scholarships, which involves two payments based on academic performance and course completion. CCHO Abrams expressed staff concerns over the cumbersome nature of the current system, particularly the time and effort required for the Accountant to track payments and students to submit documentation. The Committee discussed alternatives, including giving the full award at the ceremony and requiring documentation later, or simplifying the process to one payment with post-award documentation. They agree to further discuss option

to balance staff efficiency with the scholarship program's goals of encouraging students to pursue healthcare careers.

The Committee reviewed scholarship policies and disbursement processes, considering various options to improve efficiency while maintaining program goals. CCHO Abrams to prepare a staff recommendation on simplifying the high school disbursement process.

c) FY23-24 High School Scholarship Awardee Briance Yanez Payment Consideration

The Committee discussed a student's request for continued scholarship funding despite not meeting the required 2.5 GPA, with the student explaining challenges with difficult courses. The student's GPA fell to 2.25 and 2.075 in her first year of college, and while the Committee expressed sympathy for her situation, they determined they needed more time to consider whether to make an exception. A request has been made to the school counselor for additional information on the student. They agreed to revisit the decision at the next Committee meeting on August 6, 2025.

F. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting is on the calendar for Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

G. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.