

ADVOCACY & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 PM Thursday, June 20, 2024
ADVOCAP Office- Activity Room
19 W. 1st St. | Fond du Lac, WI 54935

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Connie Anderson, Danielle Viau, Raina Lyman, Michael Will

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Gary Will, Deb Neet, Tonya Hitz

STAFF

Tanya Marcoe, Tony Beregszazi, Pam Ziegler, Joe Lougher, Becky Heldt, Kelly Mauer, Brian Jacobson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by President Connie Anderson. A quorum of 4/7 was present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Michael Will to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Connie Anderson to approve the April 18, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Raina Lyman and Michael Will abstained. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Tanya Marcoe informed the Committee that they needed to nominate committee members to fill the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson position for the A&O Committee.

Michael Will nominated Gary Will for Chairperson. Chairperson for the Advocacy and Operations Committee is Gary Will.

A motion was made by Michael Will with a second by Connie Anderson to approve Gary Will as the Advocacy and Operations Committee Chairperson. Motion carried.

Raina Lyman nominated Danielle Viau for Vice-Chairperson. Vice-Chairperson for the Advocacy and Operations Committee is Danielle Viau.

A motion was made by Raina Lyman with a second by Connie Anderson to approve Danielle Viau as the Advocacy and Operations Committee Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- a) **Oshkosh Area United Way Grants (Bridges/GED Education/Skills Enhancement/Home Delivered Meals)**- Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee that ADVOCAP is seeking authorization to submit the Community Investment Grant application to the Oshkosh Area United Way in the amount of \$10,000 for the Skills Enhancement Program, \$10,000 for the Adult Education Program, \$10,000 for the Home Delivered Meal Program, and \$50,000 for the Bridges Program.

Tony provided an overview of the Skills Enhancement Program which helps low-wage individuals receive appropriate training, assistance with educational courses, and obtain or increase their employment to help individuals work towards financial stability and a living wage.

Tony provided an overview of the Adult Education Program which helps adults complete their high school education to receive their GED or HSED certification. This program also helps with paying for books, training materials, and testing materials to help people on their road to self-sufficiency.

Tony provided an overview of the Home Delivered Meal Program which offers healthy and affordable meals to seniors 60+ and some individuals under age 60 who are living with a disability in Winnebago County. They also provide meals five days a week at 10 different congregate meal sites as well as home delivered meals and weekend meals when needed. The participants also receive healthy eating education, hygiene products, and referrals to additional ADVOCAP programs and community resources if needed. The home delivered meal drivers provide more than just a meal, they also check up on them and ensure that they are doing well and have meaningful conversations with them.

Tony provided an overview of the BRIDGES Program, which is targeted at low-income, working residents of Oshkosh who need assistance avoiding financial crisis when unexpected barriers come up in their lives. We offer assistance for housing (rent and utilities), employment readiness (work shoes), transportation assistance (bus fare, gas cards) for finding or beginning employment, and car repairs. Our assistance enables participants to reduce barriers to employment and maintain a safe, stable residence.

A motion was made by Michael Will with a second by Raina Lyman to approve applying for \$10,000 for the Skills Enhancement Program, \$10,000 for the Adult Education Program, \$10,000 for the Home Delivered Meals Program, and \$50,000 for the Bridges Program from the Oshkosh Area United Way as presented. Motion carried.

- b) **WISCAP-Associated Bank Grant**- Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee that ADVOCAP is seeking authorization to apply for the Associated Bank Award in anticipation of receiving \$7,500 to be used for ADVOCAP's Adult Education Program which allows individuals of any income level to obtain their degree. It will cover the costs for student materials and retain quality experienced staff.

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Raina Lyman to approve submitting the Associated Bank Application as presented. Motion carried.

- c) **Emergency Solutions/Housing Assistance/Homeless Prevention Consolidated Grant (EEH)**- Becky Heldt presented to the Homeless Prevention Program and Emergency Solutions grant renewal to the Committee for their review and approval. ADVOCAP's homeless prevention program assists homeless individuals in our area as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Our

programs provide a variety of services based on which program the individuals qualify for and can range from financial support to full case management. The allocated funds for the Homeless Prevention Program is \$81,072, and are to provide rapid re-housing services, and to perform administrative tasks. The allocated funds for the Emergency Solutions Grant is \$171,247 to be used for rapid re-housing assistance, the motel voucher program and shelter operations. ADVOCAPs would provide \$13,141 in match funds.

A motion was made by Michael Will with a second by Danielle Viau to approve submitting the renewal grant for the Homeless Prevention Program in the amount of \$81,072 and the Emergency Solutions grant in the amount of \$171,247 and as presented. Motion carried.

- d) **Wisconsin Department of Transportation Grant (5310-Volunteer Transportation)**- Brian presented the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Grant to the Committee for their review and approval to submit the application for up to \$70,000. ADVOCAP's transportation program provides rides for participants who are referred to us through Winnebago County ADRC and Veteran Services. Volunteer drivers provide rides utilizing their personal vehicles.

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Michael Will to approve applying for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation grant for up to \$70,000 as presented. Motion carried.

- e) **Winnebago County Grants (Senior Nutrition-Volunteer Transportation)**- Tony Beregszazi and Tanya Marcoe presented to the Committee ADVOCAP's Winnebago County grants for Senior Nutrition and Volunteer Transportation. He informed the Committee that these programs have been flat funded for years and in hopes of getting an increase in funds from Winnebago County we sent them over our Volunteer Transportation and Senior Nutrition budgets for the year in hopes that they see how much this grant means to ADVOCAP and the seniors that we help. The budget also shows the 2024 deficit of \$156,323 for the Nutrition program that ADVOCAP has to use other ADVOCAP discretionary funds to ensure that our seniors are getting the nutrition that they need.

A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Michael Will to approve applying for the Volunteer Transportation grant through Winnebago County as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Michael Will with a second by Connie Anderson to approve applying for the Senior Nutrition grant through Winnebago County as presented. Motion carried.

- f) **Office of Head Start (One-time Supplement Grant)**- Tony Beregszazi presented to the Committee ADVOCAP's Supplemental Funding request for Staff Training and Technical Assistance through the Office of Head Start. He informed the Committee that since COVID we had seen a 40% increase in severe behaviors in our program, and when emotional and behavioral concerns go unaddressed it makes it harder to correct these behaviors later in life. In order for our Head Start team to properly address these children's issues properly they need modeling, coaching, and training to offer effective behavioral interventions. ADVOCAP would like authorization to apply to the Office of Head Start for supplemental funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be used to effectively train our staff. The funds will be used to procure certified coaches and trainers in Conscious Discipline to support staff co-regulating children with extensive behaviors. Procurement of Behavior Management coaches and trainers using the Pyramid Model. Procurement of training support items to be used in the classroom by staff, and procurement of Mental Health training and consultation for staff wellness and stress management.



A motion was made by Danielle Viau with a second by Raina Lyman to approve applying to the Office of Head Start Supplement Grant in the amount of \$30,000 as presented. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REPORTS

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- a) Board Meeting/Board Picnic, Thursday July 11, 2024, 6:00 PM at ADVOCAP Prairie View Head Start School, W911 State Highway 44, Markesan, WI 53946.
- b) Committee Meetings, Thursday August 15, 2024, at the JP Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Micheal Will with a second by Connie Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes By: Pam Ziegler