

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2013**

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Attendance:

Members

Director Mark Matthews, Chairman  
Director William Grimm, DO

Staff

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer  
Kathy Greco, Chief Executive Officer  
Steve Brown, Director of Community Relations

Committee Members

Bev Greer, CEO, Stroke Recovery Center  
Joseph Pradetto, Constituent Outreach, Office of John J Benoit, 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Matthew Keane, PA-C, Director, Specialty CareCommunity Clinic Assoc. of San Bernardino County  
Kim McNulty, , CVEP

Absent Committee Members

Mitch Nieman, Grants Manager, City of Coachella  
Elizabeth Toledo, Hub Manager, Building Healthy Communities  
Allen Howe, City of Cathedral City

Guest

Lisa Houston, CEO, FIND Food Bank  
Gwen Ford – Board President, FIND Food Bank  
Christy Porter, Executive Director, Hidden Harvest

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Matthews.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A Motion was made by Committee Member Greer and seconded by Committee Member Keane to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A Motion was made by Committee Member Pradetto and seconded by Committee Member Greer to approve the minutes of December 11, 2012. Motion passed with Chairman Matthews abstaining since he was not present.

## **GRANTS**

### **a. Outstanding Grants & Grant Payment Schedule**

There were no questions regarding this schedule.

### **b. Progress Reports**

1. Grant #694 UCR School of Medicine – A Partnership with DHCD to Advance Health Care Access & Outcomes.

There were no questions.

### **c. Final Reports**

1. Grant #630 – LifeStream – Expanding Capacity at the Local Rare Blood Library.

Ms. Craig reported that LifeStream received a lower price than budgeted for the testing kits and they will be returning \$51,000 of grant funds back to the District. LifeStream exceeded its goal of identifying rare blood donors by 652.

### **d. Mini Grants**

1. #747 Paws & Hearts
2. #748 Palm Springs Unified School District

### **e. Pending Requests for Consideration**

1. Grant #752 – FIND Food Bank, Project Produce 2013-2016 – Up to \$629,471.
2. Grant #753 - Hidden Harvest, Hidden Harvest Fresh Produce – Up to \$211,676.

Ms. Greco reported that this was the final step, request for funding, for the Food Access Project which was presented to the Program Committee in December. This will be a four year project; however the funding request is only for one year. The organizations will be seeking other sources of funding. The Food Access Project team will meet regularly to monitor the results of the grants.

Ms. Houston responded to Committee Member Pradetto explaining that a food desert is a community with little or no access to fresh and affordable foods needed to maintain a healthy diet. Different organizations define the distance to access fresh produce as more than 2-5 miles, while California defines the distance as more than 1 mile. Grocery stores open new locations based on rooftops and household income. During the real estate boom, grocery stores opened new locations, however since the recession, some locations have actually closed.

Ms. Houston also explained that currently the Mobile Pantry does not have a regular schedule. The Mobile Pantry vehicle is large and needs considerable planning in order to load the vehicle appropriately and determine a safe place to park the vehicle at the various food providers' distribution locations.

Committee McNulty thanked both Christy Porter and Lisa Houston for their collaboration and efforts to design the proposed food access project. It was an eye opener to learn the complexity and depth for providing fresh produce to our valley.

Ms. Porter suggested that the DHCD Board could help with her effort to have the local growers provide one row per crop for Hidden Harvest to provide additional fresh produce for her senior farmers market.

Chairman Matthews commented that since 2008 the District has provided funding addressing food insecurities and it is a major step to now focus on funding the program which will provide healthy food to our communities.

A Motion was made by Committee Member Greer and seconded by Committee Member Keane to recommend approval for Grant #752 to FIND Food Bank in an amount up to \$629,471 to fund Project Produce 2013-2016. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Committee Member McNulty and seconded by Committee Member Greer to recommend approval for Grant #753 to Hidden Harvest in an amount up to \$211,676 to fund Hidden Harvest Fresh Produce. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **CEO REPORT**

Committee Member Rob Taylor submitted his resignation from the Program Committee due to other commitments.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

None

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

None

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.