

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2015**

Attendance:

Members

Vice-President Grimm, DO, Chairman
Director Carole Rogers

Staff

Kathy Greco, Chief Executive Officer
Donna Craig, Chief Grants Officer
Steve Brown, Director of Community Relations/Clerk of the Board

Committee Members

Ronald Willison, Community Member
Linda Shestock, Community Member
Bev Greer, CEO, Neuro Vitality Center
Linda Levinson, Community Member
Milt Levinson, Community Member
Maria Becerra, Riverside County 4th District

Absent Committee Members

Allen Howe, Community Member
Kim McNulty, CVEP

Guests

Lori Serfling, Board Member, ACT for MS
Richard DeSantis, Board Member, ACT for MS
Tom Gorman, Ranch Recovery Centers
Jolie Petkov, Ranch Recovery Centers

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Chairman Grimm. .

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Grimm requested a motion to approve the agenda.

A Motion was made by Director Rogers and seconded by Committee Member M. Levinson to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Committee Member M. Levinson and seconded by Committee Member Willison to approve the minutes of November 10, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANTS

a. Outstanding Grants & Grant Payment Schedule

No questions or comments.

b. Proposals Under Development – Remaining Budget Impact

No questions or comments.

c. Progress Reports

1. Grant #848 – Neuro Vitality Center (formerly Stroke Recovery Center), Building a Service Delivery Model.

No questions or comments.

d. Final Reports

1. Grant #848 – Neuro Vitality Center (formerly Stroke Recovery Center), Building a Service Delivery Model

No questions or comments.

2. Grant #757 – CVEP, DJCD Professional Scholarship Program

No questions or comments.

e. Pending Request for Consideration

1. Grant #894 – ACT for MS – The Lynn DeSantis Enhanced Strength Training, Flexibility 7 Circulation Therapy Program - \$368,228 for 2 years

Committee Member Greer recused herself and left the board room due to a potential conflict of business with ACT for MS.

Mr. DeSantis explained to the committee the mission of this program is keeping residents with MS as part of the community and as strong and independent as possible. Ms. Serfling added that this grant request expands data tracking, a control group, more inclusive questionnaire, program evaluation and impact analysis through contracted services with Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC). They included all HARC recommendations from the last grant.

Chairman Grimm asked Ms. Serfling and Mr. DeSantis their personal devotion to this program. Mr. DeSantis added that he believes the exercise program extended the life of wife by ten years. This program is unique to the Coachella Valley and only for district residents. The number of participants is dedicated by the amount of the budget. Out 87 patients, about half are in the program. To add more patients, more money is needed. Committee Member Linda L. asked if the organization can bill insurance companies and if not they could possibly bill if the patient is referred by a neurologist.

Mr. DeSantis wishes he could provide a manual for every MS organization in every community to have for the importance of strength training exercise, aquatics, and medical massage Therapy. Drug therapy cost \$6000 - \$8000 per month with little effect. Strength training cost about \$5000 per year and helps the longevity and quality of life.

A Motion was made by Community Member M. Levinson and seconded by Committee L. Levinson to recommend to the Board, without modifications, to approve Grant #894 to ACT for MS for the Lynn DeSantis Enhanced Strength Training, Flexibility & Circulation Therapy Program in the amount of \$368,228 for 2 years.
Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Member Greer returned to the board room.

2. Grant #893 – The Ranch Recovery Services, Inc. – Electronic Records Management Purchase for \$21,500

Mr. Gorman and Ms. Petkov explained that with the Affordable Act, for which they can bill for services, it is mandated that they have electronic record management. The County of Riverside also requires this and they will be purchasing the same system as used by the County. Chairman Grimm recommended scheduling a site visit for the Committee.

A Motion was made by Community Member M. Levinson and seconded by Committee Member Shetock to recommend to the Board, without modifications, to approve Grant #893 to the Ranch Recovery Services Inc. for the purchase of Electronic Records Management in the amount of \$21,500
Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Recommended grants by Program Committee that were approved by Board of Directors at 11/15/15 meeting.

Grant #891 – Jewish Family Services of the Desert – Mental Health Outpatient Treatment Program.

Chairman Grimm also updated the Committee that the ownership of the raw data was discussed at the November 15th board meeting. It was determined that there will be a joint ownership of the raw data, housed by HARC who will provide 50 hours per year of their time for any customized data requested by the District.

CEO REPORT

1. The Desert Healthcare District has a Facebook page as part of the strategic communication plan.
2. Ms. Greco reported that the UCRSOM residents will begin the “Street Care” health services for the homeless as well as opening a part-time Free Clinic for medical attention that cannot be conducted in the streets. The program will begin by passing out care packs for 500 homeless individuals which will include a pair of white socks and a pullover hooded sweatshirt provided by the District.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

Committee Member L. Levinson discussed the lack of in patient mental health services in the Coachella Valley. Kathy reported that there is work addressing this issue. There is a 5150 Region Workgroup with law enforcement, hospitals, elective officials, and the County of Riverside working on this mental health crisis in the region. There is a crisis stabilization unit opening in March 2016 which is a voluntary program for 23.5 hour stabilization. There are the mental teams working with law enforcement and with the hospital emergency rooms. Ms. Greco will also be addressing the ad hoc mental health committee on the need for a consultant to do a landscape of services, focus groups, and work with all agencies to development recommendations addressing this crisis.

Committee Member Becerra added that the City of Palm Springs has funded 2 funded outreach workers from the County Mental Health Department to work with homeless in the City.

STAFF COMMENTS

SafeHouse of the Desert site visit on December 9th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.