

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board Meeting

July 12, 2023

Edgar A. Brown Building, 1205 Pendleton Street, Room 252, Columbia, SC

Call to Order

Board Chairman Eric Bedingfield called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Board Members Present: Chair Eric Bedingfield, Vice Chair Aditi Bussells, Steve Donaldson, Gary Mixon, Hon. H. Bruce Williams, Lisa Montgomery, Martine Helou-Allen, Dr. Mayes DuBose

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the May 22, 2023, SCORF Board meeting was made by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Mr. Mixon, all ayes, minutes approved m/c unanimous.

Attorney General's Office Report

Jared Libet, Assistant Attorney General, reported that another settlement payment was received last month from Janssen in the approximate amount of \$555,000, which represents an additional restitution payment. Attorney Libet also reported the 2023 distributor's payment is expected next month which will be more substantial, and this payment will be reflected at the next board meeting.

Fund Financial Report

Denise Carraway, SFAA Director of Budget and Finance, presented the Statement of Activities (**attached**). Discretionary Subfunds will be disbursed soon to awardees. All GPS funds have been disbursed to awardees.

SFAA Administrative Report

Alana Williams, SFAA Director of Strategic Initiatives, reported Staff is offering webinars in advance of the next round of GPS applications to address program and fiscal reporting requirements and common application issues. Dates for these webinars are 7/25/2023 and 7/27/2023.

To further assist fund applicants, Staff will reach out to local colleges and universities seeking an experienced individual to host a short webinar on grant writing for fund applicants.

Staff has been meeting with the website provider about adding capabilities to the SCORF website to include the ability to post recorded webinars and reporting capabilities for fund recipients through the website.

The epidemiologist consultant is being onboarded to provide the Board statistical data about South Carolina's needs regarding the opioid epidemic.

SFAA continues to work with the State Auditor to complete the first audit of the Fund for the time period through December 2022.

Staff is coordinating a strategic planning meeting for the week of September 11th 2023.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bedingfield reported the 2022 SCORF Annual Report that was emailed to the Board for comment is now posted to the SCORF website and was mailed to the appropriate members of the SC Legislature.

Executive Session

Chairman Bedingfield informed the Board they have a need to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice and requested a motion to go into executive session. Motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen. The Board then went into executive session.

Chairman Bedingfield called the meeting back to order following Executive Session. No action was taken during executive session.

New Business

- A. Narcan Saturation Form. Board discussion about Narcan reporting form for quarterly submission by DSF recipients and biannually for GPS recipients, along with other updates as needed. This Narcan distribution data will be sent to DAODAS and DHEC who manage the data for the required statewide Narcan saturation plan and will help them continue to determine Narcan saturation rates in our state. Motion to adopt the Narcan reporting form and give Staff the ability to edit this form as they find it necessary by Chairman Bedingfield and seconded by Dr. DuBose, m/c unanimous.
- B. GPS revised application review. The Board reviewed two revised GPS applications that required further technical assistance:
1. Berkeley County- Fairhaven Home for Men. The budget description relating to salary was too general and the Board requested more specifics such as how many folks will be served with this cost. Berkeley County Fairhaven Home for Men has revised the application detailing how the salary funds will be used to support the abatement strategy. Following a brief Board discussion, the funds requested were found by the Board to be a reasonable cost. Motion to approve request for \$142,627 by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Helou-Allen, m/c unanimous.
 2. Georgetown County First Responders. The Board previously indicated it would approve the application if the county agreed to the severability of the DARE program from their application. The county agreed to this severability. Motion to approve request for \$40,000 by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Ms. Montgomery, m/c unanimous.
- C. Discretionary Subfund Assistance Agreements and packages. These are contracts between DSF recipients and the SCORF Board requiring the recipients to utilize SCORF funds as approved, and the contracts are enforceable by the Attorney General's Office. The draft DSF Assistance Agreements are included in the Board package for review and approval, while the rest of the package is information so the Board can see what the packages look like that are going to the DSF recipients. Motion to approve draft Assistance Agreements by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Chairman Bedingfield, m/c unanimous.
- D. Discretionary Subfund application review and discussion. The Board continued the review of applications from the May 22, 2023, meeting. Two applications required revisiting and Chairman Bedingfield began the discussion about the first of these applications as follows:
1. 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office. This application was approved on May 22, 2023, however the request includes non-allowable items. This issue was previously discussed during this previous board meeting but inadvertently not included in the motion. Chairman Bedingfield stated a motion to reconsider is needed to remove this item and vote again to approve the application with this item removed if they so choose. Motion to reconsider the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office application by the Honorable Judge Bruce H. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous. Chairman

Bedingfield noted the application included items that are non-permissible for funding — a firearm and a firearm holster. The Board does not need the applicant’s permission to remove these items from their application since they are non-permissible for funding. Motion to remove the two non-permissible items which were a firearm and a firearm holster from this application made by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Ms. Montgomery, m/c unanimous. Motion to approve the amended application with removal of the firearm and firearm holster by Mr. Mixon and seconded by Dr. DuBose, with one abstention from Mr. Donaldson, all others aye, the motion to approve passed, and the amended application was approved.

2. Clemson—Zinzow. This application was discussed at the May 22, 2023, meeting but was subsequently re-reviewed by a different team on the Board due to a conflict identified by Mr. Chappell. This application was given a new score of 43 and brought before the Board once again for discussion. Budgets were provided in the application beyond year one and Board discussion about whether the applicant will need to reapply for subsequent years. The Board previously decided research groups could apply for a continuation using a “no cost extension” request form in order to receive the second year of funding. These requests would include year one performance results and compliance with fund requirements. Research applications that were approved at the prior meeting were approved for the full amounts, disbursing year one funding only, with funding for subsequent years requested in the application contingent upon certain continuation requirements being met. The money for the second year is earmarked for these groups as already allocated. Attorney Libet clarified that should a research group not perform or report according to guidelines, their earmarked funds would go back into the funding pool. Dr. Bussells said it is standard to allow a no cost extension from research projects on an annual basis to align funding with the grant cycle to which they are applying. Board discussion about approving the entire project, but funding for future years is not guaranteed. Motion by Dr. Bussells to allow no cost extensions for funded discretionary projects and to allow approval of multi-year projects, however, each entity will have to apply yearly to get the funds disbursed as it relates to research projects, and the no cost extension is available to any DSF project that needs extra months under a year. Seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.

The Board decided to group the Clemson Zinzow application as likely to approve.

3. Clemson—CJSR. This application was discussed at the meeting on May 22, 2023, but was subsequently re-reviewed by a different team on the Board due to a potential conflict of interest. It was grouped as “likely no” by the Board at the previous meeting. The application was originally scored a 40 and upon second review it was scored a 46. Chairman Bedingfield told the Board they have the option to review this application again and decide whether to regroup it given its new score or allow it to remain in the “likely no” category. Mr. Mixon commented they have good partners and it fills a need related to recidivism rates that is important to address and is being overlooked in other areas, with an opportunity to expand their effort statewide. The principal project is an opportunity to study correctional facilities and their recidivism rates related to OUD with the goal of reducing these rates and diverting individuals. Following Board discussion, a decision was made to move the application to the “maybe” group.

E. Proposed application and meeting dates. The Board decided to discuss application portal dates and meeting dates, to be posted on the SCORF website. The Board also considered whether to increase DSF awards by 25% to address a time gap between approval of projects and groups receiving the funds and to help align everyone to the same fiscal year. Attorney Libet stated while it is prudent for the Board to hold some funds in reserve for future funding cycles, he raised an issue with giving groups additional funds for which they have not requested and proposed holding back funds with an option for groups to request additional funds during a gap time if needed. Board discussion regarding time frames for applications, meeting frequency, project start dates and funding cycles. Motion for project dates for DSF opening on 10/1 and closing on 9/30, application period beginning 10/1 and to be submitted by 1/15 of each year for decisions by June 30th of each year by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Mr. Mixon, m/c unanimous.

Mr. Donaldson asked if GPS project time periods are to be done quarterly, could they agree to define the project start quarters as 1/1, 4/1, 7/1, and 10/1 (January, April, July, and October) of each year. This would take care of fiscal issues related to applications and stated project start dates. Discussion about these dates. Motion to establish dates for SCORF GPS applications to open 9/14/23 and to close 10/15/23, open again 12/20/23 and close 2/5/24, open again 4/1/24 and close 5/3/24, open again 7/3/24 and close 8/5/24; and for project start and end dates for SCORF GPS applications to start 1/1/24 and end 12/31/24, start 4/1/24 and end 3/31/25, start 7/1/24 and end 6/30/25, start 10/1/24 and end 9/30/25 by Ms. Helou-Allen and seconded by Dr. DuBose, m/c unanimous.

Discussion regarding setting Board meeting dates for 2024 and Board to consider time needed to review applications with these new time portal and project dates before scheduling board meeting dates.

The Board took a brief break at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Dr. Bussells asked to revisit the DSF DAODAS application for the Center for Excellence given new information that DAODAS received \$3 million from the State. In the application DAODAS explicitly stated that no other entity had funded the project, so this is an extenuating circumstance where the Board needs to revisit the SCORF funding decision. Ms. Helou-Allen stated in all fairness to the other DSF applicants the Board relied on statements in the DAODAS application when making a funding decision including, p.2 section A4 , "...while we have not applied for any other grants for this project..." , and then in section A5 which states, "...hence funding from the SCORF is among the only potential sources of financial support for the mission and vision by our team, which is solely focused on developing long-term infrastructure..." Thus, the DSF application states it has not applied for any other grant funding. Attorney Libet said the state funding is not a grant per the legislature, and isn't applied for, and Chairman Bedingfield added DAODAS would not have known whether they would receive state funds at the time of their SCORF application. Board discussion that since the Center for Excellence project is well-funded, the \$1 million from SCORF could be used for other applicants if the Center does not need the funding. Attorney Libet suggested asking DAODAS if they still need the funding, and if not, they can then withdraw the application, and if they say yes, provide an explanation for additional funding from SCORF. Motion to reconsider the DAODAS DSF application for the Center for Excellence funding by Ms. Helou-Allen and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, m/c unanimous.

Chairman Bedingfield stated staff will contact DAODAS and this matter can be revisited when the Board receives a response.

Board discussion about amount of DSF funding remaining. The Board agreed to disburse \$7.5 million during the previous meeting and \$4.2 million was approved which includes the Center for Excellence award. The amount left to spend is \$3.3 million until the DAODAS funding situation is resolved. There are \$3.9 million in requests in the "maybe" category, including research projects. The Board discussed what was allocated for prevention. The Board discussed reviewing applications that are "maybes." Chairman Bedingfield suggested starting at the top of the "maybe" list.

The Board reviewed DSF applications categorized as "maybe" as follows:

1. Prisma Health Upstate ED. Dr. DuBose reiterated his statement from the previous meeting that this group and Independent ER Trust need to communicate about their initiatives because there is too much overlap with the projects and money would be better spent if the groups coordinated. Aside from the overlap, this is a very good project. Board discussion about the application and benefits of the project. Also noted the Independent Physician Trust application amendment due to receiving funds elsewhere. Chairman Bedingfield clarified that this request is for a continuation of a trial that was funded by DAODAS two years ago. Board discussion about this project and Prisma Health Midlands. Chairman Bedingfield asked whether to keep this application in the "maybe" category or move it. Mr. Donaldson recommended moving this application to the "yes" group and Board agreed to group this as yes. The Board also decided to group the Prisma Health Midlands application as "yes" group.

2. Bon Secours St. Francis. Chairman Bedingfield said the Board's only issue with this application was administrative costs which were at 10% and would need to be reduced to 5%. Following Board discussion, Ms. Helou-Allen suggested the Board move the application to "yes" group with a reduction of 5% of their administrative costs, and the group could decide whether to accept this. The Board agreed to move the application to the "yes" group and will reduce the group's allowable administrative costs to 5%.

The Board took a short lunch break at approximately 12:30 PM.

The meeting resumed at approximately 1:05 p.m. Chairman Bedingfield resumed discussion of DSF funding and noted \$6.6 million has been allocated and about \$1 million left to spend. Discussion about some disparity within regions, projects in the Pee Dee area, and whether land purchase is allowed. Attorney Libet said land purchases are technically allowable if used for an approved use and a reasonable cost. Dr. Bussells said she felt the Board should focus on programmatic and treatment aspects of applications that directly address treatment and prevention of OUD. Chairman Bedingfield said he would want property appraisals to support requests for property purchases, and the Board discussed including this in requirements.

Attorney Libet provided an update to the Board about the conversation with Sara Goldsby at DAODAS regarding their funding request. Director Goldsby clarified that DAODAS requested \$3 million from the SC Legislature and received \$2 million of that request, so they do still need the \$1 million in previously approved SCORF funds. Ms. Helou-Allen stated with confirmed knowledge that DAODAS already has \$2 million to get them started on the Center, this \$1 million should be allocated to smaller groups that have not yet been approved for any funds, and DAODAS should be welcome to reapply for \$1 million in future funding cycles if needed. Additionally, there are other research groups that have funding that will potentially partner with this Center. Dr. DuBose and Dr. Bussells agreed. Mr. Donaldson recused himself from discussion due to a potential conflict of interest. Dr. Bussells said the Board should invite DAODAS to reapply in the future and give the \$1 million toward other groups that do not yet have funding and work toward getting some of them funded. The Board agreed with this plan for redistributing this \$1 million to other groups that are not yet funded.

Chairman Bedingfield opened the floor for discussion of any applications grouped as "maybe" and "no" for projects the Board wants to revisit and discuss. Board discussion about additional applications for funding. Ms. Montgomery pointed out two applications in the Pee Dee area, Prisma and Clemson, that were in the "maybe" group that the Board moved to "yes," as well as Bon Secours. Mr. Donaldson discussed the DHEC Narcan application that was previously scored as 47. He stated the program just started and has been funded by DAODAS, but they have an issue of no continued funding for community distribution in the next funding cycle and will not be able to continue. Ms. Helou-Allen agreed the Board should fund this project. The total cost of their request is \$400,000. The Board agreed to move this application to the "yes" group.

Dr. DuBose discussed the Crossroads application from the upstate that was grouped as "maybe." Board discussed this They are planning to work in multiple counties with this requested funding The Board decided to move Crossroads to the "yes" group.

The Board discussed other applications, including Circle Park, Landrum Fire and Rescue, and discussed areas of need and already funded groups. Discussion about what areas already had funds for prevention and treatment.

Ms. Helou-Allen told the Board there is a prevention application from Barnwell that could be considered. Her team's only issue with this was the \$29,000 for the purchase and permanent installation of a LED billboard. It was uncertain if this was allowed since it is used to promote and support everything the agency does, and not specifically opioid use abatement. There was also a small issue with their stated smart goals. Mr. Donaldson asked if they had any data regarding the billboard and Ms. Helou-Allen said yes, they provided impressions. Attorney Libet told the Board this is an allowable expense. The total cost of their request is \$92,652. The Board decided to move this Barnwell application to the "yes" group.

Board discussion about Firebird in the Pee Dee region application as a good program for prevention. The Board decided to move Firebird in the Pee Dee region to the "yes" group.

With \$1.7 million left to approve, the board discussed whether they would continue.

Mr. Donaldson brought up a multiple partner collaborative application in the Greenville County Sheriff's Office for youth prevention. The Board went over the amounts for both applications from this group, and that they have not approved many youth prevention programs. The Board agreed to move these applications to the "yes" group.

Dr. Bussells said she felt this is a good stopping point to look at the applications they moved and decide on funding. Attorney Libet said \$3.2 million in new funding has been approved today with a total of \$6.367 million for all new yes group applications today. Chairman Bedingfield told the Board in his opinion the DAODAS request should be funded, and it would not put them over their set limit of \$7.5 million. The remaining DSF applications would be formally rejected by the board today, and they would have to reapply for funds in the next DSF application window. There was a Board discussion about whether to fund DAODAS. Chairman Bedingfield said one of the functions of the Center is to provide the SCORF Board with data. The Board agreed that since no other project will lose out on funds if DAODAS is funded, they moved DAODAS back to the "yes" pile.

Attorney Libet read back the yes group of applications for the minutes, which are as follows:

- DAODAS Center for Excellence
- Clemson Zinzow
- Prisma Health Upstate
- Prisma Health Midlands
- Bon Secours
- DHEC Narcan
- Crossroads Treatment Centers
- Barnwell County DAODAS
- Firebird Recovery
- Greenville County Sheriff's Office- \$561,593.93

Motion from Dr. DuBose to approve all "yes" group of applications totaling \$7.42 million and seconded by Dr. Bussells, m/c unanimous.

Motion to disapprove all DSF applications not read and approved in the DSF yes group of applications by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Dr. DuBose, m/c unanimous.

The next meeting for GPS applications is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023. Other following GPS meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, and Wednesday, August 14, 2024. The next DSF meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024. There will be other meetings for strategy, TBD. Staff will send these dates to board.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 PM.

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board
Statement of Financial Activities

<i>June 2023</i>	Opioid Recovery Fund	Administrative Subfund	Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund	Discretionary Subfund
Transfers In/Source of Funds:				
Opioid Recovery Settlement Fund (STO)	65,533,125.25	-	-	-
Opioid Recovery Fund*		646,611.48	53,832,973.95	9,852,034.11
Investment Earnings	617,674.18	-	-	-
Total Transfers In:	66,150,799.43	646,611.48	53,832,973.95	9,852,034.11
Transfers Out:				
Administrative Subfund*	646,611.48	-	-	-
Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund*	53,832,973.95	-	-	-
Discretionary Subfund*	9,852,034.11	-	-	-
Total Transfer Out:	64,331,619.54	-	-	-
Expenses:				
Contractual Services		1,740.27		
Supplies		3,660.93		
Travel	-	5,683.03	-	-
Distributions to applicants			11,487,480.05	
Total Expenses:	-	11,084.23	11,487,480.05	-
Funds Remaining	1,819,179.89	635,527.25	42,345,493.90	9,852,034.11
Cash Recapitulation (YTD)				
Beginning Cash Balance	-	-	-	-
Transfers In*	66,150,799.43	646,611.48	53,832,973.95	9,852,034.11
Transfers Out*	(64,331,619.54)	-	-	-
Expenses	-	(11,084.23)	(11,487,480.05)	-
A/P Adjustment	-	371.52	-	-
Ending Cash Balance	1,819,179.89	635,898.77	42,345,493.90	9,852,034.11
* Amounts include a transfer for the funds received 03/10/2023 .				