



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Draft Minutes of the Thursday, October 27, 2022, meeting

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC)

The Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) held a public meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2022, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda and/or Materials: http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Advisory_Committees/GMAC/GMAC/

I. Call to Order

(Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements) Erika Pond

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Erika Pond who took roll, and a quorum of the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) members was confirmed.

Members Present

Ali Caliendo

Amy Kelley

Amber Bosket

Diane Thorkildson

Fernando Serrano

Shirley Trummell

Stacy York

Members Absent

Leslie Bittleston

Andre Ponder

Shayla Holmes

Elisabeth Genasci

Tom McCoy

Fred Shultz

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Grants Management Unit (GMU) staff present:

Erika Pond, Chief, GMU, DHHS

Lily Helzer, Section Manager, DPBH, DHHS

Ashley Fondi, Administrative Assistant III, GMU, DHHS

Julia Ford, Administrative Assistant II, GMU, DHHS

II. Approve July 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes

(Discussion, Possible Action) Chair Diane Thorkildson

Action – Meeting minutes were approved by Fernando Serrano and Amber Bosket.

Chair Thorkildson asked if all those in favor of approving the minutes from the July 21st meeting please say aye.

Members stated aye.

Chair Thorkildson asked if anybody opposed. Amy Kelley stated that she will abstain as she was not at the July 21st meeting.

III. Public Comment #1

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

Chair Diane Thorkildson invited public comment. There was no public comment.

IV. Needs Assessment Matrix Review

(Discussion) Erika Pond

Erika Pond stated that “we had sent out the Needs Assessment Matrix Review several months ago as a response to the request that we look at our needs assessment that was conducted and evaluate in a matrix format, what items were addressed as direct service gaps or other needs that we could address in our Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for funding Respite, Independent Living, and Positive Behavioral Support. The Matrix was put together to delve into what the needs assessment gave us in terms of how we could improve our funding opportunities.

We realized as a Grants Management Unit is that the needs assessment should have done a better job at specifically targeting these areas of respite which is caregiver support and the gaps are regarding those specific needs instead of the needs assessment saying we need to improve social support for caregivers, we need to decrease stress and strain on caregivers. Where yes, that’s an identified gap and I’m glad that it’s documented in our needs assessment, but it does not really dive into what we can do to move the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) towards supporting the infrastructure.

For Independent Living, it’s similar things like increased need for vendors, recreational activities for people that are trying to maintain their self-sufficiency. With Positive Behavioral Support the need for things like Universal Pre-Kindergarten, early childhood education programs and it identifies areas in education, economic security, mental health and environment that can be looked at.

For our next Needs Assessment, we will do a more targeted approach”.

Ms. Pond opened any comments or feedback to help improve in the future.

Chair Diane Thorkildson stated that she thought that the Needs Assessment was very clear when it was broken down into the matrix and thanked GMU staff and contractors.

Chair Thorkildson opened any questions or comments to the GMAC members. There we no questions or comments.

Chair Thorkildson asked Ms. Pond if there was anything else she need from the members.

Ms. Pond stated she would encourage any members that had feedback or if there are any resources that could have been utilized to improve this or benefit us that she encourages them to send it over.

Chair Thorkildson added that if there were any specific gaps the members would be excited to get data on.

Ms. Pond added that she has heard a lot of people say they don't know what respite is or they don't know what these programs are targeted for. She stated she'd be interested to know if there are agencies or anybody that is operating outside of these funding opportunities providing similar support or any agencies that are moving into that sort of area where we don't capture them in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Or if there are potential collaborations we don't know about or partnerships. She stated part of merging with existing agencies that could expand rather than starting from square one.

Chair Thorkildson invited discussion.

Shirley Trummell stated she wanted to commend Ms. Pond on the respite care because she was a caregiver to her late husband. Ms. Trummell stated that she lives in Pahrump and that they do have RSVP, which she did utilize but that respite care really isn't something that many people know about, when you go into the smaller parts of the county the need is still there but that it is really hard to get those kind of services to the smaller areas. Ms. Trummell stated she really liked where it says to improve access to caregivers and rural areas. Ms. Trummell stated that she appreciated that.

Amy Kelley stated that she wanted to acknowledge that the needs assessment was a really concise tool and that the staff did a great job in truncating this information in a way that is digestible.

Chair Thorkildson stated that aging and disability specifically received some respite lifespan funding that is going to be doing some interesting and hopefully innovative things. Chair Thorkildson stated she thinks it would probably be wise to chat with ASD.

Chair Thorkildson invited further discussion.

Ali Caliendo stated that she was wondering if there was a definition that you have for caregiver under the respite category that could potentially be made clear. She used the example of caring for an aging parent or someone who is disabled versus caring for a special needs child or being a grandparent caring for a grandchild. She asked if there were clear categories that would make it where sending those who are doing respite opportunities outside the funds right now would be helpful.

Ms. Pond stated that she would get back to Ms. Caliendo on the specific definition for caregiver. Ms. Pond stated that typically for respite the funds don't go directly to individuals, they go to the agencies providing resources to the individuals.

Chair Thorkildson invited any further questions, concerns, or thoughts. There were no further questions, concerns or thoughts.

V. Upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity – Release Dates for Funds for Healthy Nevada

(Discussion) Erika Pond and Lily Helzer

Ms. Pond stated that the announcements for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for respite, independent living and positive behavioral support that are going to be posted next week November 2nd. Once released, we will be sending an email saying that it is available. She stated that we plan to have a webinar on how to apply and then a Q&A in December. The FHN Hunger Funds will be released on December 22nd.

Ms. Pond asked if Lily Helzer had any additional comments.

Ms. Helzer stated that she did not have any additional comments, but that she was available if anyone had any questions.

Chair Thorkildson asked if GMAC will still be manning the committees that are looking for those applicants.

Ms. Helzer stated that the hunger funds are being transferred. She also stated there is a proposal that has to go through the budget process to transfer the management of the hunger funds from DPBH to the department of AG. Should that occur, the department of AG will still follow the normal processes. They asked that the DPBH continue to manage those funds up until the transfer is executed which is proposed July 1st 2023 for the new biennium. Ms. Helzer stated they will be closely partnering with them on the development. She stated that they will have them participate on the evaluation committee alongside representatives of the council so that everyone is involved and that DPBH will still be working with GMAC just like we have in the past to convene. She stated the evaluation committees will bring forward the recommendation of the committee to the full Council, but parties involved in the initial evaluation committee effort.

Ms. Pond stated for independent living, respite, and positive behavioral support, was that our understanding is that the committee members could participate in the review and application process unless there is a conflict of interest and that we would not include those members in the review of applications, but that we would have the members part of the subcommittees where possible and would apply the same sort of format in terms of reviewing funding decisions.

Chair Diane Thorkildson stated she was asking that question specifically as it related to her because she has close allies in respite, DPBH, and independent living. She stated she would be abstaining from everything and that it would make no sense for her to remain on the GMAC if there wasn't really an opportunity for her to participate.

Chair Thorkildson invited any additional questions. There were no additional questions.

VI. Review Calendar for upcoming year

(Discussion, Possible Action) Erika Pond

Ms. Pond stated that she wanted to mention that GMU posted the upcoming meetings for 2023. She stated the dates are February 23rd, April 27th, and October 26th. She stated we will be posting the July meeting and update the members once that is posted as well.

Ms. Bosket asked if she missed the upcoming January meeting.

Ms. Ponds stated that the deadline for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is January 16th so we are pushing the meeting out to February.

VII. Public Comment #2

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

Chair Diane Thorkildson invited public comment. There was no public comment.

VIII. Wrap Up and Adjournment

(Information, Discussion) Diane Thorkildson

Chair Diane Thorkildson wanted to state for the record that our member Amy Kelly has submitted her letter of resignation effective the end of the calendar year. Chair Thorkildson wanted to thank her publicly for all her efforts with GMAC.

Ms. Kelley stated she wanted to say thank you to all and that it has been a pleasure and honor to have been part of the committee for more than four years and that she is proud of the funding recommendations that GMAC has made together.

Chair Thorkildson opened to any additional comments.

Mr. Serrano wanted to state that as a fellow GMAC member, he wanted to thank Ms. Kelley for all her work and that he enjoyed the projects they have worked on together.

Chair Thorkildson took motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

This notice was mailed to groups and individuals as requested and posted on the DHHS website at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/GMU/> and on the State of Nevada Public Meeting Notice website at <https://notice.nv.gov/>. Meeting materials will be available to the public online prior to the meeting or contact the Grant Management Unit via phone at 775-684-3470 or by email: gmu@dhhs.nv.gov.