The following is the agenda for the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee Meeting for Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico in conference room 1158. For those that would like to attend virtually, the meeting may be accessed using the following Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82713949954?pwd=YmljT2Fab0dBSlYxb0dM01PZUhIZz09 Passcode: 246555

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

III. Conflict Of Interest Inquiry

IV. Approval Of Minutes

1. March 1, 2022
2. March 2, 2022
3. March 8, 2022
4. November 10, 2022 - No quorum, meeting cancelled on-site
5. January 9, 2023 - No quorum, meeting cancelled on-site

Documents:

03-01-22 HHS MINUTES.PDF
03-02-22 HHS MINUTES.PDF
03-08-22 HHS MINUTES.PDF

V. Important Due Dates For The 2022-2023 HRPS And CDBG Public Service Application

VI. Discussion Of CDBG-PS Application And Guide

VII. Final Recommendations For CDBG Applications

VIII. Other Discussion

IX. Adjournment

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Posted: February 8, 2023
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 1, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marnie Nixon
Joe Castillo
Miriam Chaiken

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justyn Breen

STAFF PRESENT: Natalie Green, CLC
Catrina Godinez
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandie White, Mesilla Valley CASA
Nichole Martinez, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Lorenzo Alba, Casa de Peregrinos
Bethany Hoffman, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Kay Lilley, Beloved Community
Ken Ferrone, Catholic Charities
Jennica Bustamante, Families and Youth Inc.
George Miller, El Calvario United Methodist Church
Diane D'Ambrosio, El Caldito
Stacey Clark, La Piñon

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:02)

Nixon: Good evening. I'd like to call the meeting to order of the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee for the City of Las Cruces. Thanks for being here everyone. Glad to be in person this year and glad to see so many faces out in the audience.

II. ROLL CALL

Nixon: I'll take the roll.

Baum: Yes, let me do that for you Chairperson.

Nixon: Thank you.

Baum: Mariam Chaiken.

Chaiken: Here.

Baum: Joe Castillo.
III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Nixon: I'd like to start off on conflict of interest. This is agenda item number three, conflict of interest Inquiry. Miriam if you would go ahead?

Chaiken: I just wanted to go on the record saying that I have been a volunteer for the Community of Hope which is one of the proposals we'll be reviewing here. I have never been on their staff. I have never been paid. I've only volunteered in terms of doing some fundraising.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Sir, would you like to comment? Do you have any conflicts of interest related to any of the proposals that we have read or have in front of us for review?

Castillo: I have no conflicts of interest.

Nixon: Thank you. And I myself have served on different boards in the community, had children in different programs, but I do have no conflicts of interest that are related to any sort of financial gain or monetary transactions. So I'd like to go ahead and do we have, do I need to make a motion around the conflict of interest or can the Committee just agree that we have none? Okay. Thank you. Would someone like to make a motion that we have no conflicts of interest?

Chaiken: So moved.

Nixon: And is there a second?

Castillo: I second.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Sorry, we're going to be doing a lot of talking up here. Thank you.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 17, 2021 and February 23, 2021
Nixon: Okay, and our next item for agenda is the approval of minutes from February 17, 2021 and February 23, 2021. Could I get a motion for approval of those minutes?

Chaiken: Move approval.

Nixon: And do I have a second?

Castillo: I'll second.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Approved.

Baum: Can I take the vote for you Madam Chair?

Nixon: Yes ma'am.

Baum: Board Member Chaiken.

Chaiken: Yes.

Baum: Board Member Castillo.

Castillo: Yes.

Baum: And Chair Nixon.

Nixon: Yes.

Baum: Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you.

V. FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR TWO-CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDING TO City Council

Nixon: Our next item of business is the Formal Recommendations for Year Two of the CDBG Public Services Funding to the City Council. We have reviewed those proposals for year two. Committee Members is there a motion to approve?

Castillo: I make the motion.

Chaiken: And I will second.

Baum: Board Member Chaiken.
Chaiken: Yes.

Baum: Board Member Castillo.

Castillo: Yes.

Baum: Chair Nixon.

Nixon: Yes. Thank you. Excellent.

VI. PRESENTATIONS BY APPLICANTS FOR HEALTH-RELATED PUBLIC SERVICES

Nixon: Now we shall move to item number five on the agenda for formal recommendation, pardon me, item number six Presentations by the Applicants for the Health-Related Public Services Funds. Before doing that our Committee went through several changes last year; COVID put us all through lots of changes I'm sure within the organizations. Our Committee Members are new this year and this will be my second year as serving as Chair. So we did want to do just some brief introductions so you know who the Committee is and a little bit about our backgrounds.

So like I said, my name is Marnie Nixon. I'm one of the health extension regional officers from the Health Science Center at UNM. I'm a regional health resource and I have worked in nonprofits and been affiliated with nonprofits for over 30 years and am passionate about the work that you do and have a lot of experience with grant reviewing, grant writing, and doing the work as program manager and executive director. So I'm glad to be here and I'm honored to be in this position tonight. Thank you. Would you like to go ahead?

Castillo: My name is Joe Castillo. I am a local resident, been a long time guy here. I've worked on several boards before for Habitat for Humanity in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I was on the board of directors for the Suicide Prevention Intervention in Denver. I've worked in several nonprofits here in Las Cruces. I've also worked in the Department of Corrections for the State of New Mexico, and I currently am part owner of Castillo Psychological where we provide community health services here in Las Cruces and in southern New Mexico.

Chaiken: My name is Miriam Chaiken. I'm retired recently as the Dean of the Honors College at New Mexico State and a professor of Anthropology. But the reason I was appointed to this Board is because I have 35 years of experience doing research in public health and designing public health programs, poverty alleviation programs in sub-Saharan Africa with nonprofit organizations, principally Save the Children, the Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation, and UNICEF. So I have a deep commitment to trying to improve the quality of life, especially for vulnerable children.

Nixon:  Thank you Committee Members.

A. Mesilla Valley CASA

Nixon: Our first presentation on the agenda tonight is Mesilla Valley CASA. As you all know, yes please come on up. You have five minutes to speak. You don't have to use them all. The Committee Members will ask a few questions if they have any about your proposal or presentation and we'll go on to the next person. So thank you very much and welcome.

White: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Brandi White. I'm the program director for Mesilla Valley CASA which is Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA recruits, trains, supervises, and supports community volunteers to advocate for the best interest of children and teens living in foster care.

The children who enter foster care are age's birth through 17 and they enter the system at no fault of their own. All the children served by Mesilla Valley CASA are victims of abuse and neglect at the hands of their parents or caregivers. It is our goal that every child who enters foster care has a dedicated well trained advocate to speak on their behalf at every step throughout the process. Our program is proud of the positive outcomes achieved for kids who have CASA volunteers including increased court ordered services like therapy and educational support as well as being less likely to return to foster care once they're in a permanent home.

I'm guessing that a really common theme, something we've already heard about tonight is the impact of COVID on our ability to serve our clients. We are no different. So prior to COVID we were serving about 60% of kids in foster care throughout Las Cruces. We held on pretty well through 2020 but 2021 really hit us hard. Most of the volunteers that we trained virtually in 2021 have not stayed with us because they weren't able to make that personal connection with kids and with other service providers. And so our goal moving forward for 2022 and 2023 is to really increase the number of volunteers that we have to provide more one on one support to volunteers and to make sure that our volunteers are able to connect with kids in a really meaningful way to create relationships.

As you may have heard we have been invited by the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico to rent space from them at their new building at El Paseo and University. We are in the very middle of moving in and settling in but we're really excited for the opportunity that this new
location brings for visibility to the community, for more space for our staff, and with a beautiful training facility. So with this funding we look forward to getting back to pre-pandemic times and numbers. The good thing is that there are fewer kids coming into foster care. The hard thing about that is that every case is more complex and so it really needs a CASA advocate so with this funding we'll be able to serve more kids in foster care. Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Committee Members, do you have any questions? Would you like to start us off Miriam?

Chaiken: Brandi, when I was reading your proposal I noticed that you've had 12 years of funding but it said, "not continuous for this project". Is this funding for a different emphasis or a different set of activities for your organization?

White: This is for the same, our program doesn't really change, right the way that we advocate for kids in foster care with an advocate. So if I marked that one incorrect then that's on me.

Chaiken: Okay, I just wanted point of clarification.

White: Thank you,

Nixon: Do you have any comments or questions? No. Okay. My questions were mostly related to changes in COVID and I didn't see that around your proposal or as much as like the detail I was looking for. Interesting that the cases are more complex and not surprising at the same time. Thank you very much. We appreciate your presentation.

White: Thank you Committee Members.

Nixon: Thank you.

B. Mesilla Valley Community of Hope

Nixon: Next we have Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. And feel free to get started whenever you're ready.

Martinez: I'm ready. Thank you. Good evening. My name is Nicole Martinez. I'm the director of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. I want to say thank you for being here tonight and being a part of this Committee. And thank you for the opportunity to reapply for Health Related Public Services Funding for our SOAR program. SOAR is a Social Security Administration program where we have a representative that is trained to help people who are disabled and homeless apply for Social Security Disability
benefits. Social Security administrative offices had the foresight to acknowledge that homeless people have extreme obstacles when they're trying to apply for Social Security Disability benefits. It's hard for anyone to apply for those and navigate that kind of system but coupled with experiencing homelessness makes it even harder. So they have trained representatives at nonprofits to help clients to apply for Social Security.

People who experience homelessness have an average life expectancy of 50 years of age; that's almost 20 years lower than housed populations. So what is Community of Hope doing about that? We're doing a lot of things but tonight I'm here to talk about the SOAR program that we have implemented over the last several years at Community of Hope. So we have a SOAR certified case manager. We have three actually but only one who is funded partially by this program. We help our clients overcome those obstacles that we talked about when they are applying for Social Security Disability benefits. Tonight we have 40 people staying at Camp Hope; it's a tent city located behind our building. We have 31 males and nine females. Three people staying at the Camp right now are actively working with their SOAR representative to obtain Social Security Disability benefits and the others that we are working with right now are either transitioning to a housing program either on their own or through Community of Hope or they're staying directly on the streets.

One client, Jerry I'll say, was in one of our short term housing programs. He worked with the SOAR case workers. He had some very serious health problems. She helped him to obtain all of his medical records from the various places where he lived, helped him with the function report and the entire Social Security application packet, submitted it and the Social Security Administration red flags those SOAR applications and expedites them understanding that that's because having income can mean the difference between life and death for people. We submitted the application in February of last year and within four months his approval award came. He was able to complete the housing program, the short term housing program with Community of Hope and has since remained housed being able to afford his own rent at his own apartment. Without the advocacy of Community of Hope and our SOAR rep it's likely that his case may have fallen through the cracks. That is something that happens to many people who are trying to navigate the system.

Our grant with the City of Las Cruces is to serve 30 people with the SOAR program. Since July, the beginning of our fiscal year, we have served 28. We have four months left to go. I'm pretty confident that we will meet the requirements of that grant and likely exceed it. Currently we're working with 18 people appealing their Social Security Disability application for approvals and six who are awaiting their determination.
Some of the returns on the monies that we received from the City of Las Cruces for this program. We now have landlords who are collecting rents from clients that we've been able to help get income. We also have doctors who are being reimbursed now for medical care of the clients accessing services. And if you do some simple math of four people who were awarded Social Security Disability with an average of about $500.00 a month for rent who are now housed, it's about $24,000.00 in rent just for the people that received their disability awards. Not to mention that we have Las Cruces citizens who are now buying things in the community, who are improving their quality of life and hopefully not living in a tent at Camp Hope any longer.

So please allow us to continue doing this. Between the SOAR and Mano y Mano day labor program we feel like we're making a huge impact in our community in helping people obtain income which has helped so many people in their homelessness. And I'll hopefully be able to answer any questions you may have for me.

Nixon: Thank you very much Nicole. Joe do you have any questions?

Castillo: I have no questions.

Nixon: Miriam.

Chaiken: I have just one quick one. I know that most of us saw in the newspaper that you had obtained a very large grant from the Bezos Foundation. Can you clarify how that funding is earmarked and maybe different than what you're requesting for the SOAR program?

Martinez: Yes, thank you for the question. The Bezos Day One Foundation Families First grant is specifically to be used for families and diverting families from shelter, helping them to access resources, and helping with housing. It is not earmarked for the SOAR program. In fact even though the Social Security Administration has this program they don't provide any funding for it. We have been really fortunate in our community that City of Las Cruces has this funding source for us to apply for funds for this program but we wouldn't be able to access the Bezos Day One grant for SOAR funding. It will just be used specifically for families and sheltering and housing them.

Nixon: I just had a question and it's more of a curiosity that without a SOAR rep what would be a ballpark time for people to get benefits? Is that even a legitimate question? Do they fall through the cracks so often that it's not a possibility without support?

Martinez: Madam Chair. There is data, I think it's a little bit outdated right now, that has been available through Social Security and SAMSA as they've tracked...
the SOAR program but during COVID Social Security offices shut down. It's really hard now to gauge the time frame. It's a lot longer than it used to be. It used to be something like 90 days whereas historically it would take somebody from one to three years to wait for their determination. So if they do have a SOAR rep it kind of gets flagged and it was really fast. Now it's still faster than if you don't have a SOAR rep but the time frames are now longer. We're waiting longer than 90 days typically. And with my example of Jerry that one was really expedited. Fortunately he was able to recall all the places he had gone to hospital so we could access those records. Sometimes that can take a lot longer too. That process was slowed down during COVID as well just because hospitals didn't have, they had a lot of patients going on and doing other things besides faxing medical records to our agencies and SOAR representatives.

Nixon: Great. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Martinez: Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you.

C. Casa De Peregrinos

Nixon: And next we'd like to invite up Casa de Peregrinos.

Alba: Good evening. I'm Lorenzo Alba. I'm the director at Casa de Peregrinos. And I too would like to thank all of you for being here with us tonight and for the opportunity to reapply for this grant that has funded our Food Security program for many years. This program is designed to distribute food here in Las Cruces. It's been around for over 40 years doing what we do; getting food to the families that are in need, that are experiencing food insecurity. A lot of these families are women as head of household, single parent homes, a couple that both of them are working to try and make ends meet. On the Community of Hope we not only serve the homeless community but also low income families through the Food Security program. About 40% of those people that we serve are children; another 20% are seniors.

We're again requesting $30,000.00 which is a small percentage of the funding that we actually need to run this program locally. And especially with the rising food costs and inflation, this will be absolutely helpful. The pandemic certainly put a lot of pressure on us and it made us rearrange our operation quite a few times as we moved forward through the pandemic. A lot of lessons were learned but a lot of good lessons were learned also that will help us better serve this community and to be more attentive to what the real needs are. There was a big spotlight on food insecurity in New Mexico during the pandemic to the point where even the
governor's office was paying a little bit more attention than normal to food insecurity.

We are excited that we are going to be moving into a new building soon. We will break ground on the old Horse and Hound facility on March 31st. This is going to afford us a lot of capacity and space that we just didn't have. During the pandemic we actually had to rent the reefer trailers to try to keep food available for the families. We just didn't have the space. We were trying to get food to other communities as well and to try and help them out so we needed that space to make that happen. This will be very good. In that facility we also intend to provide nutrition classes through a demonstration kitchen that we'll have there for the families.

One of the things that we strive for through the Food Security program is providing nutritious food for the families. So we commit to spending these dollars on fresh produce, on dairy products, and on protein items like pork, poultry, even beef. We understand that these decisions are very difficult to make for a committee but I think this is a program that has proven its worth for many, many years and the return on the dollar is incredible. The return on the dollar is something that we like to brag about by the amount of food that we give to the families. We weighed a cart the other day and we've been stating to everybody that we average about 85 pounds of food per family in a food basket which averages out to about $125.00, $150.00 worth of food in there but it's actually more like 100 pounds. And that gives a family real relief, especially when they're trying to figure out their budgets for each month; you know whether to pay the rent or buy medicines, clothing for the kids, any of the kids necessities.

Last year through all of our programs we distributed 4.2 million meals: that's over 5 million pounds of food. Those numbers continue to grow and I think the big reason is because we're committed to give the families more food. The average food basket in the United States is about 40 pounds. In our region it's about 50 because our food bank is very committed to doing a good job and getting food out. Our commitment to this community is to try to give 85 pounds in a food basket. We also serve the homeless community at the transitional homes of Community of Hope and some other agencies that need that assistance through this program so that's an exciting part about it. We've been able to add quite a few projects and programs that will better serve this community. I'm out of time now but I'm glad to answer any questions you may have about this program and Casa de Peregrinos.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Joe do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: I don't. Thank you.
Nixon: And Miriam.

Chaiken: No questions. Thank you.

Nixon: And I do not have any questions. It's very straight forward. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Alba: Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

D. Big Brothers Big Sisters-Mountain Region

Nixon: And next I'd like to invite Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Mountain Region up. And you're on your way.

Hoffman: Hello and I also want to say thank you for having me. I'm honored to be here and honored to be in the company of all of my peers. I know that all of our programs are necessary and important to our community. I'm Beth Hoffman. I'm the senior director for Big Brothers Big Sisters – Mountain Region. We are a one to one mentorship program. We have been a successfully running one to one mentorship program for over 100 years in the United States and nearly 40 years in the community of Las Cruces; nearly 50 in New Mexico.

Our program, we offer two types of programs for children between the ages of five to 17. One of them is community based where they would spend time in the community for four to six hours a month with a caring adult mentor. The other is a site based program where they could be matched with an adult or we've also started a high school Bigs program where we can actually match them with a high school student, an elementary aged student.

All of the grant that I wrote obviously shows you all the data, the numbers, and the facts so I won't spend too much time on that. You can ask me about that at the end if you would like to. But I do want to talk to you a little bit about what makes our program so important. So like everyone else obviously the pandemic was very hard on us last year and we did not take for granted how much our Bigs went above and beyond for their littles. So last year I decided in order to show a little extra appreciation I wanted to start a program called Big of the Month and it's where our staff just got together and said, "this Big has definitely gone above and beyond let's do a little something extra for them." And some of their littles, the little that was chosen wrote a story about each of them so I just wanted to share a little bit of that with you. Little brother AJ said about his Big sister Alexis "Alexis is very nice and helping. She is caring and if I feel hurt she helps me to feel better. She is also fun and kind. She always takes me to fun places". Little brother Julian said about Big brother Ali "Ali
has always been one of the best guys I have ever hung out with. He’s kind. He shows me how to be kind. He’s active. He helps me to be active. He shows me different things that I don’t normally do with my family. Like he takes me hiking and teaches me new things. He’s someone I can talk to and be comfortable with. I like going with Ali because it’s just time for me to hang out with him and be myself. We laugh a lot. Ali is just cool." Little sister Kayla said about big sister Arlene "Arlene is a good big sister because she understands me and she helps when I need help. She makes me smile every time and is kind. I respect her and she is fun to play with. She always makes me feel happy. I feel like she’s the perfect big sister.”

We have many stories like this which assures me that our program is working. We can serve a people all day but in my opinion it’s what the kids have to say and how the kids feel which means the most. The application that I submitted would allow us to recruit, interview, research, and match and support 90 youth in our community. We served through the pandemic last year, we managed to still serve 91 youth in our community.

We did not receive very many referrals from LCPS due to educators not being able to adequately or comfortably assess a child via Zoom. As you can imagine that was difficult but we did receive a lot more parent referrals which is largely in part to counseling services and teachers just passing that information along at all times. Our program was not stagnant but our pace of growth did slow considerably. We have made a pact with LCPS and several other youth organizations in our community to collaborate in order to catch up and bridge the gap that is obviously very evident in our City right now for our youth. Thank you for letting me be here tonight and I would be glad to answer any questions that you have.

Chaiken: So in your proposal you talked about serving 90 kids. How do kids graduate out of this and roughly how many a year would be graduating out and then how do you recruit to replace? Do you try to keep a stable number of about 90?

Hoffman: Well, to be honest I think when I presented this presentation at the beginning of 2020 we were shooting to be serving double that. Because really the way that the national model works and every community is different but we want to be serving about 10% of the kids in our community so obviously that falls pretty short still. But we have a system called match support where our program specialists are entering all the data in of how long a match is in the system and the commitment for a match is two years; or one year for the Big and two years for the child. And so when they’re in the program they’re in it for that long.
They may not always have a Big during that time but they are still counted as a youth served because we are still providing them services. If we have any activities they're invited. We did like a back to school supply pickup even though they couldn't go to school, we wanted them to have things at home, and every year we try to do that. But the kids on our waiting list; so we do have a waiting list when they come in and they are invited to those things too. But they don't graduate out of the program unless they or their families maybe don't feel it's right for them but mostly it's just they age out when they graduate high school or turn 18 years old. Then we also by then we try to recruit them to be a Big themselves.

And the referral process typically comes from a teacher, talks to the school counselor, and the school counselor makes a referral to us. But like I said local counseling services and other nonprofit organizations have been really great about referring us potential youth.

Chaiken: Okay. Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you. Joe, did you have a question? Okay. I just had a question and it seems specific, but it was just around in your goals and objectives section and it was more about parents, and this is again more of a COVID related question, is we know that fewer cases of abuse have been reported. Kids were not in school. Teachers did not feel comfortable making reports. And I just wonder sometimes how you handle that at parent engagement. If the parent struggling or the child is in an abusive home and how do you work with the Bigs around that safety and guidance?

Hoffman: So all of our Bigs families including the little, they have to go through safety training prior to being matched. So they all have to attend all of those trainings. During COVID they were online. Some of them we do, do in person, so they're aware of that. And then they do know going into the relationship that we are a mandatory reporting agency. So if there is an evidence of abuse we do have to report it. We do investigate it if we get, obviously these littles learn to trust their Bigs very much and sometimes they'll say something to them. And so if they were to make a comment, like I have a little sister. I'll just use this as an example. Her mother was in a relationship that wasn't awesome and she would talk to me about it. She didn't tell me that her mother was being abused or anything but they sort of moved in the night. So I just called her mom and it's a gray area for me being the director for sure, but I talked to our program director about it too and I said "I just want you guys to keep an eye on this situation" because the mom is really good about being honest and open and I felt the kids were safe and so we didn't have to take any action in that instance but she moved out, got herself back into her own house on her own and has opened up to me a little bit about it. We do report. That's
how it goes, and unfortunately, not to take so much time, but yes as we all
are aware and assume there were so many unreported child abuse cases
when the kids weren't able to attend school.

Nixon: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I appreciate your work.

Hoffman: Thank you. Yes, of course.

E. Beloved Community

Nixon: And next Beloved Communities.

Lilley: Hi. Good evening. My name is Kay Lilley and I'm the director of a small
relatively new nonprofit called Beloved Community. Our mission is to
facilitate shared experiences among people with and without intellectual
and developmental disabilities. And it's through those shared experiences
that we challenge oppressive social norms and attitudes about neuro-
diverse people, engage the gifts of each person, and create a sense of
belonging for everybody.

This is the type of work that Beloved Community has been doing in Las
Cruces since we lost state funding in 2017, and since then we've been
primarily community supported. And we're thinking maybe it's time that
the City can invest in our community building efforts. It's our intention to
demonstrate a model of engagement that yields mutual health benefits to
people with disabilities, other community members, and the community in
general. We will involve disabled folks in important work that not only
creates opportunity for engagement, connectivity, and community building
but helps them become better versions of themselves in the process.

The following projects are in support of the City's Public Art Plan which
acknowledges the contribution of the arts to community health. We are
proposing to work with a group called Murals of Las Cruces who has a
website that is outdated. They have invited us to be involved in updating
and maintaining the website so that community members and visitors can
keep abreast of where to find murals in the City. We also are looking to
plan and facilitate some public art and street mural walking tours and
scavenger hunts with community members. We also intend to promote
the City's vision of an inclusive community by facilitating meaningful civil
engagement by community members with disabilities. This includes
facilitating participation in the City Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory
Council and also supporting folks to share their perspective and get input.
In direct support of the ADAA Advisory Council's goal to solicit public input
to "identify barriers that exist for persons with disabilities in accessing City
sponsored facilities and programs." We are proposing to use various
community participatory methods to generate and collect feedback from
across disability groups regarding Las Cruces museums, facilities, and programing. They have in fact asked us to do so. Also in partnership with the Las Cruces museums we are proposing to co-facilitate a culture of empowerment series to share and develop promising practices for including community members with disabilities and others living on the margin.

And last we propose to develop a disability and neurodiversity toolkit to disseminate and present to City advisory committees, workgroups, departments, and the City Council. These projects that I have just shared with you will serve to build connections and community memberships that are vital to individual health, engage the contributions of folks with disabilities thereby making our community stronger and more vibrant, and promote a more inclusive and welcoming community. I'm glad to try answering any questions you have.


Chaiken: Yes, I had a couple of questions. In the justification section and where you talk about the project goals, can you give us a little bit more detail about how you have documented whether any of those goals have been achieved or the level to which they've been achieved? If you could give us just a little bit more specific information about how those goals have been monitored or progress has been monitored.

Lilley: Is there specific goal or should I?

Chaiken: Well, just if you could give an example. I mean are these all brand new initiatives that have never been done before so you're starting from ground zero or is this part of an ongoing program? That was not quite clear to me.

Lilley: Okay, thank you. This is work that we've been doing and focusing on since mid-2017 and we've done similar work, like timed traffic, done accessibility walks, we've done public art tours in Las Cruces. And we want to continue and expand on doing those things. So we do things like sign in sheets; often times after a public event we gather the participants together and have a dialogue to reflect on what they've taken in and what they've learned and how they might use some of that experience into the future. We do, in my proposal I included a graphic recorder which is a person who records conversations as they unfold using images and graphics and colors instead of writing on a piece of paper. So that's a more creative way of capturing evaluative feedback.
Chaiken: Okay. Do you work with any of the other organizations in the community that work with neuro-diverse populations? Do you have any collaborations with other organizations like for example Tresco or something like that?

Lilley: I’m really familiar with programs like Tresco and have 30 plus years’ experience working with those. We don’t so much collaborate with disability service providers as we do with other community organizations who have a focus on things like social justice, health equity, those type of things.

Chaiken: Okay. And then my final question is kind of about the budget. I felt like there were some things in the budget request that didn’t quite add up. So for example your overall budget you’re indicating that you’re operating with $246,000.00 a year as I understood it.

Lilley: Oh gosh no. That must have been a-

Chaiken: I don’t have the document in front of me but- 107. Okay, I may need to go back and look at this.

Green: So I am noticing that there’s a second two in the overall budget justification sheet so I think it is a typo. Where the total was entered as like $228,000.00 instead of $28,000.00.

Chaiken: Is it just a typo?

Lilley: Yes.

Chaiken: Okay.

Lilley: Thank you for pointing that out.

Chaiken: It looked like your sources of revenue were a little over $10,000.00 but you were spending a quarter of a million so that was a little confusing. Whatever you’re doing I want to learn how to do that. Thank you. I think that’s my questions.

Lilley: Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you Miriam. And I should just let everybody know we’re working off of computers and paper so we’re going back and forth between a couple different things here so excuse the kind of scrambling. Joe did you have any questions?

Castillo: That was my question.
Nixon: Okay. Excellent. And I just had a question. I'm not familiar with your organization and so thank you for sharing your presentation because just so I might get to characterize it a little better for myself, it seems it's more of an organization around empowerment and engagement as you mentioned, and around then social change as a result of that engagement and that collaboration. The question I had was do you work, is your organization work with volunteers to do that? She was asking more about do you collaborate with other organizations. How do you get the bodies to do the work? I guess that's the question.

Lilley: There have been times where it's just been me. But right now, for the past couple of years I've been using the AmeriCorps VISTA Program which gives me a full year of service from a wonderful college graduate. This year Mallory is working with me. My VISTA from last year couldn't bear to part ways and so we found a little fundraising money to bring them on board as a virtual engagement coordinator. But the VISTAs have been critical. Before that we used the Border Servant Corp before they terminated their fellowship program.

Nixon: Excellent. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Lilley: Thank you. I appreciate it.

F. Catholic Charities of Southern NM

Nixon: And next I'd like to invite Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico.

Ferrone: Good evening. I'm Ken Ferrone the executive director of Catholic Charities. And I thank you for your time and commitment to helping our community. Also we feel very honored, I feel very honored to be among these groups. They're wonderful organizations doing incredible work in our community. We're very honored. What we've done, we're reapplying for Telshor Fund grants. We've had Telshor grants for the past four years. I'm proud to say we've helped over 600 victims of crime. The program that we're asking for Telshor Funds for is our Crime and Domestic Violence program.

Catholic Charities has been in the community since 2004. We have two offices: one here in Las Cruces and one in Roswell. We have 12 staff members and I'm proud to say that we've given over $400,000.00 away in direct assistance during the pandemic in both 2020 and 2021. We have a victims advocate on our staff and she's a former work employee of La Casa. And we work in partnership with La Casa, La Piñon, Las Cruces Police Department, DASO, and the DA's office. We provide victims, primarily of domestic violence with legal services, direct assistance, counseling with our partnering agencies, and case management.
When we do have a referral given to us from La Casa for instance it's usually about two and a half years we'll work with that victim. And so our victim's advocate really functions as a case worker or social worker. So we try our best to look at the whole person, their family, their situation, and so we provide them with wraparound services for counseling, direct assistance for what they may need. For instance we will provide them with security deposit so they can get a new apartment, funding for rent and things like that. We're requesting $30,000.00 this year which is a little bit more than we normally do. Our budget for this program typically runs about $100,000.00 to $75,000.00. We're proposing to do 24 pro-bono cases completely free but total focus on 185 clients: that's about 15 per month.

We charge over that two and a half year period about $2,000.00 for a pro-bono case; that's actually what the cost is. Private firms however will charge anywhere from $8,000.00 to $10,000.00 so we do have to ask for, we request funding from our clients but it's minimal and we do have program plans, payment plans, and we also get other grant funding to help with some of the costs. The services that we provide to our victims are one on one interviews, evidence gathering, documentations including victim impact statements, translations, securing crime certificates and documents from local law enforcement agencies. We also do protective orders, and then we represent our clients in immigration and civil courts.

So why are we asking for more money this year? We typically ask for $15,000.00, we're asking for $30,000.00. Unfortunately our key partner La Casa no longer receives CVRC funding and CVRC funding what that stands for is Crime Victim Reparation Commission. Each victim is given a certain sum of money over their lifetime. Unfortunately for whatever reason, we don't know exactly why, CVRC funds were stopped at La Casa in the middle of last year. So we typically got $25,000.00 per year out from La Casa with their referrals. So they would refer people to us plus give us money. With that money being gone we have looked for other sources to find funding for that. So this request we're asking for would subsidize our victim service advocate and a portion of her salary so that she could provide free legal services to the 185 people we're targeting.

We think the 185 is doable. Just as an example we've already, in this fiscal year, this Telshor Fund year, we have a goal of servicing 150 clients. Through December we've already done 128 so we're already at 85%, and one of the reasons why is because of the pandemic. We've seen a lot of increases in domestic violence. People that during lockdown were grouped together and so it's been really challenging. Why do we think this funding is important? Well for a number of reasons. One is our goals align with the City's strategic goals; that's the City's Elevate Las Cruces

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plan, the 2021 to 2025 Consolidated Plan, and of course the Strategic Plan. We believe that the work we do helps improve community health because it gives victims a voice and helps them with their healing as they get back to their lives. So thank you so much for your time and I'll take any questions you may have.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Joe do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: Just appreciate the work you're doing.

Ferrone: Thank you.

Nixon: Miriam.

Chaiken: I also appreciate the work you're doing.

Ferrone: Thank you.

Chaiken: This is helping very vulnerable people. All of you folks are doing wonderful things. I just had one question and that is if you, you're talking about a case load of about 185 clients, what proportion of them roughly are undocumented or asylum seekers versus American citizens?

Ferrone: That's a great question. Looking at the census numbers about 18% to 20% of our population at any given time are foreign born. Many of them are recent arrivals so we have a large undocumented population. Most of the, unfortunately women we do help at La Casa are in need of immigration relief and their abusers unfortunately use their immigration status as a tool of control. They'll say, "if you tell the police on me I'll call immigration." So to answer your question I would say out of that 185 probably 60% of those or 70% are probably going to be undocumented.

Chaiken: And they don't really have other legal protections that someone who's an American citizen would be able to tap into. Is that correct?

Ferrone: That's correct. And part of the services if I might add, if I could, we also help them get a work authorization permit. So some of these women that have unfortunately been abused have not been able to go into the workforce and so we'll work with them to get them a work authorization and use our connections in the community to try and find them jobs.

Chaiken: Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you very much. I have no questions.

Ferrone: Okay. Thank you.
G. Third Judicial District Court

Nixon: And next I'd like to invite down Third Judicial District Court - Veterans Treatment Court. Are they here tonight? Third Judicial District Court - Veterans Treatment Court. The project manager is Silvia Herrera. Silvia Herrera, are you here tonight? Or Luis Lopez.

H. Families and Youth Inc.

Nixon: Okay we are going to move on to the next one which is Families and Youth Incorporated, El Crucero.

Bustamante: Good evening. My name is Jennica Bustamante and I am the housing manager for FYI Plus Housing programs; one of those programs being El Crucero. So El Crucero is our permanent supportive housing site where we are able, because of this grant, we are able to offer low and affordable housing cost to families in our community. Many of the families that we work with have experienced homelessness in the past. They may have substance use diagnosis, a mental health diagnosis, or even a combination of all three of those.

When we look at housing what we want to do is be able to provide safe housing to our families in order to get them in line with services that they may need to help them get to wherever they need to be. So with this money we utilize it in a case management perspective so that we can link the family to resources that they need which may include mental health services, medical services, you know really whatever that looks like for the family. Because each family is very different the case management for each family looks a little different and is really based on that family's need. We work on meeting families where they're at and trying to get them to the next step.

So while we are permanent supportive housing and there really is no time limit on the length of time that families are able to stay with us, our best approach is to try and use it as a steppingstone to their next placement. And so we do that by assisting them in creating positive tenant history. A lot of them don't have that. They come to us without that. And by providing other tenancy supports. Sometimes that looks like us assisting them in applying for housing vouchers. It looks like helping them, referring them to like a SOAR representative or something like that in order to get them more stable income. Many of the families that we work with are on fixed incomes or single household incomes and so we just work
individually with each family to just really support whatever it is that they need.

If this funding is not available to us, it doesn't allow us the ability to provide that low and affordable housing which further puts our families in a vulnerable situation at re-experiencing homelessness and just a lot of those risk factors like substance use, mental health issues, and things like that. So we really try to do the best that we can in supporting our families and maintaining stable and safe housing. I think that is all I have to say. This is my first presentation so I'm super nervous but I'm open to questions.

Nixon: Thank you very much. We're glad that you're here and don't be nervous. We're just asking questions because we're actually interested. So Joe did you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: Thank you again. Is this a service that can be reused by a family again if something happens, they relocate and then come back to Las Cruces? Supposedly some of us have experienced when we come back to Las Cruces.

Bustamante: Yes absolutely. So if I'm understanding your question you're asking if they move on from us and then something happens can they come back; yes absolutely. We don't really have any like non, like disqualifiers per se. And so if that did occur they would have to go through our application process again and of course we'd have to have a unit available but absolutely they could reapply.

Nixon: Miriam did you have any questions, comments? I think you answered the main one that I had. One of the interesting things, I wish we had more of these right? And when you said the $30,000.00 one thing that I didn't see in your proposal was all of your funding sources. And so certainly I'm guessing $30,000.00 isn't going to cover all of your programing. So if you wouldn't mind mentioning maybe what your other funding sources are and then that just sort of helps me get a picture of what your total budget is.

Bustamante: Sure. So you are absolutely correct. That does not cover the entire cost that it costs to keep us operational, and we always are looking at different avenues of funding streams. Unfortunately that pool that's available to us is very small and sometimes just really unavailable. So the remaining funds that it costs to keep us operational really come from our general funds pool and in kind donations that our nonprofit receives and things of that nature. I know that at other meetings we are trying to really advocate for us to be able to bill Medicaid for those tenancy supports and be able to have a steady stream of funding sources elsewhere but that hasn't yet happened. And then with our other programs we collaborate and
sometimes partner closely with like Community of Hope or even Housing
where we're able to kind of funnel in like a housing voucher for a family
who's not part of this program which provides other rental costs for
another unit. But that definitely helps in us being able to maintain that low
cost of housing.

Nixon: Thank you. And thank you very much. It never occurred to me and it
should have that people need that positive tenant history to move on and
to get into other rental properties. So thank you very much.

Bustamante: Thank you.

I. El Calvario United Methodist Church

Nixon: Next we have El Calvario.

Miller: Yes ma'am.

Nixon: Hi. Welcome.

Miller: I'm George Miller. It's a pleasure to be here tonight and it's a pleasure to
be among my colleagues. Sometimes this is lonely and challenging work
and we rarely are in the same room together so I appreciate all the work
that you guys do and also from the panel. I'm the pastor at El Calvario
United Methodist Church and the executive director at the El Calvario
Immigrant Advocacy Center.

And what we do is I guess you look on the TV every night and you see
things happening around the world. We think we're in an isolated place
but if something happens around the border you see the effects of that
immediately with asylum seekers as we've seen over the last years. The
pandemic strikes and we do pandemic services. And guess who were at
the bottom of the barrel for receiving services and pandemic checks, it
was always migrants. There's some that pass through, the asylum
seekers pass through but we have a whole community of migrants living in
our City that are kind of below the visibility zone so they're the ones that
don't, for many reasons don't have access to services.

More recently we worked with humanitarian assistance and also with
disaster assistance like the La Union flood; that's a lot of migrants were
living down there over the time, a lot of times over the years. The most
lately, and this is what the grant is focusing on is resettlement. You look
on the TV a year ago Afghan refugees that were trying to get out of their
country and so here they are on our doorstep. They're coming to live in
Las Cruces. They're our new neighbors and they're newcomers and they
come with a $1,200.00 a head for complete immigration services.
We do welcoming services. We find them housing, furnished housing. We try to get them employment services. We do legal work, pandemic services. Everything you can think of. Get them enrolled in schools. Get them connected to the community. We'll be sending a lot of our clients; we have a commercial kitchen incubator to do employment and vocational services to teach them how to get up on a higher rung of the ladder and stay there and be there permanently.

It's not a short term goal; it's a long term race we're running. And so we use immigrant generational, they'll get up to a level where they're sustainable after maybe a generation of people. So we're in it to walk with these guys for the long-term. And there's a short term part of it and a long term part of it. There's a real intensive case management and social services that are needed immediately. And these people are coming, even though with a lot of issues; trauma, you've seen it, there's a lot of sadness. They had to leave home. Everybody had left someone at home.

One of the pilots that we received they told him to go to the airport, get on the plane and fly off. He never got to say goodbye to his wife and kids. Now in Afghanistan there is a huge famine and so you don't know if they're living, how they're getting fed to the next day. It's a big worry over them also. So what this case management would do or a social worker or a public health student; we have a partnership with NMSU with the Public Health Department or the school and the Social Work Department, we do placements; field placements. We'd make a permanent placement for one of those students either a social worker or a public affairs, maybe a public health student.

We also partner with the Department of Health to provide these services and we are partnering with Save the Children nationally, worldwide and also with, we're affiliated with Church World Services and we partner with United Nations Commission on Refugees. So they need a lot of help but these guys, they're resilient people. They wouldn't be here if they weren't. It's for all the migrants that are here. They're trying to find a better life for themselves or escaping persecution or life threatening situations. They deserve our help. They're our newest neighbors and we want to make sure to welcome them like they well deserve. They spent their careers supporting our country, at least with the Afghan refugees, and I think we owe a little bit back to them.

So we appreciate your support and you'll probably be seeing these guys, people walking around the streets now, mostly walking. They've graduated to bikes. Some of them are getting their drivers licenses already but there's a range of things we do even just to get the kids bikes and the adults bikes. Next up is drivers licenses and cars but with their
jobs. It’s a long process and very intensive. It’s not like a normal case work but it’s almost daily contact with the client. Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you. Miriam did you have any questions?

Chaiken: No. Not at the moment. Thank you for the work. These are, I know these have worked with some of these populations overseas and I know how really vulnerable they are.

Miller: Yes. Thank you.

Nixon: Joe.

Castillo: I have no questions. Thank you.

Nixon: And I have no questions. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Miller: Thank you all.

J. El Caldito

Nixon: Next I’d like to invite El Caldito Soup Kitchen.

D’Ambrosio: Good evening. Thank you for letting El Caldito reapply for this funding. Our mission at El Caldito is to feed any hungry person that comes through our doors, a nutritious meal in a clean and safe environment. Since opening our doors 38 years ago we have served over 2.3 million meals to individuals in our community. The Soup Kitchen has a reputation to not only serve a healthy meal but a delicious meal as well. We know our clients have their favorites. We have a lot of volunteers that are retired chefs and they prepare a lot of good meals.

Our staff, board members, and most importantly our volunteers work every day of the year. We do not close our doors on holidays. Instead we serve a traditional holiday meal because as we all know hunger takes no holiday breaks. Not only do we serve a midday meal but we also serve a hot breakfast three days a week and a continental breakfast two days a week. We hope to recruit more volunteers to serve breakfast so that we can prepare and serve a hot breakfast more often as we know our clients really enjoy this.

We are currently serving approximately 220 meals a day. As the weather warms our numbers will rise. We expect that to probably rise to 250 meals near summertime. Our breakfast program has also brought in more clients and has caused our numbers to rise as well. El Caldito has volunteer gleaners. They go out six days a week to local businesses to
rescue food; foods that are near expiration that would otherwise be
discarded. We have been very fortunate; the pandemic did not affect our
food donations. The donations received from individuals and local
businesses have kept the Soup Kitchen pantries full.

During the COVID-19 pandemic our lobby was closed for a short period of
time. During that time we continued to serve the same hot nutritious meal
the only difference is that we made them to go and we handed them out in
take-out containers. Our cost of supplies increased during that time as we
were purchasing foam containers for take-out, bottled water, bags, utensil
kits, things that we could serve for the clients to take. Also we were now
purchasing face masks that were pretty costly, items that we use every
day like vinyl gloves, the cost had tripled. So supplies, the cost of supplies
have risen.

The biggest effect the pandemic had on El Caldito was our volunteers.
Many of our regular volunteers are elderly, retired individuals who felt it
was safer for them to stay at home. We also lost our college and school
groups that would fill up our weekends with volunteers. So on an average
we would need 10 to 14 people to volunteer, we were lucky to maybe
have four. So our board members were coming in, volunteering every
day. They took over the breakfast program. So our board members put in
a lot of time to cover. Luckily our volunteers are on the rise also. Schools
are back so our volunteers have really picked up, so weekends are full.

Since the pandemic we hired a full time dishwasher so that takes a little bit
of the burden off of the volunteers so they don't have to worry about that
part of the process during the day. So we now have four full staff
members. We have an operations manager, we have myself, the
business manager, we have a kitchen assistant, and a janitor and a
dishwasher which are all full time. The funding from the City of Las
Cruces gives us the option to use these funds where it's needed the most.
We are grateful to be given that choice as it does not happen very often
when we get funding. This funding will help us pay for the additional staff
that we have hired and any other items or unexpected equipment repairs,
supplies, or foods that need to be purchased.

Nixon: Thank you very much. Joe did you have any questions, comments?

Castillo: No, thank you.

Nixon: Miriam.

Chaiken: No questions. Thank you.
Nixon: And I don't either but I do appreciate the information on the rising costs, right. That's something I think that's been in my mind as I've read all of your proposals and I just thank you for highlighting that.

D'Ambrosio: Thank you.

Nixon: And it's pretty straight forward. Feed people right.

D'Ambrosio: Yes it is. Thank you.

Nixon: Thank you.

K. La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services

Nixon: Our last presentation of the night is from La Piñon.

Clark: Hello. Good evening members of the committee. My name is Stacy Clark. I'm the executive director of La Piñon. La Piñon is the local rape crisis center and Children's Advocacy Center in Doña Ana County. Currently New Mexico is ranked number seventh in the rates for sexual assault. And out of 33 counties in New Mexico only six counties have a combination rape crisis center, SANE program, and Children's Advocacy Center, Doña Ana County is one of them, and La Piñon is the agency that houses all three.

What I'm here to talk about is our SANE program which is the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. And the funding that is being proposed is to provide a program coordinator which is the person who works closely to facilitate our nursing staff for what is commonly known as the rape kits to be able to collect rape kits from victims of sexual assault and to provide physical exams for our children who have experienced physical abuse. And we have seen an increase in strangulation and that is now pushing us towards training for our nursing staff to be able to provide intimate partner violence exams.

So with all of this our coordinator coordinates our nursing staff to be on call and to respond to these cases that come in. We have a time frame in that we have to meet to be able to do evidence collection and meet with our victims and provide medications. She also maintains both facilities. We have one at Memorial Medical Center. We also have one in our office building. She facilitates a chain of custody for evidence so if those cases are reported to law enforcement she has to maintain that chain of custody and be able to testify in court that there was a chain of custody went from that law enforcement agency to the lab.
We also now have a SAKI tracking system that is statewide and she maintains the SAKI tracking system, she does all of the training for law enforcement to make sure that they are logged in and they make it to the lab so we do not see a backlog of rape kits sitting on shelves that we have experienced in the past. And this funding is also utilized to provide clothing, brand new clothing, nothing that is donated second hand to victims because we do collect evidence and a lot of times their clothing is collected and taken into evidence to be able to be tested.

And the funding is also utilized to provide an environment that is comfortable. These exams on average take three hours. A child that is going through a physical exam can be there anywhere from three to four hours and so we provide children with healthy snacks. Sometimes food because they have been in a police car or they have been with Children, Youth, and Family and they come in and they’re hungry. So as soon as we can do the exams we provide food for these individuals as well as part of an environment that is going to be cohesive.

The return of this funding is that we have immediate interaction with victims and we are able to provide a positive response. And then the rest of our wraparound services can be taken place in a road to becoming a survivor and in a healthy mental capacity. What we do know is that our SANE programs around the state have had the same funding from the state since 2003. We did ask for more funding to be able to provide more services and we were not given that funding through legislation. So the funding that we currently have from the state is utilized to pay our nursing staff for the exams that we complete. Thank you.

Nixon: Miriam did you have any questions?

Chaiken: No questions.

Nixon: And Joe.

Castillo: No questions either.

Nixon: Thank you.

Clark: Thank you.

Nixon: I appreciate it.

VII. OTHER DISCUSSION

Nixon: In closing I just would like to thank everyone for your work. We appreciate it and recognize it and know that the nonprofit world is a heavy lift for the
most vulnerable among us and I just have so much gratitude for what you do. And thank you for presenting tonight. And just I've been a reviewer of proposals and I just want to say this batch overall has been really straightforward and well put together and well received. So thank you all very much. Committee Members do you have any closing remarks? Okay. Thank you very much.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (6:51)

Nixon: I guess we can call the meeting to a close.

Chairperson
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
MINUTES
March 2, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marnie Nixon
Joe Castillo
Miriam Chaiken

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justyn Breen

STAFF PRESENT: Natalie Green, CLC
Catrina Godinez
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Jill Grammar, Roadrunner Food Bank
Mike Gutierrez, New Mexico Legal Aid
La Casa
Michelle Adames, Jardin de los Niños
Pamela Angel, Amador Health Center
Ashley Echavarria, Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces
June Donohue, Southern NM Diabetes Outreach
Yoli Diaz, CARE
Lorraine Padilla, Mesilla Valley Hospice
Marisol Diaz, Save the Children
Kari Bachman, Rio Grande Community Development Corp.

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:02)
Nixon: Good evening everyone. We’re going to go ahead and get this meeting of
the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee Members started this
evening. I’d like to call the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL
Nixon: And Becky, would you call the roll?
Baum: Board Member Chaiken.
Chaiken: Here.
Baum: Board Member Castillo.
Castillo: Here.
Baum: Board Member Breen is absent. Chair Nixon.
III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Nixon: The next item on our agenda is regarding conflict of interest. And I'm just going to have each of the board members speak a little bit about their lack of conflict of interest. So Miriam, would you go ahead?

Chaiken: One of the proposals we'll be reviewing today is from Save the Children US. I worked for Save the Children, but many years ago and in Mozambique and Ethiopia, so I don't see myself as having any conflict of interest.

Nixon: Joe, would you go ahead.

Castillo: I reviewed the list presenting today and I have no conflict of interest.

Nixon: Yes, and I have had childcare, I've done work as a volunteer with several of the organizations and strategic planning as a volunteer, but I have received no financial gain. So thank you, and we can close that out. Next, I would like our Committee Members just to go ahead and introduce themselves. We have new Committee Members this year. And so Miriam, would you just tell us a little bit about you?

Chaiken: My name is Miriam Chaiken. I'm retired anthropology faculty member from NMSU. But the reason I'm serving on this Committee is because I have had a long career working in design of public health programs internationally, primarily for humanitarian organizations. I've worked with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Save the Children UNICEF, World Vision, and some other organizations promoting gender equity, equal access to health care programs, and health nutrition programs, especially for children under five.

Nixon: Thank you. and Mr. Castillo, could you introduce yourself.

Castillo: My name is Joe Castillo. I'm a native to the area. I've worked in several nonprofits in the Las Cruces and southern New Mexico, as well as worked for the Department of Corrections here in New Mexico. I've worked in nonprofits all over the country. I have a passion of working with the
underserved and underrepresented and that was one of the reasons why I agreed to be up here.

Nixon: And my name is Marnie Nixon. I have worked as a community health practitioner for a number of years in the area, almost 20 years here in Southern New Mexico, another 10 before that in El Paso. I have a long history of working with nonprofits, 30 years, and I've served in nearly every role within a nonprofit except as an accountant. So that is why I'm here. And just genuinely enjoy and respect and am grateful for the work that you all do. So thank you for being here tonight.

I think we can go ahead and get started. Everybody's ready. I'm just going to ask you all we're kind of working off computers and paper, so as we're shuffling around that's just us trying to make sure we capture what you say in your presentations and make sure that we are prepared to ask any questions that we have remaining about your proposals.

IV. FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR TWO-CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDING TO City Council

V. PRESENTATIONS BY APPLICANTS FOR HEALTH-RELATED PUBLIC SERVICES

A. Roadrunner Food Bank

Nixon: And so I'd like to begin by inviting Roadrunner Food Bank "Childhood Hunger Initiative in Las Cruces" up to the podium. Thank you.

Grammar: Well good evening. Roadrunner Food Bank is grateful for this opportunity to visit with you folks regarding our continuing, to continue serving with the high need students and schools in Las Cruces through our Children's Hunger Initiative. My name is Jill Grammar. I'm the mission advancement officer and based here in Las Cruces. For a bit of reference, in 2021 Doña Ana County's overall food insecurity rate was 16.5%. However, the childhood food insecurity rate was much higher at 26.4%. And that source comes from Feeding America who we work with. We are currently serving 10 high needs schools in Las Cruces: Alameda, Booker T. Washington, Columbia, Highland, Loma Heights, MacArthur Elementary, University Hills, Lynn Middle School, Mesa Middle School, and Las Cruces High.

Roadrunner Foodbank has a close relationship with these schools and a strong communication plan as well. Each school is trained, has ongoing support, and monitoring includes food safety compliance as well. Schools determine their model whether it's a mobile food bank, a fixed food bank, a summer program, or a supplement backpack program that works best for their communities. As schools advertise these food distributions, and any
family that sees that ad can come and they will receive 50 pounds of food at that distribution. Because schools already have a connection with students and their families, families feel more comfortable coming to the schools where their children attend. And this is better, this is more comfortable for them than other food distribution sites. School staff are often the best position to identify food insecurity and under nutrition in students. They reach out to families and develop relationships with them, which can also help in addressing other needs that families may have such as rental assistance.

Our request is for a $30,000.00 grant from the City of Las Cruces. That will supply 25,870 pounds of food. Roadrunner Food Bank is only requesting funding for food acquisition and transportation. $25,000.00 for food acquisition. Now we source food from manufacturers and wholesalers and growers. And food is either donated or purchased in bulk. Even donated food incurs freight costs for the food to be shipped to the distribution sites. And due to supply chain issues currently, donated food has declined, and so Roadrunner Food Bank must purchase more food, and at the same time when food and transportation costs have escalated. The transportation costs of $5,000.00. The remaining budget of this program, in this program that we work with 10 schools, is a total of $447,000.00. We're only asking for that $30,000.00.

We have other dedicated sources to fund the remaining of that, of course, and we want to continue that. Two important pieces of information to remember, each family that shows up whether they go to that school or not basically, will be given 50 pounds of food including fresh produce, a protein, and other shelf stable products to make a meal at home for the family. No cost to the schools and no cost to their families. I thank you for your attention. And I would be honored to answer any questions you might have at this time on our Children’s Hunger Initiative. Thank you.

Nixon: Miriam, would you like to get us started? Any questions or comments?

Chaiken: No, no questions. Thank you.

Nixon: Okay. And Joe.

Castillo: I’ve got no questions. Thank you.

Nixon: Okay. Thank you. Good they’re all for me then. I do have a couple questions. And they’re more just related to curiosity. I’m wondering, is there more demand? Are there other schools requesting your services other than who is on the list currently?

Grammar: We have not had any other schools approached us.
Nixon: Okay. Okay. Thank you. That, that's

Grammar: But we're not opposed to that.

Nixon: Yes.

Grammar: If the need is there.

Nixon: And then, and this is our second night, so we are hearing about the distribution and increasing costs in food. We're also seeing that on the news. The request for these funds then in some ways is if you, I guess my question basically is can you do expansion of food and food sources or are you sort of limited because of increasing costs?

Grammar: We can do as much need as there is for the most part, we just have to have someone let us know that there is that need, and we can work that into our budget. And of course with you folks, more money means more children to feed.

Nixon: Okay, thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Grammar: Thank you.

B. New Mexico Legal Aid

Nixon: And next, we have New Mexico Legal Aid. New Mexico Legal Aid, Las Cruces office. And that is number three. Yes, and please when you come up to the podium would you say your full name clearly for the record.

Gutierrez: Good evening. My name is Mick Gutierrez. I'm before you on behalf of the New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. Dorothy is the individual who submitted the proposal to you. But unfortunately, she cannot be here because of health issues. I thank you for taking the time from your families and loved ones to listen to all of us come here and give a presentation. I'd like to start with a definition of health. It's the condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit. And the reason I give that definition is because it'll make a little bit more sense in the course of my presentation.

I'm a staff attorney here in Las Cruces. I've been there about two and a half years. Day in and day out I handle the following kinds of cases, I handle domestic violence cases. And you heard from Catholic Charities yesterday, and they do the same, they have an advocate, and I believe they have an attorney. I do housing cases. Those involved where somebody may contact us and they're about to be evicted from their apartment or their premises. We handle public benefits, social security
disability, which may have been the person’s notified there has been an overpayment, or they’re told in Social Security, SSI cases that they no longer qualify. We handle food stamps, unemployment insurance, that’s the spectrum of public benefits.

So the question I think, is how will the services which New Mexico Legal Aid provides currently? How is that going to help Las Cruces with health issues? You have before you already the grant and it goes through the areas of what we do, percentages and number of cases and all of that. I want to give you a couple of examples of what actually happens as an attorney. I may get a case where there’s a couple, and the male has abused the woman, and they have four or five children. The male is arrested, put into detention. And then the woman is getting a hold of us and asking if we’ll represent her for protective order hearing. We do. But it’s a little bit bigger than just representing them. Because by representing them we’re trying to get them a permanent order of protection. But many times there’s other factors, for example, in this particular case, the man had moved everything into a separate account. This was during COVID. So when the stimulus money came in it all went to him. So she’s unable to get it. She’s living on just food stamps. She gets a hold of us and says how can you help us? How can I get that you know access to that money? And so we go ahead and we end up getting her the access to the money and it was a good chunk of change, I think was like $4,500.00 or $5,400.00. And then she has it. And then by getting the permanent order we give her a protection of the family for a while and the orders can be from six months to years. I gave you that definition of health. And the reason I gave that is because it talks about being sound body, mind, and spirit. I suspect every, and I’ve only had two cases dealing with men, every woman that I’ve represented, that just by having us represent them in getting protective orders, that their mind is a little bit more at ease. There's no question in my mind about that.

The young women, I call them at least once every two or three days, and they’re wanting to know what's going to happen. Am I safe? Am I okay? Are the kids going to be okay? In the housing issues, it’s similar. You have a family of four, suddenly they come home and they’re locked out. They get a hold of us and say, "Hey, we have no place to go." So now they’re worried about where they’re going to spend the night. They try to find friends, relatives, whatever, and they spend it. We get involved and we get them back into their homes. Anyway, I'm at 4:12 right now. What we do is we directly help people in getting some kind of peace of mind. And from there they can go and do other, they can go and try to get the food from Roadrunner or from Casa de Pellegrino, whomever came here yesterday. That's what we do. And I think that's why by giving, if you award us this grant, all that means is I'm going to work a lot more. That's
what it essentially means. So I really shouldn't be up here. Okay, any questions? Apologize.

Nixon: Joe, do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: As I was listening to you speak, I was looking through, are you also involved in the referral sources to other mental health agencies? I heard you talking about food banks but do you also have the resources to provide referrals to different agencies?

Gutierrez: We do. Absolutely. And in fact, we work with CVRC and they have a pretty good budget, and they're able to help people get moving expenses. So yes.

Castillo: Thank you.

Nixon: And, Miriam, any questions?

Chaiken: Yes. One of the things we ask all of the applicants to discuss is how they evaluate and track and monitor the impact of their programs. And I was hoping you could just speak a little bit about how you track the impact or outcomes of the legal services that you offer?

Gutierrez: Well, I being a staff attorney, I think the administration tracks it too much. We keep tabs on everything we do. I have to enter in my time exactly what I'm doing. If I'm giving advice on a particular issue. If we've had a hearing and the outcome of that hearing. And I suspect somebody correlates all that information to give you big figures on it. Before coming here, Dorothy said here are the benefits and outcomes, and I'll speak real quickly, that DV victims receive legal services are less likely to return to their abuser. Funding civil legal services is sound fiscal policy with return on investment greater than 300%. That's you know you get the bang for your dollar. I'd say you get a safer human being. That seems to be a little bit more important, than 70% of our clients provided with legal representation have an improvement in the circumstances of housing, reduced debt, increased income. I don't know if that answered your question. But they track it very well, because I'm always, my supervisor is here and I'll admit it publicly but I'm always messing up on putting all the time and everything in there. But she gets on my case.

Chaiken: True confessions time here I think.

Gutierrez: Yes.

Chaiken: That was my only question. Thank you
All right. May I leave then.

Yes. And I have no questions. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

C. La Casa

Next, I would like to invite La Casa, Domestic Violence Family Services program to the podium please. And that is number 17 In our electronic charts. And please state your name for the record.

Good evening members of the Committee. My name is Flor Gonzalez. I'm director of support services for La Casa. La Casa Inc.'s mission is to support women, men, and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent an end abuse and promote healthy relationships. For over 40 years La Casa Inc. has served survivors of domestic violence and their children throughout Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. La Casa is the most comprehensive domestic abuse service organization in New Mexico. La Casa's multilingual programs and services include a 90 bed emergency shelter, 24 hour crisis hotline, counseling, case management, transitional housing, financial literacy, child and youth services, batterers intervention program, legal and immigration services, advocacy, outreach and support services. Doña Ana County is recognized as the county with the highest rates in New Mexico for domestic violence, and comprises 24% of all statewide domestic violence incidents. Furthermore, approximately 59% of New Mexico domestic violence incidents are never reported to law enforcement.

La Casa Inc. is requesting $30,000.00 in health related public service program funding to support our domestic violence family services program that addresses the specialized needs of children and youth who are victims and witnesses of domestic violence. The program provides advocacy, support, education, and counseling to the child youth witness and the parent or legal guardian. These services are provided to children and youth who are either living in a residential shelter program, or who are living in the community. Children and youth are present in at least 30% of reported incidents of domestic violence. An additional 20% of children and youth are personally victimized by these incidents. Children who witness domestic violence experienced trauma that manifests into complex behavior and emotional issues that require intervention. If ignored, these children grow up to abuse or become abused themselves.

Funding from the City of Las Cruces supports at least 90 children and youth who have experienced domestic violence. In 2021 451 individual sessions were delivered to children and youth. We utilize a safe and
together model as a foundation for the program. The safe and together model is evidence based and is used internationally when working with children who have been affected by domestic violence. La Casa Inc. is excited to share with you this evening that CYFD has selected us to participate in evidence based safe and together model program. Through this pilot project we are partnering with Child Protective Services in Doña Ana County to work in partnership to serve children and families. This program will eventually be replicated statewide. And we are proud that it is starting here in Las Cruces. With these essential HRPS funds, La Casa Inc. can continue to provide critical services to children and youth who have experienced domestic violence and begin to break the cycle of violence. On behalf of La Casa staff, board of directors, and the individuals that we serve, we want to thank you for your continued support and commitment to the children and families of our community who have experienced domestic violence. I’d be happy to stand for any questions you might have for me.

Nixon: I can’t remember where I started last. Miriam.

Chaiken: Okay, I'll go first this time. I just had a couple questions about your sources of funding, because in the budgets, you're requesting funding specifically for staff salary for the Family Services Program. And you indicate that you'd had 16 years of previous funding, but said not continuation of this project. So is this a new initiative or am I just not understanding that correctly?

Gonzalez: We have received this funding for the past 16 years,

Chaiken: And it's earmarked for the same program?

Gonzalez: Correct.

Chaiken: Okay. And then the shelter that you run, the 90 bed shelter, is that funded entirely separately from the services that you're going to be offering as part of this program?

Gonzalez: Yes it is.

Chaiken: How does that work?

Gonzalez: So we get funding through you know various sources; state, federal, CYFD funding. This particular funding that we're requesting is particularly for this position that works strictly with the children.

Chaiken: Okay. Thank you. That was all I had.
Gonzalez: You're welcome.

Nixon: And, Joe, do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: One question in the methodology. You talk about staff developing and administering an instrument to gather data. Could you talk a little bit more about that?

Gonzalez: Absolutely. So we have two forms of data that is collected. The first is a survey that we provide both to the families that we’re providing the services to, and if the children are old enough, mostly teens, they’ll be able to do a satisfaction survey. The other data collection comes from the Safe and Together model itself, the program. It’s an evidence based curriculum. And we do a test before, not a test, it’s an evaluation, before we start the curriculum and at the end, and that way it’ll show us how effective the curriculum has been.

Castillo: Thank you very much.

Gonzalez: You’re welcome.

Nixon: And those were some of my questions, too. I think we’re all good. Thank you very much.

Gonzalez: Thank you.

D. Jardin de los Niños

Nixon: Next, I’d like to invite Jardin de los Niños, Healthy and Wise wellness program to the podium.

Adames: Good evening to everyone. My name is Michelle Adames. And I am the CEO at Jardin de los Niños. And I’d like to thank you all for this opportunity to speak before the Committee this evening. And also it’s great to see all of you back here in person. Jardin de los Niños has been serving the community for 27 years. We are a nonprofit organization with a five star early childhood education program. Jardin is designated as the first trauma informed care center in New Mexico by the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health. The Healthy and Wise Program supports homeless and near homeless children who are six weeks to 10 years of age, their siblings, and parents from a holistic perspective.

This program provides health and wellness support through wraparound services, addressing physical, mental, developmental, and social issues that are exacerbated by homelessness. All services are provided within the classroom setting and the pediatric clinic. The focus is on
strengthening and stabilizing the family and ending homelessness and impacting the well-being of the family. The Healthy and Wise Program at Jardin de los Niños supports the physical, mental, developmental, social, emotional, and well-being of the homeless and near homeless children and families that we serve. This program addresses the whole family and addresses social issues that are attributed to homelessness. Through the Healthy and Wise Program, we offer wraparound services to support the intake process, case management, daily wellness checks, coordination of health screenings, well child visits, mental health services, immunization services, and support with accessing services within the community. The Healthy and Wise Wellness Program aligns to the following organization goals. Number one to advance the health, safety, and well-being of the homeless, near homeless, and abused and neglected children. Number two, strengthen and stabilize the family to quickly minimize ill effects of homelessness on children. This program will target 200 children and youth, and approximately 300 family members within the grant cycle will also benefit from these services.

Thank you for continuing to consider Jardin de los Niños for the HRPS funds. I know that the funds do continue to support all of our families and continue to help us to be able to ensure that we can quickly stabilize our families and continue to support their health and well-being. I know that this program is pretty much the foundation for all of the other services that we provide, so it really does serve as that foundation for connecting our families to the community resources that are available, but also monitoring our families to ensure that they stabilize and that we can continue to keep them healthy and continue to look over the whole family not just the children that are enrolled at Jardin. So I stand for any questions.

Nixon: Joe, do you have any questions, comments?

Castillo: I guess it's more of a curiosity question in that you said you provide mental health services for, could you describe some of those services that you?

Adames: Sure. So we are actually, this program doesn't actually cover the infant mental health program. But our family services and health coordinator is actually the one who coordinates the infant mental health program services. So at Jardin we have a licensed clinical social worker who we share with a Family Youth Innovation Plus, I believe. I believe they now have a new name. FYI Plus. And so it's a shared position where the children and the families are able to receive mental health services on site if they choose within our pediatric clinic or via telehealth. We also have bilingual therapists who support our bilingual families for providing the services.

Castillo: Great. Thank you for the things you do.
Adames: Thank you.

Chaiken: I don’t have any questions. But I have a special fondness for people who are trying to take care of vulnerable children, so kudos to all of you.

Adames: Thank you.

Nixon: And I don’t have any questions. Thank you very much.

Adames: Thank you. Have a good evening.

E. Amador Health Center

Nixon: And next, I’d like to invite Amador Health Center, Amador Care Connection. And that is number 13 in our.

Angel: Good evening. My name is Pamela Angel, and I’m the CEO of Amador Health Center. I can take my mask off. I want to disclose to you that I am 15 minutes late. And I believe that may automatically disqualify me. No. Natalie’s saying no. In the past it was. And if anybody wants to appeal that, please feel free if you feel that it’s okay. I thought I was 15 minutes early, and then the guard said, no it started. So kind of flustered me. I was like, oh my God, I’ve actually been reporting to this Committee for about 20 years as Community of Hope, and as St. Luke’s Healthcare Clinic and now Amador Health Center so it was shocking. But thank you. Do with it what you will.

Anyway, I thought I’d start out by telling you a little bit about Amador Health Center. We started in 1990 as a free clinic called St. Luke’s Healthcare Clinic. And they were an all volunteer clinic that provided medical services to adults without insurance, so uninsured adults. I started there in about the very last day of 2011. And I worked very hard to get a federal grant that would make St. Luke’s Healthcare Clinic a federally qualified health center or an FQHC. So in 2015, actually our little clinic became an FQHC and from there once you get on that federal funding train, it’s all uphill really as long as you dot your I’s, cross your T’s, send in all the correct reports, don’t be a minute late on a single thing. And I’ve gotten things in with you know where I’ve circled that they’ve been in you know I think the closest I ever came in my life was seven seconds. And it’s a nightmare. But I’ve always wanted for St. Luke’s to grow and become a Federally Qualified Health Center because then you enter a really well supported realm of community health centers. You have a lot of hoops to jump over. They track you know how your patients do and all their clinical performance measures, how they’re doing with diabetes care, all the chronic diseases. So there’s a lot of bureaucracy to
it. But it's really been magic for our community and particularly I think for
the people who are homeless in our community.

We're on the campus of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. And about
78% of our patients in 2021 were homeless, that's dropped a little bit over
time. I see I'm already running out of time, but let me tell you a little bit
about the Amador Care Program. The funding that we're requesting is for
a case manager. And that's somebody who really puts together, you know
helps the people that come to us to navigate the systems. Like when you
come to us and you need to, you're referred to a specialist, a lot of our
patients have trouble getting there. So the case manager does all kinds of
things. They help them get to appointments; they help them understand
what the providers have given them. We help people get into housing if
they don't have housing. And I don't know, I feel like I got too lost thinking.
I don't know. I'm not doing, I see that clock ticking. I guess I'll just finish
by saying, you know thank you, the Committee for coming and doing this
and reading through our applications. You have a very difficult decision.
And perhaps I might have made it a little bit easier this time. Because I
don't feel like I was prepared tonight being late. And I think you have a lot
of other very worthy organizations to give to.

And I did wake up this morning and think, you know there's some grants
we don't go for because of, you know we have a pretty good budget. It's
going to be tough the next couple years because we got a lot of federal
funding through COVID and it's going to run out and then we have to
hopefully make it with the staff that we hired to help us grow and expand.
But I think that's our problem, not yours. And I don't know I think maybe I
made your decision a little easier. And that makes me feel pretty good
because it is hard when you have a budget that's gone from you know,
$100,000.00 a year to $2 million a year, it's really hard to think that your
$30,000.00 could help us as much as some of the other agencies that are
here. So we'll survive. And hopefully you know, I've done my part. You
let me present. Thank you. I got my application in on time. We're always
like a week early with our application. But you know so if you have any
questions, that's fine.

Nixon: Miriam, please.

Chaiken: Yes. I just had one question. I think this was covered in your proposal,
but I would ask if you could kind of refresh our memory. Roughly how
many clients do you serve in a year?

Angel: So we had a dip, 2019 was our biggest year, we had I think it was 1,027
patients. 2020 we went down to about 887. I have those numbers right
here. And now we're back up. Yes. Last year we had 847. So we really
went down through the pandemic by over 200 patients. And then now
we're coming back up. In 2021 we have 988, so we're close to 1,000 again. And we're really hoping to continue. We did get a lot of COVID funding to help us. Some of the things that we're going to be doing in the future is we're going to have dental care; we're building a behavioral health suite. And we average providing case management to about 50 people a month, our case manager.

And let me just add quickly just because I think case management is such an important thing for people. And I'm really proud of our case manager. I told her it's very competitive process, I said but don't worry you're very important. We need to you know come up with the funding to keep you, so don't worry about it. But it's just, she's wonderful. She knows so many people's names. She knows their family. It's just she's wonderful. Nancy Coles is her name. She's worked for us for seven years. She's actually moved into the case management position. And it's just wonderful to see as an agency what we do for people and through case management how much that gets people you know where they need to go with their health care.

Nixon: Okay, and Joe, do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: Having held the title at one point of an intensive case manager, I definitely understand the role of the case manager, when you can pull together physicians, social worker, psychiatrist, and school psychologist. It definitely, case management is a role that's much needed. So thank you for your work.

Angel: Certainly. And thank you for your time.

Nixon: And lastly, I just wanted to mention, and I think it's important that I'm hearing this from all angles. And thank you for bringing this up, the sustainability past this COVID kind of amount of cash everyone has gotten. So sustainability is on everybody's mind. Thank you.

Angel: Thank you.

F. Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces

Nixon: And next, I'd like to invite the Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces, More Members, More Often. And that is number 18.

Echavarria: Good evening everyone. Good to see you. I have to say I had the joy of having her son in our program. And so I always have to brag on that. I haven't seen him in a while. But my name is Ashley Echavarria. I'm the CEO for the Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces. First of all, I just want to say thank you guys. Our program has been supported through this
funding now since 2014. When I came into the club, I started working for this organization in 2013. And I was told by my board pretty much that my hands were tied. These are the program fees. This is the list of kids who are on scholarship, they're grandfathered into the system. And you cannot provide any more scholarships to anybody else that comes in. That was really heart wrenching to me. Because I'm a product of the Boys and Girls Club. I grew up going to the Boys and Girls Club in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Back then I paid $10 a year and I got to show up whenever I wanted. And you know while some people who are used to paying for traditional childcare, they don't bat an eye at our $50 a week fee.

But I think about my single mom, and I know my mom couldn't have afforded that. And I think about all the opportunities that I would have missed out on, the impact that the club had on my life is tremendous. And so for me that was just unacceptable. So you know sometimes you ask for forgiveness and not for permission. And what I did was I just started applying for grants specifically for the purpose of helping us offset our operational expenses, so that we could provide some scholarships, more on a sliding scale basis. What that does is, of course, it provides access to more kids. So the numbers actually weigh out evenly. It was just, I had to show our board that once it was done, because it does you know revenue wise we're still able to bring in the same amount but we're serving more kids now. Because kids whose parents can't afford it, we're not turning them away anymore. So it's really important to me that we're working with every family to meet their needs.

The Boys and Girls Club, we serve youth from just about every single, elementary, middle, and high school. I think a lot of people may not know that, but you can be a club member from the time you're in kindergarten all the way till you're 18 years old. It's really important to us that we keep them coming in those teenage years too, because those are the years where we know that they're you know being faced with risky behaviors and having to make tough decisions during those out of school time hours. And so our club is open every day after school. We provide transportation from over 20 Las Cruces schools. We bring them into the club, they're provided a meal every single day, a snack at the end of the day, homework assistance, numerous programs, everything from sports and arts and crafts. We have a music studio. We have a computer lab. It really is our goal that when a kid leaves our program they are on a greater path toward a successful future.

So it's not just a place where kids get dumped off and hang out. It's a place where they're supervised. They have mentors. Majority of our employees are college students. And so that's another kind of cool service that we're providing, because a lot of these college students are studying education, social work, criminal justice. And so they're getting
hands on experience, we're able to give the kids a positive role model that's not too much older than them, so they kind of think they're cool. And we try to have a set of staff with a variety of interests so that every kid's interest is met. That's really what we're all about. This funding has allowed us to, every year we save families, if we compare it to traditional childcare, we have this whole calculation that we do with how many hours we're open and whatnot, we save families over a million dollars every single year in childcare expense. And you know that's the goal, we're not going to turn anybody away for inability to pay. And we been able to do that, thanks to this funding. So happy to stand for any questions.

Nixon: Joe, would you like to go first? Do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: I remember when I was younger, and I always say why can't I go to Boys and Girls Club? We lived really far away, so all my friends would get to go. Do you have any indication how, like when you're supplementing the income, how many more I say clients, because of the field that I'm in, would be able to, how many more people would it impact in having this grant?

Echavarria: I'm looking at our number from last year. So in 2021 we gave scholarships to 233 kids. And so something interesting about kind of the way our program works is, a lot of times we have our kids that we know we're only going to see them during the school year. Then we have our group of kids that we know we're only going to see during the summer, and like spring break, Christmas break. And then we have our kids that are there year round. Right. So that's how you get that many kids. So at some point, you know 244 kids were on some type of scholarship. And that can mean paying as little as in very, very extenuating circumstances for example, we had a homeless family come in. I found out their situation, I'm not going to charge them you know. So that's a complete wave in very extenuating circumstances. You know but some families are paying $15.00 a week, some pay $30.00 a week. We have a whole system that we use. We go off the free and reduced lunch criteria. And it's on an honor system. I don't ask for tax work and whatnot. And then we take into consideration circumstances where there's 10 kids in the family or where grandma on fixed income is raising her grandchildren. All of those things are taken into consideration.

Castillo: Thank you.

Nixon: And Miriam, do you have any questions?

Chaiken: Yes, just sort of a follow up on Joe's. So presumably there are some kids who participate whose families pay the full $50 a week fee. Could you
sort of like breakdown of the total client population you serve, how many get scholarships and how many are able to afford just to pay?

Echavarria: So last year I think we had around close to 400 members. So I would say what is that, about 60% are on some type of a scholarship at any given point throughout the year.

Chaiken: Okay, that was my question. Thank you.

Echavarria: No problem.

Nixon: And I am very familiar. And I appreciate that you had my feral child for a number of years back in the day. He really, he loved it. And so yes, I'm very grateful. Thank you very much.

Echavarria: Thank you.

G. NO SHOW CLIENT

H. Southern NM Diabetes Outreach

Nixon: And next I'd like to invite southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach, Diabetes Detection, Prevention, Education, Support and Resources.

Donohue: I'm June Donohue. And I'm executive director with Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach. And thank you for the opportunity to apply for this grant. I'm going to refer to our organization as SNMDO. We have changed our type 1; we've had to start reversing back now out of COVID. And we brought our type 1 children and youth back very early. We brought them back when school started, as we could see in Zoom classes their demeanor changing to depression. And we felt it was very important because we were getting concerned about them. I don't know why that's bothering me. It didn't before. But when I read it out loud, it was a little different than in real life. So we are meeting back in in person with the kids group right now. The adult group has not started back. They are older adults and we feel that it's safer at this time. And at the end of this month, if the COVID statistics do not change, we will start back and have in person classes. And we're very excited to get back to where we can meet and have a demo kitchen now and have a nutritionist come in and talk to them as well as our diabetes educator. And that they can learn more about nutrition and we do recipes to where they can taste the food, and then we send the recipes home with them. And hopefully, they will take advantage of maybe healthier meals at home.

And we have started back in public screening. And that was a big major problem for us when we shut down because screening has been very

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important to us, and we can reach out to the community. We provide a total of six different tests for each person that comes in, most of them will choose four. But we did not get to do that in COVID, except we would let them call in if they felt that they had a problem and we would screen them individually. And we set up the screening room to where it was safe. And we felt that that it was okay to do it with our personal protection equipment things that we did have. And we believe that health screening is the gateway to prevention and awareness and control. And we do track the ages, the gender, the ethnicity, the zip code, family history, and the screening outcomes of what their numbers are. And this tells us which areas we need to spend more time, and when I say areas that's locations, and screening and advertising. And we can pretty well determine by the location whether it's zip code or whether it's a little outline community, what we need to do and where we need to be.

Upon request, we will go to organizations and provide nutrition, diabetes prevention, diabetes management, and health screenings. And many diabetes classes right now are still in Zoom. And they are two days, three hours each day. When we get back to our regular meeting in person, they're three days of classes with three hours each. And we do have a pretest, a posttest, a chapter test, and then evaluation of the subject content, and the presentation by the Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. And we have the same evaluation form to handout in each one of our education groups. And this way we can determine whether the people are making progress in their knowledge and whether we're covering the subjects adequately and things like this. We have attendees come into class and this is more adults, but we did have a little six year old girl last night for the first time that was not happy. She was diagnosed on December the 15th. Then her pump and CGM is not comfortable. And so our diabetes educator was helpful in being able to tell the parents maybe a better placement to where there's not muscles and she'll be more comfortable in. And so hopefully, that will help. So but even the adults when they walk out, they're so much more comfortable with what they've done. We have our next diabetes conference will be on the 29th. And what we do is in English and in Spanish, so we know that we have a very high rate here because of the location we're in, the ethnicity group that we have, and we are so happy to be here to be able to serve them.

Nixon: Thank you June. Joe, do you have any questions or comments?
Castillo: I love the passion. It's great. It's much needed.
Donohue: I'm sorry.
Castillo: No, no. It's wonderful. It's wonderful.
Donohue: Well I've had some of these kids right now that just turned 15. And I've had her since she was seven.

Castillo: I work in mental health and to get clients back into the office, it was such a feeling of okay things are getting, you could see it in their faces. So it's wonderful to see the passion.

Donohue: Yes, you can. And we've been real concerned about one of our little boys that just turned 20. But he still comes and he still gives us big hugs.

Castillo: Great. It sounds like you have an abundance of information and data. And I like that. Can you give me any indication on like the success? You said you take a pretest and a posttest and a final exam? Can you give me any kind of measurable on how successful taking the classes is?

Donohue: Yes. In fact, we have doctors now that are calling us, are telling their patients to give us information to call them because they would like to have their patients come in because they can see such change in their changing in their A1C and in their blood sugars. And so that is, and the people themselves will call us and write us letters, and many of them will say you know we thought we were doing right and we weren't and our blood sugars weren't good. And we feel that you have literally saved our lives.

Castillo: Thank you very much.

Donohue: And I didn't even cry through that one.

Nixon: Miriam, did you have any questions or comments?

Chaiken: Just a quick question. In your proposal, you talk about how you know medically underserved we are here in Doña Ana County, which is you know, I think we all know is a huge problem. And talking about you know the need to bring in more doctors, which I don't think there's anyone in the county that would disagree with that. But I'm wondering if you've collaborated with any you know medical paraprofessionals, maybe we could call them, like health promotora and so on. Do you have any relationships or collaborations with people like that who might be able to either bring clients to you and/or follow up on clients once they’ve completed the course? In other words, to see whether there is behavior change.

Donohue: What we are doing right now is we have quite a few rural students. We have one on our board and two more waiting to come on our board. And we are waiting to work with them. However, what we really need is specialty is like endocrinologist. We have two in town, one of them you
can't get in to see for over a year, the other one will not take Medicare patients. And I was talking to our vice president that's one of the administrators also at Village of Northrise yesterday and I said you realize most of your patients who are on Medicare, and they can't get in to see the other doctor because it takes over a year. If we go out we screen we have people that screen sometimes over 600. And when we do, we have to send them to the ER, but they're not going to have an endocrinologist once they're out. What we are you know working to do very hard is to work with the medical school here and see if there's some way that they can help by bringing in an endocrinologist.

I had a gentleman call me about three weeks ago, he moved here recently. And after he got here they amputated his foot. So he called for a doctor. The only thing I could do to help him, he'd already checked with both doctors we have here, only thing I could do to help him was give him a phone number of a nonemergency medical transport to where they could take him to El Paso or Albuquerque or someplace that he can get in. But right now, we have at this time never had a pediatric endocrinologist. And one of our peds families is seriously considering going to Tucson for a pediatric endocrinologist. And once they're in the hospital here, they don't have anybody that is familiar with their case, and how to take care of them. And the parent has to stay with them the whole time. So it's very, very difficult for us. And I can cry through that real easy too I talk about it much.

Nixon: Thank you June for sharing that knowledge. It is true. I'm a clinician and I work with ped kids and we are needing desperate referrals and sending all of that information up to Albuquerque and the Health Sciences Center as well. We need endocrinologists here.

Donohue: And I guess this is not a good way to look at it, but you know Las Cruces, if we could get those people here, we would actually have the business stay in Las Cruces instead of having to send it out of town.

Nixon: Right.

Donohue: And that is the business side of it. But the compassion side of it is, you see these people suffer so much and it's hard.

Nixon: Thank you very much

Donohue: Appreciate it.

Nixon: Thank you.

I. CARE
Nixon: I'd like to invite CARE, CARE Supportive Program up to the podium. And that is number 20.

Y. Diaz: Hello. My name is Yoli Diaz. I am president of CARE, Cancer Aid Resource and Education. More importantly, I'm a patient advocate. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I would like you to imagine that you or one of your loved ones have just heard the words "you have cancer. These are some of the most difficult words for anyone to hear. I guarantee you that the first thing that you will feel is fear. And you will think, will I or my loved one survive. The next thing you will feel is get this cancer out of me. Then you will think, will I be in pain, will I have side effects? Then once you begin you may find that you cannot work or that your income has decreased and that your expenses have increased. Then you will find out how expensive cancer treatment is. Then you will start to wonder how will you not only get through this physically, mentally, but how will you get through this financially? Being able to pay your bills will be at the top of your mind. How are you going to handle all of this? How are you going to pay all your bills, your house or rent, your auto payment, your utilities, food, gas, with the added medical burden.

We have heard many of these stories from people, residents right here in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. We have heard from the single woman in her 50s and has spent her life working. But without hours worked, there is no paycheck. And with her type of cancer diagnosis, her doctors does not allow her to work. She can't work. We have heard from the man that worked in an industry with no benefits, and now that he is sick, can't work and doesn't qualify to receive any form of compensation. We have heard from the patients who are on Medicare who struggle with their out of pocket costs. And for some the maximum out of pocket may be $3,900.00, but that is still too much for some who live only on Social Security. We have heard from the patients who do not have health insurance, and we know to help because without health insurance you will not receive cancer treatment in Las Cruces. Many families say that the loss of income plus out of pocket costs for transportation and gas, childcare, day to day expenses like groceries, utilities, rent or mortgage, and caregiving are even bigger burdens than the co-pays when they don't have the income to pay for medical care and daily living. Horrific stories of financial burden like these are becoming more common as the cost of treating cancer and caring for people with it grows more expensive. Simply put, cancer care is expensive. Where to turn and what to do.

We understand that the issues in the health care system are complicated because they are multifaceted. Rapidly rising drug and hospital costs, relatively weak insurance coverage, no insurance coverage, uneven or inadequate sick leave policies of most employers, and the generally poor
financial state of many families contribute to the problem. Social
determinants of health, social disparities, and social inequities border
region areas and shortage of health care doctors in rural areas only
exacerbate the issues. A focused effort to make all parts of the healthcare
system work together and benefit together would improve quality of life for
all. In my work in Doña Ana County I know that it could help prevent at
least some of the suffering that affects people with a cancer diagnosis and
the financial hardship that comes with this major health crisis. However,
this affects the healthcare system across the board, as you just heard
June say. So the medium price per month of chemotherapy has
increased by an order of magnitude during the past 20 years far
exceeding inflation over the same period, along with rising prices
increases in cost sharing have forced patients to directly shoulder a
greater portion of these costs, resulting in undue financial burden and in
some cases, cost related nonadherence to treatment. What can we do to
intervene on treatment related financial toxicity of patients, no one party
can single handedly solve the problem? And the solution must be
multifaceted and creative. A productive discussion of the problem must
avoid casting blame and instead must look inward for concrete starting
points toward improvement in the affordability and value of cancer care.
Cancer provides assistance so that local cancer patients can concentrate
on treatment, healing, recovery, and survival. CARE's goal is to be part of
the solution to improve patient health outcomes. This grant will go 100%
to patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Nixon: Thank you. Miriam, questions, comments?

Chaiken: I really appreciate your passion about this subject matter. I mean the
financial burdens of health treatment is staggering, even for families with
relatively deep pockets. And there’s hardly a family in this country who
hasn’t been touched by cancer. My sister, I lost my two best friends to
cancer. So this is very, very real for me. I really appreciate the fact that
100% of the funds you were asking for are to support patients who are
going through the worst time in their lives. And I really appreciate that. I
did have one question, and that is about your board of directors. I looked
at every single grants list of board of directors and it seemed to me that
your board of directors are your staff. And I was wondering if you could
speak to that.

Y. Diaz: Yes, right now we have three board of directors. And we all, because
we’re a volunteer organization, we all have to put work into this. We do
have other volunteers not as much as before because we had a high
concentration on doing events to get our funds. But when the pandemic
hit, all that went away. We’re not even looking towards having events. So
that is why, but you really hit on a very important subject. We really need
sustainability of our organization. And a way to do that is basically
becoming like every other organization. We need to be bigger than we are for this need, we really do. And we have chosen to do this for free so that the funds go to help the people. If you see me, you can see that I'm getting near retirement, my husband and I are talking about it. And so we really need someone to take over. But you cannot expect them to do what Yoli did, and that is to give away my time. And one patient's husband recognized what I was doing in all these years that we've been doing it since July 31, 2013. And he said to me, Yoli you have made a sacrifice in your life. I did, because I understood the burden, and the devastation of cancer. So if anyone has ideas, please, you've got my information there contact me, we need to keep going.

Chaiken: So your staff are 100% volunteer.

Y. Diaz: Nobody gets paid.

Chaiken: Okay.

Y. Diaz: Believe it or not since 2013.

Chaiken: That's pretty amazing.

Y. Diaz: It's pretty unique. Yes. And we're really the only organization in New Mexico that does everything we do.

Chaiken: Thank you.

Y. Diaz: Thank you.

Nixon: And Joe, any questions, comments?

Castillo: As you're reading the first portion of your presentation, it was actually a cancer diagnosis that brought me back to Las Cruces. My mother was diagnosed. And so as I was hearing you I was like, this sounds very, very familiar. I have given her a call that said, do you want me to visit or do you want me to move? And she said, it's time to come back home. So

Y. Diaz: Come back home.

Castillo: That's where we're at.

Y. Diaz: I'm happy to hear that. Because every patient needs a family advocate. It's in our application. We need somebody that loves you to help you get through this.
Castillo: I think definitely I like where it's going. And I was looking at this same situation of board and staff, but after you know, 2013 with doing what you're doing, I commend you.

Y. Diaz: Thank you.

Castillo: Keep going stronger. I have no questions.

Nixon: I just have a couple of questions. And really, it's about is there a limit? Is there a financial limit that an individual can receive from your organization? Or how do you spread the love basically? Is my question.

Y. Diaz: That is an excellent question. Yes, we do have a limit, but we also have a case by case hardship. So to give you that answer, probably in a nutshell, if we have a family that comes in and we see that they do have an income, then for example, the maximum assistance that we're going to give is $2,500.00. However, if they are not working because they cannot work because they're in cancer treatment, and the doctor is the one letting us know that, then we're going to go higher. And right now that's what we've done with a city resident. And you would be shocked to see how much we help that resident, because otherwise they would have to be hooking up with some of the other organizations, because they would wind up homeless. And we didn't want to see that for a cancer patient. So we will do more when needed. And we will see it with our application. Our application is really guided to tell us what to do, because we'll see the income, we'll see the income before cancer diagnosis, we'll see the income after cancer diagnosis, and we'll see the expenses before and after. And that's going to guide us. Great question.

Nixon: Great. Thank you. And so how many people, and I bet you know, and actually I'll ask the question, instead of assuming, but how many people can you assist in a year?

Y. Diaz: it has been anywhere within the 70s to 80. But I can tell you that we're at 562 since July 31, 2013. So that's a lot of people when you think about it on a volunteer basis. So you know we set out to do this to be able to help cancer patient and we reached that goal.

Nixon: Okay, thank you very much.

Y. Diaz: Would you like to know the amount? Over $740,000.00 since that date.

Nixon: Could you repeat that?

Y. Diaz: Over $740,000.00 on a volunteer basis
Nixon: With an all-volunteer staff.

Y. Diaz: Right. Not as much as what other organizations do, but as a volunteer to directly impact a patient’s living, that’s what we’ve done.

Nixon: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Y. Diaz: Thank you.

J. Mesilla Valley Hospice

Nixon: And next I would like to invite Mesilla Valley Hospice, Pain Control and Comfort Care for Hospice Patients to the podium.

Padilla: Good evening. My name is Lorraine Padilla and I’m with Mesilla Valley Hospice. Mesilla Valley Hospice has been providing hospice care for Doña Ana County residents, this year will be our 40th year in November. We’ve been in our community for 40 years. We’re the only nonprofit hospice. We work with patients that have been diagnosed with an illness that limits their life expectancy to six months or less. We own and operate the only freestanding hospice inpatient unit in New Mexico. And what that means is we are a standalone. We’re not affiliated with any hospital and we’re the only one in New Mexico. So we have a gem here thanks to all of the funding we get from everywhere and this community. The pain control and comfort care for hospice patients program for which request funds will supplement medications for our hospice patients. These medications will help control symptoms suffered by hospice patients. Pain is one of the most prevalent symptoms near the end of life, and unrelieved pain can be a source of great distress for patients and their families. There’s no more isolating experience than to die alone, in pain, and in a sterile hospital environment that is not structured to include the emotional, spiritual, physical, and psychological needs of a patient and their family. Yet, without hospice care, this scenario occurs frequently.

And Doña Ana County Mesilla Valley Hospice offers services designated to combat the very isolation that many dying people and their caregivers face. Many of these individuals do not have means to remain in their own home, pay for nursing home or other health care facilities. The costs and extent of their care may have grown rapidly which will lead them to our residential inpatient facility, La Posada. The facility is open to everyone no matter his or her financial situation. With increased funds, we’d be able to serve more patients who have not have the ability to receive appropriate care elsewhere. We have the ability to bring patients on quickly. After a phone call, within two hours we can have the patient in their home or inpatient unit and their pain under control. That’s a big thing
for us. We want people to be comfortable. We have the ability to give
people a good death, if that makes any sense at all.

Our staffs are experts in symptom management. Hospice care is both
rewarding and challenging. We are privileged to be a part of an intimate
and emotional journey with patients, families, and caregivers. We help
patients navigate through this time to hopefully provide comfort and peace
they need. It is a collaborative effort with hospice team and the patient's
team of family caregivers to identify goals and interventions to achieve the
desired comfort level as defined by the patient and achieve the best
quality of life at the end of his journey. The goal of our program is for
patients to be as comfortable as they can be, so they can enjoy time with
family and friends and to live lives to their fullest. We have the ability to do
that in La Posada. I take off my glasses because then they can't see you
guys. We have the ability to do that in La Posada. We have a 16 bed
unit. If you guys haven't been to La Posada, I invite you to come to visit
our facility. It's beautiful. And in this medical care system right now,
you're not going to get what you're going to get in hospice. In hospice
you're going to get a medical director, a nurse practitioner, you're going to
get a social worker, you're going to get a nurse, you're going to get
volunteers, you're going to get a certified nursing aide, you're going to get
bereavement services, you're going to get that whole package. We take
care of not only the patient, but the family unit. We want to make sure that
everyone's taken care of. And we guide you through that journey.

And again, like I said we have the ability to give you a good death. We
experience, we get a lot of phone calls, especially from El Paso. We have
patients that live out in the valley, and some people go to El Paso for their
healthcare needs. And we have people on ventilators and all their family
is here and you know they say, hey can you accept a patient on a
ventilator? We'll get them to you and then you take them off the ventilator
when they get to your facility. And yes, we do that. We make them
comfortable. And we just had one last week and all the family was able to
visit their grandfather. And for me, that's huge. Because otherwise they
wouldn't have been able to see him. Because they had restrictions.
Mesilla Valley Hospice does not have restriction. And I cry every time I
come here, I swear. We don't have restrictions. We have compassionate
visits. So you can come. We have a COVID unit. We have a four bed
COVID unit. We did put that in place. And I'm sad to say we have used it
very much this year. But we have compassion visits there too. You can
come visit your loved one if they have COVID in our COVID unit. I mean,
we have the ability to bring people in. We want you to be surrounded by
people who love you at the end of life. It's what we do. I stand for
questions.
Nixon: Thank you so much. And I cry every time you come here too. Thank you for your presenting.

Padilla: I was doing really good.

Nixon: Thank you. And Joe, do you have any questions or comments?

Castillo: Thank you for what you're doing. I was the bilingual programs coordinator for Judy's House in Denver at one point. And it's the most enjoyable, difficult work ever.

Padilla: It is.

Castillo: I'm glad you're doing it. I really don't have any questions.

Padilla: Okay.

Nixon: And Miriam.

Chaiken: I also want to commend you for what you do. It's so important. My both my parents had hospice services at their end of their days, not here in Las Cruces, in Phoenix. But I know what a difference that makes. Y

Padilla: Yes.

Chaiken: From my personal experience. Just a couple of questions.

Padilla: Sure.

Chaiken: In the La Posada facility, how many patients do you typically see in a year in the inpatient, in a residential facility?

Padilla: Well, in the inpatient what, we serve 80% of our patients in their home and 20% in the facility.

Chaiken: Okay. And then my understanding is that Medicare pays for most hospice services. If someone has private insurance like Blue Cross Blue Shield do they cover the difference between what it actually costs and what Medicare covers?

Padilla: It does. What happens is Medicare will usually pick up the cost for routine hospice care, that's the care we deliver at home and in the facility at some point. But most of the people that come to our facility are in acute care. They're in distress. And so they come in under the GIP level. And that's covered at 100% through Medicare. But if they get better or we manage their symptoms in order for them to go back, because we want them to
age in place, if they were in a nursing home, or an assisted facility, or at home and then they want to return, then they do that. But if they want to stay in our facility they can, but then room and board comes to play because Medicare won't cover that cost. They're not going to pay your rent. They'll pay your medical expenses you know for the service, but not for your room and board. And so we get money through Doña Ana County to help offset that. We don't turn anyone away because of their ability or inability to pay for services at all.

Chaiken: Okay. So what I'm trying to pin down is what this particular grant will cover in terms of services?

Padilla: This particular grant is just going to subsidize what we get paid, subsidize the payment that we get for medications, because it's a one lump, like $197.00 per patient per day is what we get from Medicare.

Chaiken: Okay.

Padilla: And so what we're asking this money is to subsidize that for the medications that we pay for.

Chaiken: So that your actual costs.

Padilla: Our actual costs.

Chaiken: Okay.

Padilla: And 100% of this money is going to the program. We're not taking any money for any anything. It's just going directly to direct client service.

Chaiken: Okay. That was my question. Thank you.

Nixon: Yes, and I have no questions tonight. Thank you very much.

Padilla: Thank you.

K. Save the Children

Nixon: Next, I'd like to invite Save the Children, Family Engagement to the podium.

M. Diaz: Good evening. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be here tonight. My name is Marisol Diaz and I lead and organize the Family Engagement programming for Save the Children. While most people do know Save the Children for global humanitarian aid efforts, we have an over 90 year history of working in rural marginalized communities in the US to address
basic needs of children and families. In a commitment to this effort, Save
the Children through its Action Arms Save the Children Action Network or
SCAN as we call it, developed and piloted a family engagement program
community engagement and an individually tailored programming, SCAN
has developed and leveraged partnerships to build programs that aim to
reduce and create opportunities for civic engagement and advocacy that
elevate the individual and collective lived experiences and expertise of
caregivers, parents, families, and communities.

SCAN began working in New Mexico in 2018 to support early childhood
education and nutrition efforts, and has had a variety of collective
successes as you might have seen this past legislative session. In July of
2021, the Family Engagement Program was expanded to five states, New
Mexico was one of those. The program’s focus on four measures, working
with local and state partners to recruit parents and families to participate,
educate parents and family advocates through community based trainings
that focus on skill building and leadership development, Prepare parent
and family advocates to educate elected officials and the public by sharing
their lived experiences, and finally, to ensure that families can indeed
effectively serve as advocates by providing financial assistance for meals,
transportation, and childcare related to trainings and other events. Today,
the efforts have focused on understanding both historical and current local
programs in New Mexico efforts and successes as well as building
partnerships and identifying needs. As a recent example of engagement
SCAN and partners collected over 1,000 Thank you Valentine’s cards from
Doña Ana County residents and sent them to legislators this past session
to give them a heart attack. That was a small action with a big
significance.

We know that children outcomes are far more positive when parents are
engaged and can advocate for their children’s needs. One of our local
volunteers Angela encapsulated the spirit of this program perfectly, she
said when we make children our priority we are making their future a
priority. We are saying that our children are worth investing in. We are
saying they deserve the best possible outcomes. We are saying that
words are not enough. We must take action. This call to action is heard,
and over 500 online supporters from the City of Las Cruces take regular
action to support early learning and childhood education in Las Cruces
and New Mexico and that is a testament to the success of this program.
For the purposes of this program, we are asking for $30,000.00 to engage
parents, caregivers, caretakers, and others in meaningful opportunities for
advocacy and civic engagement to elevate the needs of our youngest and
oftentimes most vulnerable population, our children.
Aligning with the Elevate Las Cruces Community Participation Program strategic plan, we will work closely with partners to create complementary opportunities, programming and materials to prepare the community to participate in the city open houses, community builder meetings, planning meetings, as outlined in the plan, as well as other advocacy trainings and opportunities local, state, and national. This funding will support a civic engagement and advocacy summit to make the best use of resources and respect the time of our participants. We will supplement this with a series of three part trainings in the community to continue meeting parents, community, and residents where they are. These efforts will support the continued building of community leadership within the city using the four measures of that Family Engagement piece that we just spoke about.

Success is measured through the collection of process data, quantitative measures, and possibly most important, qualitative feedback. Both SCAN and Save have a commitment to New Mexico and Las Cruces. And we are continuously identifying diversified funding mechanisms to maintain a localized approach. The investment of this funding will ensure that this program can keep local bilingual staff, meet the local community needs such as translation and interpreting, provide appropriate resources to meet the specific needs of our partners, and support the city to meet its strategic engagement plans and increased health and well-being of children and their families. I will close in saying that together we have an opportunity to move our community from participants into actors and mentors to further elevate Las Cruces. Thank you again for giving me the time. And I stand for any questions you may have.

Nixon: Thank you. Miriam, do you want to go first?

Chaiken: Sure. As I mentioned earlier, I'm very familiar with Save the Children's international programs, but I'm not at all familiar with Save the Children's domestic programs. So this was interesting for me to read. I was wondering, so can you give us sort of a timeline of what's been happening here in Las Cruces? You know how long ago did this, you indicated in the proposal that there was 20 years of funding, but is that from the City of Las Cruces or that this program has been funded elsewhere nationally for 20 years? That was not quite clear to me.

M. Diaz: Yes. So programming has occurred throughout the US through Save the Children US for a number of years. There was a partnership most recently with Save the Children US and Save the Children Action Network to combine and ensure that we are effectively meeting measures. Doing this then also allowed for the creation and expansion into several other states in the US, which brings us to New Mexico. We do have this diversified funding portfolio, right, but what enables us to be able to create
these much more localized programs is the ability to have investment from
community and programming funding like this.

Chaiken: So how long has Save the Children been active here in the Las Cruces
area?

M. Diaz: So this is a complex question because Save the Children, as a national
agency has worked in New Mexico for many years in a variety of different
ways providing early childhood programming, preschool, reading
programs, things of this nature. They came to Las Cruces really in 2018,
when my counterpart Lacy started working in Santa Fe, to mobilize around
policy changes so that we can have some better outcome for our children
in terms of early childhood. And then in Las Cruces very much more
recently in 2017, when we began this program very intentionally in
southern New Mexico to elevate the voices of southern New Mexico
families.

Chaiken: Okay. And then I had some questions about the budget. Because I think
there’s some numbers that are just not making sense. So part of the
budget request was for I guess for your salary and part of the, and it says
there’s also $10,000.00 from other sources, but your salary was more than
what those two figures added up to. And then somewhere else it said
20% of salary you’re requesting from the grant, 20% from private funding,
so that adds up to 40%. So where does the other 60% of your salary
come from? That’s what didn’t quite make sense, because we’re asking
all of the grant applicants to list all of their sources of funding.

M. Diaz: So for this specific program for family engagement in New Mexico, the
budget is $90,000.00. And so I will only spend a portion of my time on this
program. I have other funding for the rest of my salary that covers me to
work on additional projects and programs still focused, but I work county
wide. I also work on state policy and federal policy items. I do US
mobilization with my counterparts. I do support services I do. So it’s a
combination of different things. And this is one project and program
specific to Las Cruces.

Chaiken: Okay. So this is only part of your whole portfolio of things to do.

M. Diaz: Yes. Exactly.

Chaiken: Okay. I was trying to make sense. I’m not good with numbers, I just have
to admit that. So I was trying to make sense.

M. Diaz: And it's kind of complex.

Chaiken: All right. That answered my questions. Thank you.
M. Diaz: Thank you.

Nixon: And, Joe, did you have any questions?

Castillo: I'm not so familiar with Save the Children. And so I'm looking at and when I read the proposal is that, so this is an education to teach advocacy.

M. Diaz: For engagement, civic engagement, advocacy, mobilization, those things.

Castillo: So does Save the Children look at the needs of the basically of the parents of the community to say, what is it that they need an advocate for? Or is there a pre-agenda for what Save the Children would like to promote?

M. Diaz: Excellent question. So I did speak a lot about our collaboration and partnerships and community. These are critically important. Save the Children's focus is early childhood education and nutrition, that is our primary focus. Now, we really understand it as both a global and a US agency and much closer to home a state and a local agency, that elected officials do the best they can to represent their constituents when they're making decisions. But at some point in time, we have to engage parents to also self-advocate for themselves, their children, their families, and their neighbors. And so that is our goal. Now, we know that the advocacy tools that we can teach, our families are by the way self-empowered. They know what they need, they know how to voice it, they just don't have the skills sometimes to figure out how to get it done. And so because we have a specific focus, but we have these tools that really you can use for anything, once you learn how to advocate, you can do it for anything, right, you can do it for roads, and infrastructure, and other health services and etc. Right. One of the agencies, I'll just give you a primary example, that we're partnering very specifically with is the Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana County. So they do a lot of civic engagement also, but their focus is a different arena, right. And so they're working on things like lighting and infrastructure and things of that nature. But at the core of the work that we're both doing is advocacy, skill development, leadership development. If we can work together to teach these tools, we then allow participants to decide how and when they're going to use those tools to advocate for themselves and their families. Because it doesn't matter if you're advocating for early childhood education, or if you're advocating for transportation, it's all intertwined in the fabric of what is our lives. And so I hope that answers your question in terms of what our primary focus is, but also how we partner with other agencies.

Castillo: Thank you.
Nixon: Thank you. I have no question. Actually, I had a budget question, but it's been answered. So thank you very much.

M. Diaz: Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

L. Rio Grande Community Development Corporation/SINC

Nixon: And lastly, we have Rio Grande Community Development Corporation, Doña Ana Communities United (DACU).

Bachman: Good evening everybody. Thank you for waiting till the bitter end. I appreciate that. I'm so happy to be here. My name is Kari Bachman. I am the director of Doña Ana Communities United. And we are a slightly different animal. And I think you probably got a sense of that from reading our proposal. And so I'm going to go over a little bit what we do, but also talk a little bit about what we don't do. Because that might clarify for you all a little bit what we're about. Our mission of this very small organization is to advance health equity in Doña Ana County. And that is a huge focus for a very small organization. So how do we go about doing that when literally I'm the only full time staff person at the moment. What we have chosen to do rather than provide direct services is to really focus on creating the conditions and spaces through which community members who are both directly impacted, as well as more privileged members, through which members can come together to change their own lives and change their communities for the better. So it's not that we are providing food or education or training or anything like that. We're actually creating and maintaining spaces both figurative and literally where people come together to do that for themselves.

So we're nearly 10 years old. We were founded initially as a W.K. Kellogg funded program. And as you all know, Kellogg weans programs off after about eight to 10 years, and so that's happening to us. We've done a great job of diversifying our funding. And so this is what this coming year 2023 will be the first year where we do not have Kellogg funding. And I'm happy to say that we actually are fully funded for 2022, and 2023 is looking good as well. In the past, we have not applied for this funding. And you may wonder why. The eligibility criteria made it very difficult for us to say yes to this. We strongly believe that we serve anybody. And by that I mean folks who are undocumented from mixed status families, who may not feel that they can feel safe in giving their information about where they live even. And so we decided this year that because after talking with the city, things seem to have been a little bit easier in terms of being able to meet the criteria for documenting what we do. And we pledge to work very closely with the city to figure out a way to do that. We estimate about half of our clientele actually are eligible, meaning that they both live in the city as well as are income eligible or eligible because of health conditions.
So it's not as if we're working with 1% of folks who are eligible, we work
with probably half of folks who are already eligible. As I say, what we
really try to do is create places where community members themselves
can come together to address all levels of the social ecological model.
We are really trying to provide some alternatives to the systems that we
know are so inequitable in our society and mainly the economic system
and the social system.

And so we do this across social divides. And we feel that that's really
important, not that we are siloing people who are seen as needy, but in
fact, what we're doing is bringing together folks from all walks of life to see
that we all need things from each other and we all have something to give.
And that is a really different model that takes a lot of work internally as
well as externally for that to actually happen. With this, we also work very
closely with local governments. So we've worked closely with the City of
Las Cruces, with Doña Ana County, particularly on built environment
initiatives, and community engagement. In this case, we're asking for
$30,000.00. And we are looking for that to actually help us build out a
shared leadership capacity.

Right now I'm the only funded person other than two AmeriCorps VISTAs.
We have actually brought somebody on with some participatory budgeting
funding. And with this funding, we would be able to keep him on as a co-
director. And we really want to be pioneering in this way of not just saying
nonprofits are led by one person, we are community led truly by
communities who are directly impacted. And so we're very excited for that
opportunity. We find now that we're coming out of the pandemic, it takes a
lot more time as we knew before, to really keep the focus on directly
impacted individuals, otherwise what happens, those folks who are like
me, who tend to come from higher education backgrounds, who have
more money, are the ones who will be engaged. And we need to be on
the ground working with community members, members who don't have
phones, who I'm trying to connect with, who are living on the streets, and
they are active members of the work that we do.

Our four initiatives you can read more about in the proposal, so I'm not
going to talk about them too much here. Other than to mention, we have
the time bank, which is a five year old initiative, social equity mapping,
which we have done for six years, the just community radio show, which is
now four years old, and our newest participatory budgeting. And that is
actually very exciting. We're working in collaboration at the moment with
City Councilors to try to get a participatory budgeting process in place
whereby a portion of the city's funds could actually be allocated and
determined by directly impacted community members. This is something
that's happened all over the world since the '90s and it would be new to
the city. So I stand for any questions, including one about the confusing a
budget, which I know is probably coming and I'm happy to address that
question as well. And talk about sustainability if you'd like. Thank you.

Nixon: Joe, would you like to ask any questions or have any comments?

Castillo: Really this was proposal made me do a lot of research because it's
something that I wasn't familiar with. So it enlightened me a little bit. So I
don't have any questions at this time.

Bachman: Thank you.

Nixon: Miriam, did you have any questions or comments?

Chaiken: Yes. Sorry I did. Okay, so you use the phrase in your proposal a couple
of times tactical urbanism, as part of your goal, and I'm not familiar with
that phrase. So could you kind of explain what this goal is?

Bachman: Sure. And this is actually something that the city is actually embracing,
which I find really exciting. They're wanting to develop their own policy
that encourages neighborhoods to do this. So it's not just guerrilla tactics,
although that's the way it started. We started by painting a mural on the
corner of Tornillo and Picacho, and that was actually without anybody's
approval. I will stand here and say that proudly. And the city loved it.
And Natalie's laughing.

Chaiken: Under cover of darkness no doubt.

Bachman: So what these ideas are, are community members who are directly
impacted, come together, study the neighborhoods where they live or
work or play, and see what needs to be changed. And often what these
innovations are in the work we've done are related to pedestrian bicycle
safety. And so for example we have created with the assistance of
community members and after actually observing traffic on the Community
of Hope campus, we've painted false speed bumps that look like real
speed bumps, but they're just paint. They need to be repainted because
the pandemic, and that we proved actually by doing observation that that
actually slowed traffic. And I will say, I think some of our colleagues might
be here from Community of Hope. They were full partners in this effort as
well. So we really do pride ourselves on doing things in partnership and
collaboration with the other organizations in this community that do direct
service work. So tactical urbanism is just anything that local community
members can do to make their communities safer. It might include
painting murals, it might be creating sort of temporary bike lanes, which
we've seen and the city actually took that initiative and with our support to
do that over near Lynn Middle School. And those actually were set up as
temporary lanes. Community members gave input, and now they're
permanent lanes. So this is a really great process by which
crowdsourcing of ideas and perspectives actually results in really good
Built Environment Policy.

Chaiken: Okay.

AUDIENCE MEMBER SPEAKING, NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.

Bachman: Pamela, yes. Thank you, Pamela.

Chaiken: I've driven into the Community of Hope campus, and I'm trying to
remember if I got fooled by the painted speed bumps are not, I'm trying to
remember. I will look for them the next time, that's for sure. And then I
had a couple of budget questions. So the budget includes request for
office space, but you know that you're not currently actually in an office.
So is the plan to establish an office for your program and pay rent for that
or?

Bachman: Let me answer the larger question related to budget. We have a fiscal
sponsor who entered our budget numbers. And until I actually printed this
off, I did not realize they'd been entered in a way that is a little bit
confusing. So actually we are not off asking for any budget from the city
for office space. But yes, we did used to have an office. We let it go
during the pandemic, because it was not a good use of funding. We
couldn't use it. We can't have community members there. And we're in
the process of looking for another space.

Chaiken: Okay.

Bachman: So yes. The discrepancy that you'll see is somehow we're asking it says
for $12,000.00 for cell phones, and that is $1,200.00. So that brings all of
the numbers to not total correctly, all of our funding is actually from private
funds. And then they're listed there in terms of foundations. So that that
first number that you see next to permanent position full time is actually
the total number from the bottom and the individual numbers did not get
entered under private funds, if that's helpful at all. So the total is actually
correct at the bottom in terms of underneath the list of our funding
sources, the $175,000.00 more or less, but because of the error of the
extra zero, we end up with it not totaling correctly, so I do apologize for
that. I was mortified when I saw that.

Chaiken: Okay. So the funding that you're requesting is all for staff salaries.

Bachman: That is correct. That is correct. Yes. And honestly, I mean, this is one of
the challenges we have when we talk to potential funders, is people say
well why are you funding positions. We don't provide direct services. We
need staffing in order to enable community members to provide services themselves. That is the model that we work on. So if you think about what we’re doing, we’re actually engaging community members and people far beyond that circle of community members to actually provide things for themselves. We have members who actually have adopted a park in Las Cruces, and they themselves maintain it without pesticides, and that’s in full cooperation with the City of Las Cruces. And that is actually part of our effort with other organizations, including La Semilla to try to work with the city to not use pesticides so much in areas where people are present, including medians where people who are unhoused frequently are. So there are all kinds of sort of waves of I would say impact that come from the work that we do, even though we’re not specifically giving money to people, or supplies or food. Hope that helps answer your question.

Chaiken: That does. I think that’s all I had. Thank you.

Nixon: And thank you, Kari. All of my questions have been answered. I appreciate it.

Bachman: Thank you all very much. I appreciate the opportunity.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT (7:17)

Nixon: And before you all leave, and I know traditionally, I should have made an announcement that everyone stay until the end, but I just would want to say on behalf of the Committee, thank you for everything you do. I appreciate it. We appreciate it. And we’re glad to be here with you tonight. Thank you. Committee Members, do you have anything to add? I didn’t want to speak for you. Okay. Thank you. Thanks again. Would someone like to make a motion to adjourn?

Chaiken: So moved.

Castillo: Second.

Chaiken: Vote with your feet, is that what they say?

Nixon: Do you want, do we need a vote? Thank you.
Chairperson
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 8, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marnie Nixon
Joe Castillo
Miriam Chaiken

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justyn Breen

STAFF PRESENT: Natalie Green, CLC
Catrina Godinez
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER (5:35)
Chair Nixon called the meeting to order at 5:35.

II. ROLL CALL
A quorum was determined to be present.

III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY
No conflicts of interest were stated.

IV. FINAL RANKING OF COMPOSITE SCORES FOR HRPS APPLICATIONS
Chair Nixon opened the discussion.

RECORER ISSUES PRIOR TO THIS POINT.

Godinez: We have 22 applicants for a total of $657,500. We can continue on with the percentage. If we want to do more of a breakdown or if what you see before you, the 100%. If we fund 100% we would fund 20 of the applicants and then 95% would be 21, and then 91% we could do 22 applicants, and that would put us under the $600,000 which our total amount of funding we have available is $600,000.

Nixon: Okay, and I do want to point out and please speak to this or correct me but generally we would have more of a, we would have a lesser total in years past and I just want to bring that up because se we move forward in future years we may not have this extensive as a budget.
Godinez: Correct. In the past we've had $400,000, so we have an extra $200,000 this year of funding available.

Nixon: Thank you. Committee Members, Miriam or Joe, do you have any comments or do you need just a few minutes. We're just getting this tonight when we come in and so if the Committee needs just a minute, we're just going to ask for your patience.

Thank you very much for playing with those numbers for us. In terms of the funding based on the total points there is quite a jump between the last two proposals. Committee Members is that something that, and I guess we have to sort of look at, we have a pretty good range here and you can see, of course everyone can see how sort of the numbers have stacked up, the median being 270.5, so the median score. And that is for, on our screen it shows number seven through 15, and then there's sort of this middle of the pack between the 270s to the 260s. Is there any discussion from the committee around possibly maybe cutting either the ones that are kind of the outliers which would be the last four, pardon me, the last four, yes, who have a significantly lower score? Thank you for playing with that, that's great. Or any other suggestions from the Committee Members.

Chaiken: It strikes me that there isn't a significantly break. I mean in my years of teaching I always tried to find logical breaks between grades and I would look at the distribution of scores to see where there were natural gaps or breaking points to divide an A from a B, a B from C, and so on. And if I remember back to my statistics days which was a long time ago admittedly, one of the things we tried to focus on was the interquartile range, so that would be the span above and below the mean that would be a logical, basically we would drop out roughly the bottom one-fourth if we were trying to do an interquartile range. And I think that break would be somewhere around 245 or 250, so that also kind of supports where there's a natural break in the scoring.

Nixon: Thank you. And honestly in years past this is much more challenging because we did not have the funds in the way that we do this year to have the opportunity to fund everyone or fund certain percents or, just we have more money to play with. And so I appreciate that Miriam. Thank you very much.

Chaiken: I should add that I'm very grateful to the City that we actually have this amount of money this year. And I'm mindful of the fact that this may be sort of a one-off opportunity. By funding a particular organization we have to be recognizing that we may be perceived as setting precedent, but given the amount of dollars we have in future pots of money, I don't think we can assume that this should be, we should assume this is not precedent setting, whatever is decided here tonight.
Nixon: Absolutely. And I did want to let everyone know in the audience that these are recommendations that we make to the City Council and they will go ahead and make the final decisions.

Is there any more discussion? Or we still could take a little more time to play with the numbers as well as entertaining a motion.

Green: I was just going to say that we can add additional columns. You guys want to shout numbers at us or if you want to see a certain scenario, you can do that. We're really just here to type on the spreadsheet to, whatever you guys want to see. And I can do, I may have to google, but quartile formula, but I need to put a mean I can find the mean formula instead of the median.

Chaiken: Oh, yes. Well the median may be a better measure actually because it's the halfway point of the scoring.

Nixon: And the quartile that you mentioned where the natural break is Miriam, that does fund everyone at the full $30,000. And it almost can get us to the $35,000, right, if we wanted to break that down at all, and that is the column, one, two, three, four, five over where the $35,000, if everybody is funded at $35,000. If we broke up that quartile, if we did maybe the $32,000, where that quartile is. We could go maybe even just a smaller amount in those last four, or we could go to the $35,000 and that kind of meets where the quartile cutoff is

Could you show me under the 100%, under the $30,000, that gets to, let me see this $32,000 gets to $608,000. Could we see what $32,000 is up to line 22 and then below that, below line 20, sorry this is complicated to do from up here. And so the next one under that, could you show me what that looks like at maybe a $25,000. And can you, yes, could you bring that $25,000.00 to ... okay. Could you change that, then the $25,000, and then we have $25,000, $25,000. These are very close still.

Green: So what may help, and I don't know if it does is sometimes it helps to work from the bottom up and maybe make a decision on if you're interested in funding all of them or if you're recommendation includes like I said removing some, or I think Miriam, right, removing some of the outliers scores or, sometimes that helps, not always, but it's really. Excell gives us lots of columns so we could try every scenario.

Chaiken: Well in my mind the last row, the score of 153 is substantially below the next higher score. That seems to me to be not just a small gap but a very large one.
Nixon: And I know it's trough but do I have a motion to remove the last row, the 153 score from consideration?

Chaiken: I'd be happy to make that motion.

Nixon: Do I have a second?

Castillo: I second.

Nixon: Okay. Thank you. The remaining two are also very close at 207 and 211. And then we almost have a 20 point gap between number 24 and number 25, lines 24 and 25. Yes, sorry, I'm working off the screen here.

Chaiken: Sorry I'm working between paper …

Nixon: Between paper and screen. Okay.

Chaiken: And on the screen I can see the numbers for the rows which are not on here.

Nixon: Okay. Do you prefer to work off of paper or we can work off of the screen?

Chaiken: I'm happy with the screen.

Nixon: The screen. Okay, the screen is good. Okay.

Castillo: Can we see the original I column still in there just to compare it to the others? It was row 25 I believe.

Nixon: Yes, could you bring that down. Thank you, the $30,000 in the first column brings us. And then there's not very much differential right, that gets us right to $600,000. There's not very much differential in scores from 211 to 207.

Chaiken: Yes.

Nixon: Or, so we could …

Chaiken: Could we see what they look like if we funded at the full $30,000 through the score 247, which is the Amador Health Center? And then look at maybe a $25,000 level for the remaining. It'll go over with that. Or maybe at $22,000. Let's feel like an auctioneer, do I hear 20, do I hear 20. Do I hear 18, 18. Yes. I think at $20,000 we're going to be right on the nose.
Nixon: Is there any more discussion? Could you also show me, after the 91% the $32,000 column? Could you show me from the, I guess it's these last three, so it's Families, Youth, Save the Children, and Rio Grande, could you show me those at maybe $10,000 apiece.

Green: So within the guide we have a minimum grant amount of $15,000.

Nixon: Okay.

Green: So we would recommend that you ... Nixon: Have to go to $15,000

Green: Yes.

Nixon: Thank you Natalie.

Green: Just for the administrable.

Nixon: Okay. Do I have a motion or any more discussion? We could also play any more suggestions too. We could play around with some of these additional numbers. Could I see in that same column, could I see from, gosh this is all so, the numbers get really close right there in the middle of the pack. Could I see from, gosh and then that's only really six between the SANE program and Diabetes Outreach, and then that's, yes, it's so close. Under the $32,000 then could you just show me from the 247 and 256, could I see those at $30,000. Oh yes, we're still way over there. Okay. $4,000. It cut off the last two though. That gets us closer. But it's hard to differentiate between 262 and, right we have those three.

Chaiken: All clustered right there.

Nixon: Yes, the cluster is just in terms of fairness by one point. And then that gives $2,000. Is there any, Joe, Miriam, is there any one of these that look closer to what you're thinking and maybe we can work from there? And then I'd be glad to share of course column number one fits the bill. But then we do have just a really big differential between our scores from sort of the top cluster and kind of the last four here, the last three that are remaining.

Castillo: I'm actually pleased with column I.

Nixon: I. Okay. Do you move it, oh here I've got it right here.

Chaiken: Is that four or five? I'm sorry.
Nixon: Column I.

Chaiken: It's a letter at the top. The letter I is what's being highlighted?

Nixon: There. Okay.

Chaiken: Is that the column or were you talking about?

Nixon: It's the column you're talking about John. Okay.

Castillo: Yes.

Nixon: And so let me see that.

V. FINAL RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING

Nixon: Okay would you like to make a motion. That get's us pretty close. And Miriam, anybody is welcome to make a motion. Sorry, I know there's only three of us.

Castillo: I'll make the motion.

Nixon: Okay. And which column would you, are you making a motion on?

Castillo: A motion for column I.

Nixon: Okay.

Chaiken: And I can second that.

Nixon: You would second that. Okay, all those in favor. We need to have a vote, even though it's just the three of us. Do you want to call for a vote Becky?

Baum: Sure. Board Member Castillo.

Castillo: Aye.

Baum: Board Member Chaiken.

Chaiken: Aye.

Baum: And Chairperson Nixon.

Nixon: Aye.
Baum: Thank you.

Nixon: Okay, so it seems that the "ayes" pass. Thank you everyone for participating and I know this is a little laborious, probably a little bit of slow process for you in the audience. We do try to be really transparent about how the funds go out and the rationale behind the grant, our recommendations. So thank you. Thanks very much. And congratulations.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION

Nixon: Is there any other discussion from the Committee Members this evening? No.

VII. ADJOURNMENT (6:11)

Nixon: Okay, so I'd like to call the meeting to a close. We are adjourned.

Chairperson