

**Porter County American Rescue Plan
Sub Committee Behavioral Health and Social Services Subcommittee
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 5 p.m.
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

Voting Members Present:

Jim Biggs
Greg Simms
Robyn Lane
Mike Brickner

Citizen Members Present:

George Topoll
Edward Morales

Vicki Urbanik addressed the Committee. She presented the two rubrics that were received. Jim Biggs has prepared a draft that has all the requirements from the US Treasury. This committee is charged with making sure that everyone who has applied for funds meets the requirements before they are forwarded to the Steering Committee. Greg Simms asked if the Steering Committee is going to want rankings as to why this Committee recommends one request over another.

Vicki Urbanik explained she has looked at all the applications that have been delegated to this subcommittee. All of them are an Enumerated Use within the Final Rule. The question is if these are projects the County would want to pursue. All would be treated as subrecipients. The applicants are:

Housing Opportunities – 36 multi-unit building - \$500,000 to \$750,000
Housing Opportunities – housing units - Request \$250,000
Caring Place – facility upgrades - \$1,657,144
PACT – remodel recovering facility - \$50,000
Project Neighbors – two facilities to house homeless men - \$1Million
Family Promise – homeless shelter - \$245,000
Portage Twp/Center Twp Trustees – Multi group proposal to address long term housing and other services - \$2,475,000
Porter County Community Foundation – early childhood intervention - \$1,342,000
Porter Starke – mental health services - \$1,876,495
Family Focus - \$333,950

Just with these ten applications, nearly one half of what is available will be eaten up. The committee needs to ask difficult questions of the applicants to make sure the very best are going before the Steering Committee.

Scott McClure reemphasized the need to make sure every applicant can make the deadline for obligation and spending. Ranking of the applicants is necessary but difficult. The committee should look at sustainability.

There was discussion regarding how the applicants should be ranked. Highlights of the conversation are:

Are there matching funds. Vicki Urbanik replied that is part of the Steering Committee's General Priority Considerations. Organizations that can leverage the matching funds will be priority. They also want committees to ask if the applicant is getting other ARPA funds.

Is their budget sustainable. They will need to know where the funds will be used and populations served.

Jim Biggs discussed the requests are supposed to be about financial loss. Vicki Urbanik replied the other committees have to show negative economic impact. The requests this committee is looking at are people who are providing a service to serve other people.

Mike Brickner stated this committee is not seeing any applicant that does not qualify. Also, they might decide none of these projects work and should be awarded money. All this committee has to do is decide at what rank these get submitted to the Steering Committee.

Scott McClure stated the ones Vicki has handed out pass the Final Rule hurdle. Next it is up to the committee and public to decide how the requests rank. That will then go to the Steering Committee. The Commissioners and Council will see who made the top of the list. They will want to know why that applicant made it to the top.

Greg Simms asked if some applicants have requests being heard by other committees. If so, does that need to be considered. Vicki replied there are none that are being heard by multiple committees.

Robyn Lane stated the applications will show how good the project is going to be. Jim Biggs stated it all goes back to the scoring sheet. He suggested that the applicants should be advised what they should have for the presentation. If they are not prepared, they are holding up the whole process.

Determining priority should be decided by considering: Collaboration, matching funds, sustainability, and population served. Also, is it a permanent project or just a short time project. These are going to be good presentations.

For a scoring sheet it was decided to use the draft of Greg Simms and add: sustainability, collaboration, matching funds, have they gotten ARPA money from somewhere else. Vicki can choose what she thinks is appropriate from the Foundation rubric.

The presentations are only before the subcommittees. They will not have an opportunity to present again. Vicki Urbanik will make a presentation to the Commissioners for approval and then the Council for payment.

Jim Biggs stated he wants to make sure the opinions of this committee count. Scott McClure stated the biggest number is the not for profits. Possibly the Commissioners should take the categories and say they are only going to approve "X" amount of dollars per each. Jim Biggs stated he wants everyone to be crystal clear that there are questions that need to be asked and understand the process.

Schedule Subcommittee Meetings for April and May

Motion: Mike Brickner moved to keep the presentations to 15 minutes and then 15 minutes for Questions and Answers. Jim Biggs seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed 3-1. Greg Simms voted No.

Presenters can have PowerPoints. They will be required to email it to Curt Ellis two business days before the presentation. They also are required to bring copies of the PowerPoint with them. Public Comment will be allowed at the end of each meeting. There will be three presentations per night.

The next meetings will be April 21st, April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th all at 5:00 pm.

Public Comment

Lisa Franko – Valparaiso. For organizations that submitted proposals for this group, will it be taken into consideration if they applied for two committees because they fit both categories or are there no overlaps. Vicki Urbanik replied they will be assigned to only one subcommittee.

Citizen – Will all applicants have to show accountability of what they have achieved and what they expect to achieve and how are they going to achieve it. Jim Biggs said those are all questions that will be asked by the Board during the presentation.

There being no more business the meeting adjourned.