

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of  
The Grant Committee Meeting  
September 30, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority met in session at the offices of the Authority at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Patrick A. Colangelo, Committee Chair, and upon roll call those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Patrick A. Colangelo, Committee Chair  
John Mengacci (Rep. for Brenda Sisco)  
Bryan Pollard  
Sarah K. Sanders<sup>1</sup> (Rep. for Denise Nappier)

ABSENT: Barbara Rubin, Board Chair

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey A. Asher, Executive Director  
Kimberley Fontaine, Marketing and Philanthropy Manager  
Debra M. Pinney, Manager, Administrative Services  
David Wasch, Manager, Government Programs  
Jeanette Weldon, Managing Director  
and Kathy Owens, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant of  
Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

GUESTS: James B. Farnam, Partner, Holt, Wexler & Farnam, LLP  
Dr. David Garvey, Director, Nonprofit Leadership Program, UConn  
Robert Santy, President & CEO, CERC (CT Economic Resource  
Center)

The Notice of Meeting was read and ordered spread upon the Minutes of this Meeting and filed for the record.

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Sanders attended the meeting via telephone.

The purpose of the Meeting was to: 1) Approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2009 Grant Committee Meeting; and 2) Review Proposal for Funding of the Connecticut Data Quality and Access Partnership.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Colangelo requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2009 Grant Committee Meeting. Mr. Mengacci moved for approval of the minutes; Mr. Colangelo seconded his motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Patrick Colangelo	None	Bryan Pollard <sup>2</sup>
John Mengacci		Sarah Sanders <sup>3</sup>

### **Review Proposal for Funding of the Connecticut Data Quality and Access Partnership**

Mr. Asher reported there is a lot of anecdotal information that comes in every day about what kind of job Connecticut is doing in providing access to information whether it is for State agencies or services for nonprofits in the State. Connecticut is listed as number 37 nationally for the way the State uses information technology to streamline State government. Mr. Asher reported that he and Ms. Fontaine met and began discussing ways the Authority can help nonprofit institutions in Connecticut reach out to their constituents and clients more effectively and how CHEFA can help in the way they interact with State agencies; and what programs and funding sources are available. They also discussed how CHEFA can help provide the State and its residents with more accurate information on nonprofits. The Authority would like to look into not only the kinds of services that the nonprofit may provide, but those services that are similar in State agencies and funding that would link the two together.

There have been many independent attempts at creating some form of database. The Connecticut Association of Nonprofits has information for their constituents. Just recently, there was a commission created by the Legislature called the Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services co-chaired by Mr. Peter Dibiasi from Access Agency in Windham and Mr. Bob Dakers from OPM. One of the comments that Mr. Dakers made at a recent meeting was that he believes there is a need to determine where the information is stored, and how to get access to the data. The concern was that the information may exist but may be stored away someplace and no one would have access to it. There have been frustrations expressed by people in OPM and the industry itself, as well as the population as a whole. One of the charges that the

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Pollard did not attend the February 24, 2009 Grant Committee Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Sanders did not attend the February 24, 2009 Grant Committee Meeting.

Commission has is to determine how the Partnership can conduct a better job in providing the information and services for nonprofits.

Mr. Asher reported that when the application was received many questions and concerns were raised but the overall consensus was that this is something that the State needs and a lot of people believe that this is extremely important. Mr. Asher also stated that he stayed out of the process of the drafting of the application intentionally, though Ms. Fontaine was involved. However, Dr. Garvey, Mr. Santy and Mr. Farnam also participated in drafting the grant proposal. There were questions as to where the database would be stored; how much will it cost; and what would be the benefits; but the biggest concern was sustainability. This grant request is for a three-year period but at the end of the three years, it will need to be determined how the Partnership will be sure that the database is going to be maintained from that point forward; and what will be the source of funding afterwards.

Mr. Asher reported that Dr. Garvey provided a very good response to the questions and the partnership has been collaborating on these questions with the Urban Institute in Washington, DC and they are proposing a project that is being pioneered in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The nonprofit database would initially have information brought into it by the Urban Institute and information would be made available through the IRS; then the Partnership would reach out to the State agencies to get their information. Dr. Garvey would be working with a number of students at the University of Connecticut to assist in populating the data. At the end of the process, it is intended that the Urban Institute would maintain the database. Further discussion ensued.

Dr. Garvey further explained that Connecticut would be the second state in the nation to join in on this project with Massachusetts being the first. Their goal is to get all 50 states on board.

Mr. Asher stated that he believes the basis for the grant request is consistent with CHEFA's mission in serving nonprofits. The Authority believes that the partnership is broad enough and that it is not in any way bias. The database will include health data; involvement with Early Childhood Education data; nonprofit data; and State agency data. Mr. Asher further stated that he believes this will improve transparency in State government, making more information available, and streamlining the process so that the Partnership can build on the efforts that are developing so far. Currently, CHEFA is being asked to fund approximately 19.7% of the total cost of the project. There are funds coming in from the State and federal government. In addition to that, there will be information that CHEFA can use to better inform the Legislature.

Lastly, the Partnership can become a resource for the State as far as the future data collection efforts project and will help the Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services significantly. Further discussion ensued.

The United Way of Connecticut maintains a database of select nonprofits which is updated annually. Dr. Garvey added that he spoke with Rick Porth, President and CEO of United Way of Connecticut and he is open to working with the Partnership, and is willing to make United Way data interoperable. Their data includes social services organizations and childcare providers. Dr. Garvey stated that he asked Mr. Porth to attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee and Mr. Porth expressed a desire to join the group.

Mr. Asher stated that if the Committee approves of this recommendation, the Grant Committee's recommendation would go to the Board for its full approval to fund this grant over a three-year period. If it is approved by the Board at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the next step would be to set it up as a liability similar to what CHEFA did with the Science Center Project so that the funds are earmarked specifically for that purpose. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Colangelo expressed a concern about keeping the funds secure. Mr. Asher explained that CHEFA would establish a liability that has specific requirements that have to be met in order for annual disbursements to take place.

Mr. Colangelo stated that there is a concern of State confiscation of the funds whether they have been earmarked or not. He added that if something happens and the funds are taken away, that is a risk that the Partnership has to be cognizant of. Ms. Fontaine added that the alternative would be to make a lump sum payment up front and allow a spend-down from that figure. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Colangelo stated that his only concern is that CHEFA commits to three years of funding up front and does not have the assurance that its partners will join in. Mr. Mengacci added that that would be part of the contract that the other funds will be included. Mr. Asher stated that he believes that the State has already funded a significant amount of the Connecticut Health Information Network's budget. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Mengacci asked for further clarity of the Partnership's purpose for the requested grant. Mr. Santy responded that there has been a sense of frustration from individuals who represent these organizations about access to quality data. Mr. Santy stated that the Early Childhood Cabinet funded the Partnership's ability to join the Open Indicators Consortium, which is a national Consortium that developed the Weave software (visualization software). The Partnership started with Graustein Memorial Fund and the Early Childhood Cabinet funding.

Mr. Santy further explained that concerning the change theory, the Partnership understood that there would have to be an organization that would fulfill the function that is reflected in this application which presented the opportunity to come before CHEFA. Almost all of the original resources went to pay for the ability to meet with the

University of Massachusetts in development of the software and now the Partnership will work at getting that data out; setting standards at how that data can be used; and putting it in a format where it can be useful. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Mengacci requested further clarification on the types of data. Dr. Garvey explained that the present administration has made a commitment to accessibility to data with the appointment of a Data Chief Information Officer. There will be strings tied to federal funding concerning data availability. The Data Partnership will be able to provide a service to the State where they are going to have to make this data available. The privacy of the individuals will be protected and made available for public use. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Farnam explained that State agencies have come forth and expressed that they want to be able to tap into the database and have internet websites for purposes of providing community services for programs such as the substance abuse prevention and services for youth and adults. Mr. Farnam added that they have reams of data and presently there is a website that one can access and download a spreadsheet for each different indicator.

Mr. Mengacci asked for an example of how the database would be useful to Yale University. What would they be able to get out of this information that would be useful to them or any of our other clients? Mr. Farnam explained that universities could use the database in the areas of future planning, markets, penetrations, facilities populations relative to the economy, and related demographics. On the academic curriculum side, one of the biggest users of that are the students and faculty of Yale University. It is a tremendous curriculum tool to inform the Sociology Department where students and faculty are using it. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Wasch stated that he has worked with statewide child care facilities data. When he was looking for what the numbers of Head Start facilities spaces per town, he found there are actually two places to go for this information – the State Department of Education and Department of Social Services. He stated that he received two different sets of inaccurate data; one was listed by a contracting agency which is the headquarters of the agency and a multi-town agency and it just lumps all the slots in that one space. The other actually looks at the origin which is the towns the children actually came from rather than where the slots reside. Mr. Wasch stated that it took a great deal of time to figure out which one was inaccurate and which was accurate. One of the things that make this proposed system useful is not only is it pulling together data but it also has a forum where once you have actually combed through the data; then you are able to draw out of these two disparate sets a set of useful data. It is very difficult for people on the outside to understand the purposes of the information and to take it out of the context that it was originally developed for. Mr. Wasch further stated that when he and Mr. Asher were exploring funding opportunities for the Health Care Reform Cabinet; one of the things they discussed with the group was how effective it

would be to be able to share the introduction sections of the grants that have to show statistics and dollars spent addressing certain problems and diseases to show this information in one place. Again, when you have all this data from different agencies addressed to very narrow questions and when you are making applications to the federal government, you try to answer something much more broadly. They were at a loss as to how they may more effectively do this. Someone jokingly said it would be nice if you could press a button and get all these questions addressed. Mr. Wasch stated these are the types of things that he believes would help both the State access federal funds more effectively and as well as CHEFA to make plans for facilities more effectively. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Santy further explained the Partnership is looking at is what is going on with the Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services. The Commission is actually working on deciding on how they are going to wrestle with the purchase of service contracts of which there are 2,000, with nonprofits with the State agencies. They are trying to assess a fair way of doing this and also knowing what is going on with the budget. Part of what was brought up by the Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services was that the Partnership needs to have access to the financial health data of the nonprofit sector and especially sections within the nonprofit sector. In order for OPM to make decisions on how they are going to work and make recommendations to the Governor on contracts from the nonprofit sector that work for the State, they really need 990 data. They said it will take months or years to gather this data in a usable format.

Mr. Santy stated that with this system working with the Urban Institute, the Partnership will be able to provide digitalized 990 data on every single nonprofit in Connecticut – we can compare it by housing programs and can look at some of the lists for examples of equity, liabilities to assets, and surplus deficits. The Partnership expects to provide deliverables within two months of funding.

Mr. Santy explained that the Partnership will be providing the federal information. It will then be populating that, with State information, such as where the nonprofits are actually physically located. We will be able to show a map of their service area by function; for example, issues dealing with AIDS housing units – we can show where that is. So what we can basically do is in using the Weave software and the website that Mr. Farnam and the larger group are forming, we can look at housing issues – where there is lack of housing, strong aspects of housing, and then map over the assets that are currently available.

Mr. Mengacci stated that there will be many nonprofits that may not be pleased with this. Mr. Santy agreed. Mr. Mengacci added that the Partnership may end up showing the ineffectiveness of these agencies, which should be done. Mr. Santy stated that it will allow the Partnership and State to see where there are weaknesses; where there are gaps; where there are strengths; and be able to move more effectively. What it is

looking to do is to create a “living database” and currently we see the Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services looking for the information that we can provide with the project, and that is just one aspect of the information.

Mr. Mengacci asked how handling data delivery services for an AIDS program would benefit the Authority. Mr. Asher explained that that specific example does not necessarily help the Authority’s clients directly but if there is an institution that we do business with that perhaps provide services to AIDS patients and they are looking for residential placement, it is going to help the population as a whole. Mr. Asher stated that when you look at our mission, it is providing services that are available to our constituents whether it is health or education and this is going to be providing access to a lot of information in the community. Mr. Santy added that part of the proposal is about starting negotiations with State agencies over data availability. Some of them are required to make data available but what we want to establish is a recurring responsibility to get it to a portal where people can access it on a regular basis. There are going to be agencies that are tougher than others.

Mr. Mengacci asked how the Steering Committee sees this grant request benefiting the CERC supporters. Mr. Santy responded that the CERC supporters look at it more from the program management standpoint; that access to data will allow you to see duplication of effort and should result in more efficient government operations, which means a more competitive economy. It is a frustration that people do not have the data necessary to make good public policy choices and then to measure the results of their choices.

Mr. Colangelo asked if there were any other questions or comments. Mr. Colangelo thanked the guests for their input and at 2:00 p.m. the guests exited the Board Room.

Ms. Sanders stated that data is the way of the future but she did have a question about the three-year level of this grant. Mr. Pollard stated that he agrees with the use of data and that it seems to be an important function and is in keeping with the Authority’s mission but wanted to know if CHEFA would be funding this for only three years or will there be requests made for further funding. Mr. Asher replied that his recommendation to the Grant Committee limits this grant of \$985,000 to a three-year commitment. Mr. Mengacci added that further down the road, the federal government is going to request that you have a particular data capacity in order to receive any money and it may be through federal money that comes down with that requirement. There may be administrative funds in there that can be granted to this Partnership to keep it going because those agencies will have to come to this database for the information.

Mr. Colangelo requested a motion to make a recommendation to the Board for approval at the October 26, 2010 meeting. Mr. Mengacci moved to make a recommendation to the Board for approval at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting for this grant proposal of \$985,000; Mr. Colangelo seconded his motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Patrick Colangelo	None	None
John Mengacci		
Bryan Pollard		
Sarah Sanders		

All Grant Committee members were fully committed to support this grant.

There being no further business, Mr. Colangelo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mengacci motioned to adjourn; Mr. Colangelo seconded his motion.

Upon roll call, the “Ayes,” “Nays,” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Patrick Colangelo	None	None
John Mengacci		
Bryan Pollard		
Sarah Sanders		

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick A. Colangelo, Committee Chair