



**NC Human Trafficking Commission: Appropriations Committee  
Meeting  
Monday, November 20th, 2023  
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Cypress room (C1-1225)**

**1:12 PM – Call to Order & Roll Call Attendance**

**Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Committee Chair Angelica Wind opened the meeting and called to order. Kathy conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Committee members in attendance were Amy Auth, Danielle Carman, Joseph Kyzer, Kindl Detar, Deana Joy, Jennifer Haigwood. Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, Grants Administrator, Kathy Estrada, Grants Managers and Data Manager, Kristen Howe, Jacqueline Kehinde, Ellen Chupik Smith, Ashawntee Cabello, Mel Gilles, and Administrative Secretary, Lauren Amato. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

**1:15 PM – Ethics Statement**

**Approval of the Minutes 10/09/2023**

**Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Committee Chair Angelica Wind thanked all in attendance and read the required ethics statement. She asked if there were any additions or corrections that needed to be made to the 9 Oct meeting minutes. Dena motioned to approve the minutes and Amy 2<sup>nd</sup>. The minutes were passed unanimously.

**1:16 PM – Section 16.21 Applications Received Update**

**Kathy Estrada**

Kathy stated that for 16.21, we had 8 individuals who scored, and that there were 20 applications that made it to scoring. Three of the scoring categories were predetermined, and it was the scores choice to either adopt those scores or adjust. It was based on the risk assessment level, geographical reach, and the self-assessment. The scoring summary was created including risk assessment category, amount requested, and average total score from the 8 people. The minimum was \$50,000 and the maximum was up to \$200,000. The applicants could either do a 1 year or 2-year grant cycle.

**1:18 PM – Section 16.21 Baseline Discussion**

**Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Angelica started off by thanking everyone who were a part of the scoring committee. She also gave kudos and much gratitude to the grant staff, who were able to offer support to the scoring committee with any questions and follow up questions as they related to the applications. The one thing that was very clear in this whole process is that we have a great team that is committed to ensuring survivors of human trafficking are served and that we all work together to create a safer North Carolina. The scoring committee worked

hard and diligent in reviewing the applications again, asking those questions, following up, and really being thorough about the whole process because we wanted to make sure that the folks that were most vulnerable received the services that they needed. We received 20 applications that were scored based on what we received, and we came up with a baseline that would determine who would get funded and who would not get funded this go around. Given that criteria that Kathy spoke on earlier in terms of the scores, we came up with the baseline of applications that for points from 51 to 100 would be fully funded and the applications that were less than or equal to 50 would not receive funding this go around. But they can certainly apply for funding in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round as it relates to organizations that did not receive funding this go around. The grant staff will offer to review areas of strengths and weaknesses with those agencies to where they should be interested in applying again. Given that we are going to do a second round of funding, the grant staff will try to do our due diligence as we had done before but underscoring the importance of spreading the word high and low around this opportunity. I want to ensure we do as much outreach as we can this go around to ensure that organizations across the state that are doing human trafficking work are aware of this opportunity feel inclined to apply. The grant staff will offer an informational webinar early in the RFP process and we did offer opportunities where applicants could reach out and ask questions. We want to make sure that we can have an informational webinar as early in the process as possible so that folks can get their questions answered and understand what the RFP process is looking like and what documents applicants need to submit. Angelica stated now we will move on to the next section where we will lay out organizations that have been recommended for funding.

**1:23PM- Section 16.21 Scoring Summary**  
**Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Angelica referenced the slide that was being shared for the scoring summary. The organizations in the green were recommended for funding. JusticeMatters, Legal Aid, A Safe Place, Pisgah Legal, Present Age, On Eagles Wings, Florence Crittenton, True Justice, The Hundred Movmt, Designed for joy, and Wayne Pregnancy Cent. In the chart, you will see the amount they requested, where they lay in terms of their risk assessments, the average score, and whether it's a 1- or 2-year application they are asking for. The next slide would be the ones that were not funding this go around. These are agencies that scored the equal to either 50 or below. First Fruit, Faith in Action, Safe House, Survivor Network, The Bridge, Beloved Haven, Christian Recovery, Life 107, and Project Lost Sheep. As Stated already, we plan to reach out to the organizations and if they want to talk to the grant managers in terms of where the strengths and not so strengths of their applications. We want to be able to offer an opportunity for that. Angelica asked if the committee is to vote on this, my question is, in terms of the committee votes on the recommendations based on the scoring, that would mean that in 1 round, we would have awarded a little over 2 million in funds allowing for about 1.8 million yet to be allocated for next round of funding. She asked if the committee had any questions regarding the baseline. Deana Joy stated that she understands that the ones who are not being funded will be told what their scores are and how to improve their applications, but what about the ones that are funded? Will they be given their scores and how they can improve? Some of them that are at the bottom were just barley over that threshold and I want to make sure that the also know what could be done differently given the future funding opportunities through HTC. Angelica responds with that was a great question and in terms of the grant staff, she would certainly encourage them to work with agencies that fell in that lower threshold. We do have a couple of them that there is an opportunity for growth, and we'll want to be able at the commission to serve as a resource of how organizations can strengthen their foundations and their practices so that survivors are served according to best practices and what we see at the national and state level. Angelica stated that she wanted to make sure that Christine and Kathy are reaching out to those organizations and make sure that you have the capacity to do so. Kathy responded that the grant manages will send out the

scores. We're going to compile it up and send it out. Whoever does want to do a 1 on 1 meeting, we will afford that them that opportunity to work with them. Angelica stated that the goal is that folks that end up getting funding, will still be able to utilize the commission as a resource. Just because an agency got funded, does not mean the grant staff will be hands off. The goal is for the staff to reach out and be engaged with the organizations to ensure they are as strong as possible and giving opportunities around strengthening standards and best practices. Angelica asked if there were any other questions and if not, we have a few votes that we must do. One is to adopt the baseline of score of 51 and above for round 1 funding. Those are the ones that would get funded. We will just go to each vote individually.

### **1:30 PM– Section 16.21 Vote**

#### **Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Angelica asked to have a motion to adopt the baseline of scores 51 and above get funding under round 1. That's just to adopt the baseline. She asked if there would be a 3<sup>rd</sup> vote around just moving forward with the recommendations? Amy made the motion to adopt the baseline of 51 and above for round 1. Danielle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Angelica said all those in favor say "Aye". All favored. The second vote is not to fund baseline scores 50 and below for round 1. Angelica asked for a motion. Dena motioned to approved and Kindl 2<sup>nd</sup> her motion. The organizations that scored 51 and above will get funding for round 1 and organizations that scored 50 and below do not get funding this round. The next vote is to vote on 2<sup>nd</sup> round RFP. The proposal is that we open it for 60 days, the award maximum and minimum remain the same, we keep the same scoring matrix for consistency, and offer reviewers training ahead to ensure that there aren't any questions as it relates of how to score. Also, open to awarding percentages based on scores for round 2 if requested funds exceed remaining funds. Allow agencies denied in round 1 to reapply for round 2. Agencies awarded the maximum in round 1, are not eligible for round 2. Angelica asked if there were any questions to the proposal. She asked for a motion to vote on how we want to proceed regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> round RFP. Danielle motion to reopen for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round RFP based on the criteria outlined on the slide. Amy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Angelica asked, all those in favor say "aye", all favored.

### **1:34PM- Section 16.21 Next Steps**

#### **Kathy Estrada**

Kathy stated that the next steps will be to notify the agencies that are not on this call, even if they are on this call, of the grant award results. Then the grant manager will get with the scorers just to get their notes and any takeaways to relay that information when we meet 1 on 1 with the agencies that didn't get funded. Also, with the agencies that did get funded and want a 1 on 1, we'll have some good notes for them. The next steps are that we must set up accounts in the North Carolina financial system, as well as with OSPM for the vendor electronic payment form. Basically, the direct deposit side. We are being proactive in getting the contract/grant agreement created. Mel is going to look at the budgets and make sure there's not any adjustments or corrections needed before we send out the full contract. The cover sheet and budget will be included and if something is wrong, we need to send out an amendment to correct it. We will send the grant through DocuSign for signatures, collect any financial documents that were missing or not turned in with internal controls. Kathy will create the 1<sup>st</sup> disbursement list for the quarterly payments and send that to finance. We're going to make all contract start January 1<sup>st</sup> so the quarterly reporting falls in line for the agencies as well as HTC. As far as round 2, we are going to get started working on this right away. We intend to release it in mid-December. We'll circulate that draft RFP to the committee as well as run it through legal and consult NCPRO as needed. Mel is going to work on scheduling a webinar in early January. This will be to generate interest and also answer any questions that were not answered on the 101 or an questions that came about when they started filling out the 2<sup>nd</sup> round application.

**1:37PM- Public Comment****Committee Chair, Angelica Wind**

Angelica asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. No public comments were made. She thanked everyone who played a role on the scoring, and thanked everyone for their patients giving the technical difficulties.

**1:37PM- Adjournment**







