



**NC Human Trafficking Commission: Appropriations Committee
Meeting
Monday, January 23rd, 2023
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Long Leaf Pine (B-1-032)**

1:01 PM – Call to Order & Roll Call Attendance

Angelica Wind, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Wind opened the meeting and called to order. She then conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Committee members in attendance at the meeting were Amy Auth, Nancy Hagan, Deana Joy, Joseph Kyzer, Jasmine McGhee, Angelica Wind, Jennifer Haigwood, Alex Herring, and Danielle Carman (joined 1:19 pm). Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, Grants Administrator, Kathy Estrada, Grants Managers, Kristen Howe, Roxana Zelada-Lewis, and Jacqueline Kehinde, Court Management Specialist, Tara Minter, and Administrative Secretary, Lauren Amato. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

1:02 PM – Ethics Statement

Approval of the Minutes 11/7/2022

Angelica Wind

Committee Chair Wind read the required ethics statement. She then thanked all in attendance and asked if there were changes to the minutes from the November 7th meeting. Amy made a motion to approve the minutes. Joseph seconded the motion. No corrections were noted. The minutes were passed by roll call.

1:03 PM – Introduction of new grants staff (Kathy Estrada & Jacqueline Kehinde)

Angelica Wind

Committee Chair Wind introduced two new grants staff- Kathy Estrada and Jacqueline Kehinde. Kathy and Jacqueline briefly introduced themselves and shared their background. Kathy Estrada is the new Grants Administrator and Jacqueline Kehinde is a new Grants Manager.

1:05 PM – Update for Section 16.22

Christine Long

Commission Executive Director Christine Long talked about the Facility Improvement Grants that went to agencies that were approved for domestic violence & sexual assault services. There were two rounds of applications for this section and staff have now made the request for all 72 payments to be issued. All but \$14.00 of that account is out. Agencies have turned in their first quarter reports and staff will begin review those next week. The items left in this section are the Commission reports, monitoring plan, and implementing the monitoring plan.

1:07 PM – Update for Section 16.23

Grants Staff

Grants Manager Roxana Zelada-Lewis reported on Economic Assistance Funds. There have been 53 applications received from dual sexual assault agencies, 14 applications received from stand-alone domestic violence agencies, and 9 applications received from stand-alone sexual assault agencies. Out of the 88 agencies, 10 did not apply and staff have reached out to those agencies to encourage applications. There were 76 applications received that total for an amount of \$11,111,584.21 (\$11.1 million). Grant staff are confident that once the other agencies submit their applications, we will reach the total amount for this section of \$13.5 million. Received applications are currently in the review process. Based on the applications reviewed, all will need some type of revision (i.e. scope of work, budget, missing documents, etc.). Staff are currently awaiting secondary review to move forward with requesting revisions from applicant agencies.

1:15 PM – Section 16.20

Grants Staff

Grants Administrator Kathy Estrada talked about the Grants for Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking and Grants to Develop, Strengthen, or Expand Human Trafficking Victim Service Programs. She anticipates the Request for Proposals will be released on January 30th. The RFP is in final revisions right now, including the scope of work and the budget templates. Out of the eligible agencies, Grants Manager Jacqueline Kehinde has reached out to agencies and 4 agencies have declined to apply, while 6 agencies that have not responded. The agencies that have declined are World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals (World Relief Triad), Onslow County Partnership for Children, Inc. (The One Place Child Advocacy Center), AbolitionNC, and Ministry Seven (Hendersonville Rescue Mission).

Committee Chair Wind looked to Committee Member Kyzer to provide updates in terms of corrections for the bill that appropriated these funds to the HTC. Committee Member Kyzer talked about 3 potential legislative adjustments that the Commission discussed.

- The first is in section 16.20A (a)(3) – the budget that these were contained in ended up passing in November of 2021 but some of the language of the appropriations was more geared towards the budget that might have passed several months earlier. Because we didn't actually enter our contract with NCPRO and OSBM to receive these funds, some of these sections that directed us to appropriate funds in the 2021-2022 fiscal year weren't tenable for that reason. We didn't have a signed contract for us to receive the funds until about 2 months before that lapsed. Under current law it says that the Commission shall allocate grant funds in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. We're proposing a legislative change that would adjust that to 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years.
- The second is in section 16.20B(a) and we are proposing a similar change that the funds be allocated in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years (instead of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium).
- The third is in section 16.21(b)(1)(c) and 16.21(b)(3) – there is a potentially tremendous administrative burden for agencies to comply with under current law that require that agencies demonstrate a loss resulting from COVID and that their grant not exceed that economic loss. None of the other sections have this requirement. The \$15 million pot of money for DV and SA agencies specifically directs that the funds be provided for economic assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic but does not require that demonstration of a dollar-for-dollar loss, and the reason there of, and then limit those awards therein. We are proposing that these two provisions in 16.21 be stricken to provide that same presumption that are in all the rest of the sections that presumes that loss for the agencies

and designs the awards in a way that's able to help them as much as possible in a way that they'll be able to administratively handle.

Regarding the timeline for corrections, the sections under current law would provide that the Commission has authority to disperse within the 2022-2023 fiscal year that we are currently in. The Commission has the authority to allocate grant funds in the current fiscal year that we are in, so we don't thereby identify a need that this be changed before the Commission were to disperse any funds before June 1 of 2023 because we'll be within a fiscal year that's authorized. We are discussing the timeframe on the technical changes with the fiscal research division and legislators who are interested in this appropriation to find the right place for the provisions, whether that's in the budget or another legislation that would move sooner to make sure that it's accomplished quickly, uniformly, and that we're able to get all three adjustments. We've talked with central staff recently as well.

1:22 PM – Public Comment

Angelica Wind, Committee Chair

No public comment at this time.

1:24 PM – Adjournment

Angelica Wind

Committee Chair Wind adjourned the meeting.

The Committee plans to meet next on Monday, February 13th, 2023.