

**Meeting Minutes of the Monroe County
Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB)
June 1, 2023**

The HSAB Meeting was conducted with a hybrid format; the HSAB Board met live at the Marathon Government Center, BOCC Meeting Room on the 2nd Floor, 2798 Overseas Highway. The public was able to participate in person or via Communication Media Technology ("CMT") using a Zoom Webinar platform.

Board Members Present: David Manz, Vice-Chairperson
Sandy Higgs, Secretary
Rev. Steve Torrence

Staff Members Present: Tina Boan, Budget Director
Christine Limbert-Barrows, Assistant County Attorney
Janet Gunderson, Grants Coordinator
Oksana Christow, Grants Coordinator

1. David Manz called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
2. The Human Service Advisory Board (HSAB) members introduced themselves and provided disclosure of affiliations with the applicant organizations. D. Manz, S. Torrence, and S. Higgs stated they were not directly affiliated with any of the applicant organizations.
3. Public Comment - None
4. S. Torrence moved to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Higgs; no discussion, none opposed; motion carried.
5. S. Torrence moved to accept the March 13, 2023 minutes S. Higgs seconded; no further discussion, none opposed; motion carried.
6. Before hearing from the applicants D. Manz spoke thanking the attendees for the effort and time preparing for the meeting; S. Higgs expressed her appreciation to those organizations who requested the same amount of funding as last year.

Discussion of applications. *(Note: The order of discussion of the applications was based on the order the applications were received. Each applicant organization sent a representative to address questions from the Human Services Advisory Board.)*

1. Literacy Volunteers of America – Mary Casanova, Executive Director
2. Keys to Be the Change – Heidi Golightly, Executive Director
3. Boys & Girls Clubs – Judy Leggett, Executive Director
4. A.H. of Monroe County – Esneider Gomez, Deputy Director
5. Kids Come First in the Florida Keys – Roxanne Posada, Program Coordinator
6. Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (AHEC) – Michael Cunningham, CEO
7. Autism Society of the Keys – Jill Campbell, Executive Director
8. Monroe Assoc. for ReMarcable Citizens (MARC) – Diana Flenard, Executive Director
9. Grace Jones Day Care Center – John Hunt, President of the Board
10. Domestic Abuse Shelter – Sheryl Schwab, Executive Director
11. Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC) – Jeanette McLernon, Executive Director
12. Star of the Sea Foundation – Emily Nixon, Executive Director
13. Good Health Clinic – Kate Bannick, Executive Director
14. Samuel's House – Tara Salinas, Executive Director; Myra Whittenberg
15. Burton Memorial United Methodist Church – Kerry Foote, Pastor; Betsy Edwards

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16. Womankind – Cali Roberts, Executive Director
17. Independence Cay – Marjorie Roberts, Executive Director
18. Guidance/Care Center, The Heron – Lisa Marciniak, Program Director; Ceri Checkley; Anne Romance
19. Wesley House – Aleida Jacobs, Executive Director
20. Heart of the Keys Recreation Association – Antony Culver, Executive Director & Diane Culver, Co-Executive Director
21. Chapters Health Hospice – Vivian Dodge, Executive Director
22. KAIR & Independence Cay - Marjorie Roberts, Executive Director
23. Florida Keys Children’s Shelter – Ben Kemmer, CEO & Alvin Bentley, COO
24. A Positive Step – Billy Davis, Executive Director
25. Marathon New Life Assembly of God, Pastor John Krainer; Maria Vaillant
26. Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition – Ariana Nesbett, Executive Director
27. Special Olympics – Ruth Holland
28. Ocean Dreams Cancer Healing Center – Terry Sutton, Executive Director
29. Anchors Aweigh Club – Tom Goetz, Executive Director
30. Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program – Rosa Lamela, Executive Director

Item 1: Rosa Lamela (Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program) requested funding for purchasing two small sailboats.

Item 2: C. Limbert clarified that HSAB funding cannot be used to purchase capital assets.

Item 3: The Board moved to accept changes to the application allowing MSYSP to amend their funding request. HSAB funding will be requested for the scholarships for children from underprivileged families.

7. The Board proceeded to discuss the funding allocations with the Board members engaging in a dialogue about an appropriate method for allocating available HSAB funds.

S. Higgs motioned to approve the following recommendations: Literacy Volunteers \$35,000; Keys to Be the Change \$35,000; Boys & Girls Club \$95,000; A.H. of Monroe \$149,000; Kids Come First \$50,000; AHEC \$169,300; Autism \$45,000; MARC \$200,000; Grace Jones \$65,000; DAS \$79,000; FKOC \$109,000; Star of the Sea \$85,000; Good Health Clinic \$100,000; Samuel’s House \$105,000; Burton Memorial \$15,000; Womankind \$160,000; Independence Cay \$35,000; The Heron \$50,000; Wesley House \$140,000; Marathon Rec Ctr. \$50,000; Chapters Health Hospice \$0.00; KAIR \$35,000; Children’s Shelter \$140,000; A Positive Step \$0.00; Kreative Kids \$20,000; Healthy Start \$120,000; Special Olympics \$20,000; Ocean Dream Cancer Healing Center \$5,000; Anchors Aweigh \$10,000; Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program \$6,000; total recommended allocation = \$2,127,300.

8. D. Manz proposed to award the applicants on pro rata basis applying 72.38% to the amount requested by each organization.
9. Public comments were requested.

Item 1: Marjorie Roberts, KAIR & Independence Cay, commented that following the board recommendation for applicants to request the same amount of funding as last year under D. Manz’ method of allocation, would put organizations like hers at an unfair disadvantage.

Item 2: Heidi Golightly, Keys to be the Change, stressed the importance of each program funded by HSAB. She remarked that supporting student success in school was as critical as providing funds for medical needs.

Item 3: Lisa Osgood, Chapters Health Hospice, provided details of their program and stressed the importance of providing care giving services to disadvantaged families.

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Item 3: Diana Flenard, MARC, stated that it was heartbreaking to see \$0.00 grant allocations to some applicants recommended by S. Higgs; she indicated willingness for her program to be underfunded by \$10,000, if these funds could be allocated to the agencies that were not recommended for funding.

Item 4: Mary Casanova, LVA, thanked D. Flenard and emphasized that prioritizing funding for the agencies providing health care services and leaving other agencies with no funding would be unfair.

Item 4: Jeanette McLernon, FKOC, Jill Campbell, Autism Society, Sheryl Schwab, Diane Culver, Heart of the Keys Recreation Association, and Michael Cunningham, AHEC, stressed the importance of their programs and pleaded for a thoroughly allocation of the HSAB funds so that no programs experienced severe funding cuts.

10. The discussion of the allocations continued. T. Boan announced that the same funding for the FY24 HSAB budget as last year will be requested with a possibility of about 3% COLA increase being approved by the BOCC. S. Higgs petitioned to T. Boan to request a budget increase of 8% instead of 3%. Prospects of the allocations from the increased budget were discussed in collaboration with the Board.

11. S. Higgs' motion was withdrawn.

12. In collaboration with the Board S. Torrence motioned to recommend funding for the existent HSAB applicants at the same level as last year and funding for the new applicants at \$0.50 on the dollar of the amount requested, in the event of a cost-of-living adjustment of the HSAB budget of \$2,126,300. S. Higgs seconded the motion. S. Torrence thanked the Chairman for the collaborative approach allowing the suggestions / recommendations from the public to be included into the discussion.

The Board voted on the recommendations for funding: All in favor, none opposed; there wasn't any further discussion and the motion carried.

No.	Agency Name	Recommend FY2024
1	A Positive Step	\$55,000
2	A.H. of Monroe County	\$100,000
3	AHEC	\$198,000
4	Anchors Aweigh	\$15,000
5	Autism Society	\$45,000
6	Boys & Girls Club	\$89,000
7	Burton Memorial	\$15,000
8	Chapters Health Hospice Keys	\$39,175
9	Children's Shelter	\$150,000
10	Domestic Abuse Shelter	\$90,000
11	FKOC	\$110,000
12	Healthy Start	\$109,500
13	Good Health Clinic	\$105,600
14	Grace Jones	\$60,000
15	Guidance/Care Center, The Heron	\$45,000
16	Independence Cay	\$35,000
17	KAIR	\$35,000
18	Keys to be the Change	\$42,000
19	Kids Come First	\$31,250
20	Kreative Kids	\$15,000

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21	Literacy Volunteers	\$50,000
22	Marathon Rec Ctr.	\$50,000
23	MARC	\$205,000
24	Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program (MSYSP)	\$6,000
25	Ocean Dreams Cancer Healing Center (ODCH)	\$2,500
26	Samuel's House	\$120,000
27	Special Olympics	\$20,000
28	Star of the Sea	\$85,000
29	Wesley House	\$113,000
30	Womankind	\$167,200
Total FY2024 HSAB Funding Recommendation		\$2,203,225

13. Other Business - In the event the FY2024 allocation of \$2,203,225 is increased or decreased by the BOCC, S. Torrence motioned to increase/decrease the recommended awards on a pro rata basis, not to exceed the amount requested, D. Manz seconded the motion; all in favor the motion carried.

14. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM

Video recording of 6/01/23 Monroe County HSAB meeting is available for viewing online:

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/monroe/video/64792f54167aaf00086a5601?page=ALL>

(Note: For the best viewing results, use the Microsoft Explorer browser.)