

**Porter County American Rescue Plan
Behavioral Health and Social Services Subcommittee
Thursday, May 17, 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 - Absent
Mitch Peters

Citizen Members Present:

Jesse Harper
Brendan Clancy
George Topoll
Edward Morales - absent

Minutes:

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2022 meeting.
Seconded by Greg Simms and so approved.

Scoring

Vicki Urbanik explained what the other committees have done for scoring. They have gone down the list. They took one project at a time. If there was any discussion or changing the amount they did so, they double checked the score and passed it down to Vicki. She and Curt both tallied the numbers to make sure they are correct. If the Board changes any amount, there is a vote. That is what gets sent to the Steering Committee.

Mitch Peters addressed the Board with a prepared statement. I want to begin by saying that personally I believe that we should be fully funding all of the requests in this category of need. Together with Not for Profits (who suffered significant losses during the pandemic), the community population served by the organizations petitioning this Subcommittee was most seriously and directly affected by the COVID pandemic. Individuals suffering from addiction and/or mental illness, incidents of suicide, occurrence of homelessness, domestic violence, children neglected and in need ... all of these needs drastically increased during the two years of the pandemic and continue to manifest and multiply presently. In my professional work, spanning Criminal Law, Mental Health Commitments, Mental Health Restoration Court, Community Corrections, Addiction Treatment, Fatality and Overdose Review Committee, to name a few; I have observed first hand the negative impact on the individuals served by the organizations before us.

However, as I indicated at the onset of his process, the overall need is great in all categories and there is never going to be sufficient funds available to support all of the requests presented.

Difficult choices have to be made, based upon the individual criteria of each member sitting on these subcommittees. While all of the petitioners represent commendable and credible programs and causes, not all of those can be funded within the parameters of this process. With that in mind, I proposed the following allocations:

Porter County Community Foundation - \$1,342,000

Mitch Peters suggested funding \$900,000. He ranked them 8th on his list. Just ranking them makes the process irrelevant.

Robyn Lane - Is this a sustainable request?

Mitch Peters – He feels of all the applicants this program is different. Because it is the Community Foundation, he knows they can sustain it. Also, those funds will make it so they do not have to use their own funds.

Greg Simms – The program for babies is notable. There are other programs that help. There are a lot of people in the community that do not need or want the help. He would be in favor of reducing the amount.

Jim Biggs – It is highly unlikely any of these applications will get what they are asking for.

Jesse Harper – the unique nature of the Foundation’s programs should be fully funded. There may be duplicate services but he could not find them. This is pre-natal and post birth aid. He often has people in his office that have one or two babies. He often wonders what services are available to them the first 2-3 years. He would ask for full funding.

There was discussion regarding changing the amount of the requests, funding, scoring and ranking. The Steering Committee will look at everything. What another committee did was for some projects they kept the dollar request. Others they changed and took a vote on that change amount and that is what they ranked. The Steering Committee has asked to have each request ranked as to merit. The recommended dollar amount should be listed because this Board is the one that heard the presentation. The Steering Committee would want to know if this Board felt the amount should be different. This Board is the one that heard if the presenter said they would take less or they had to have this certain amount.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to rank the presentations but put a recommended amount for each request. Seconded by Jim Biggs and so approved.

(Continued) Porter County Community Foundation - \$1,342,000 – Final Recommendation \$700,000

Mitch Peters Recommended \$900,000. Robyn Lane recommended \$671,000.

The Steering Committee, Board of Commissioners and Council will all know what the original amount of the ask was.

Motion: Greg Simms moved to recommend \$700,000. Robyn Lane seconded the motion and so approved.

Family Promise - \$50,000 – Final Recommendation \$50,000

Funds to be used for matching funds and a counselor.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$10,000. Motion died.

Motion: Robyn Lane moved to recommend \$50,000. Seconded by Greg Simms and so approved.

Portage/Center Trustees: Gabriel's Horn \$300,000 – Final Recommendation \$300,000

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$300,000. Seconded by Robyn Lane and so approved.

Porter Starke Services \$1,876,495 – Final Recommendation \$1 Million

With Porter Starke there is concern regarding meeting the timeline. The hiring of staff is incredibly hard at this time. General medicine is already covered and they are now branching into that also. These projects were in the pipeline a year ago. Porter Starke has a big responsibility and they do a good job. However, they have their own tax rate. Most of the other applications do not have tax dollars going to them every year.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$1,400,000. Motion died.

Motion: Jim Biggs moved to recommend \$1 million. Robyn Lane second the motion and so approved.

Family Focus \$333,950 – Final Recommendation \$-0-

They are in 12 different counties. They only provide training and some services. They are not creating any infrastructure. The dollars are dollars that could be spent on the other projects. As Trustee, Jesse Harper has worked with every organization before this Board except this one.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend no funding. Seconded by Greg Simms and so approved.

Housing Opportunities - Final Recommendation Phase I and Phase II - \$750,000

What is nice about this project is even though they are located in Valparaiso, this project is not Valparaiso centric. They are always there to help. The question with all of the shelters is where do we go from here. These two projects answer that need and it helps all of Porter County. They have leveraged a lot of Federal funding to complete these two projects.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$500,000 on Phase II and \$250,000 on Phase 1 for a total of \$750,000. Seconded by Greg Simms and so approved.

PACT - \$50,000 Final Recommendation - \$50,000

They said this was the minimum they need to do this project. This is a positive program and they help a lot of people.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$50,000. Seconded by Greg Simms and so approved

The Caring Place - \$1,657,144 Final Recommendation \$ 1 Million

The Caring Place provides a wonderful service in the community. The ask was a significant amount for facility upgrades and things of that nature. This is a multimillion-dollar new facility. They also wanted help with staffing.

Motion: Jim Biggs moved to recommend \$1,000,000. Seconded by Robyn Lane and so approved.

Project Neighbors - \$1,000,000 – Final Recommendation \$1 Million

This is a good project. It is sustainable. They have a good track record.

Motion: Greg Simms moved to recommend \$1,000,000. Seconded by Robyn Lane and so approved.

Valparaiso Woman’s Association - \$80,000 - Final Recommendation \$80,000

Greg Simms asked if they can be awarded more. This would be opening a can of worms. Plus we listened to them after another committee would not.

Motion: Mitch Peters moved to recommend \$80,000. Seconded by Jim Biggs and so approved.

Organization	Rank	Recommended Funding
Gabriel’s Horn (Portage/Center Twp)	271	\$300,000
Project Neighbors	248	\$1,000,000
PACT	239	\$50,000
Porter Starke Services	236	\$1,000,000
Housing Opportunities Phase 1 & 2	231	\$750,000
Valparaiso Woman’s Club	226	\$80,000

Family Promise	211	\$50,000
The Caring Place	204	\$1,000,000
Porter County Community Foundation	201	<u>\$700,000</u>
		\$4,930,000

Public Comment

None

There being no more business the meeting adjourned.