

**Porter County American Rescue Plan  
Sub Committee Non Profits & Employers  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 5 p.m.  
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers  
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

**Members Present:**

Jim Biggs  
Mike Brickner  
Erik Wagner  
Ruth Vance  
Rebecca Tomerlin

Jim Biggs opened the meeting and advised tonight the committee will hear four applications. Mike Bricker advised he will be leaving the meeting at approximately 5:40.

**Presentations:**

Each organization has 15 minutes for their presentation. There will be 15 minutes for Q & A after the presentation.

**Hilltop Neighborhood House**

Jennifer Wright presented. Also present was Amy Osborn. They are asking for \$400,000 . They were awarded \$100,000 by the Valparaiso City Council. They are a Governor Opportunity Zone. They are the only one in Porter County. They will leverage 100% matching funds. Hilltop programs serve 3,742 individuals. ARPA Funds will be used to impact the safety procedures now mandated by the State for child care facilities. They can meet all deadlines. Hilltop has received \$147,653.55 from federal/state aid to assist with low census and loss of childcare fees. This did not cover anywhere near the loses. They are willing to accept a lesser amount than requested.

Hilltop has been impacted by the covid-19 pandemic. Revenue was lost and expenses have gone up. They have lost volunteers. Hilltop has a formal collaboration with 12 colleges and universities who provide federal work study students, service-learning workers and other program enhancements who were unable to attend for the lasts 24 months. Their economic impact was from state mandated closures. They have dropped 50% census due to the pandemic. They have had difficulty in weathering financial hardship due to constant changing covid protocols from CDC, FSSA and other state mandates. Due to social distancing space was a hardship. Hilltop is an enumerated use in the ARPA Final Rule. 100% of the funds awarded from the County will be used for covid related building expense upgrades.

Q – Do you have funds appropriated to match this project already.

A – Yes. They had started the capital campaign the same month covid started.

C – Vicki Urbanik advised there will be procurement procedures to be followed.

Q – The deadlines have been moved up for obligation to July 1, 2024. Can you meet that deadline?

A – Yes.

C – Jim Biggs asked who changed the deadline.

A – Vicki Urbanik advised the Steering Committee changed the deadline.

C – This should have been a conversation between the Commissioners and the Council.

C - This is a county rule to safeguard the County. The Federal deadline is December 31, 2024. This is to ensure if the recipients cannot obligate the funds, the county might run out of time and not be able to obligate for another purpose.

### **Kidfunds Corporation**

Kids Funds work with children with autism. They are the only ones in the County providing this service. About 16 years ago she opened Kids Work. It is a special needs therapy clinic, In 16 years they have become the main provider in the County. They are not a day care provider. They are an early intervention program. She had special needs children and could not get the help she needed locally. She was going to go to Chicago but decide to open a place here. They are also medical providers. They get babies right out of NICU. They have always helped children even if there was not insurance and they had to do it pro bono. She did this until her business could not sustain the pro bono work. She believed if the community knew the need, they would help. Organizations like Rotary and church groups did help. Through these donations they raised about \$12,000.

Q – Do you hold any medical degrees?

A- No. She got into this as an administrator. She took some classes on insurance billing. She has gone to many continuing education classes.

Q – Have you gotten any other Federal funding?

A – No. They did get a Payroll Protection Loan.

Q – Do you have proof of your 501 c 3 status.

A – Vicki Urbanik replied she has gotten a copy.

Q – For two years you were not able to have your fundraiser. How did you survive?

A – While they were shut down, they converted to teletherapy. They got a PPP Loan. She had to turn a few away if they did not have insurance or the money to pay.

Q – You are making application under Kids Funds but you keep referring to Kids Work. What is that?

A – Kids Funds is the official fund where kids that do not have the means to pay for therapy can get financial help. It is the official nonprofit. Kid Funds does not help the Kids Works. It only helps the families that need financial help for therapy.

Q – In your clinic are you bringing in licensed therapists?

A - Yes. They have the highest educated therapists in Northwest Indiana.

Q – How do they get paid?

A – They are paid by Kid Works insurance. Kids Funds is a scholarship.

Q – Your funds are through donations and periodically billing insurance companies?

A – The IRS has required them to have a wall between the two companies. They have always passed their audits.

### **Nana Clare's Kitchen**

Gina Zieniewicz the Chef/Owner/Instructor of Nana Clare's Kitchen presented. They have been in existence for 11 years. She is a trained chef and has been in the culinary field for 25 years. She teaches food, alcohol and allergen classes. With covid she has been doing group teaching. They are the only commercial kitchen that has this business plan. They work with the people to teach them about food. They let the people who are home based vendors work backward. Nana Clare's takes on the costs of insurance, NIPSCO and the like. All the customer does is pay for the kitchen when they need it. They build their customer base and then build the brick-and-mortar building. Currently they have 17 renters in their kitchen. Besides renters they teach classes. They work with kids from 4 to 17 on culinary education. After 17 they can enter the adult programs or enter the young entrepreneur program. They are classified as a food center and educational center. So when the schools closed down, they had to close down. When restaurants were closed the renters could not come in. All of the programming had to stop. They recently went back to their classes. These were the first ones they had in two years. Between 2019 and 2020 they lost over \$30,000. From 2020 to 2021 it was substantial. Last year they were negative over \$8,000. She is only asking for \$10,000 to cover that. This will be used for repairs/replacements that happened during the pandemic. These are necessary to get people back in and able to run their businesses.

Q - You are not a nonprofit. You are an actual business.

A – Correct.

Q – Please go over the amount of revenue you lost due to covid.

A – From 2019 to 2020 there was over \$30,000 lost.

Q – If you get this award, will your business be sustainable?

A – Yes. Their classes are always full with waiting lists.

Q – Are you open to full potential now?

A – Not to full potential. We are working on bringing things back.

Q – Did you get any other money?

A – We did get a PPP Loan for \$3,000.

### **Valparaiso YMCA**

Sharon Johnson presented. She was joined by Tracey McElree. They are requesting \$950,000. They serve 15,000 members and 7,000 non-members. They partner with more than 40 local service and nonprofit organizations. During shutdown the senior level staff continued to work and keep operations running. They continued to pay all staff during the shutdown. They were one of the first to open. They work closely with local health officials. They meticulously follow State and County guidelines for PPE, Social Distancing and Sanitation. Ozone generators were purchased to provide surface and air sanitation. They offered e-learning in partnership with the school corporation. They are working to supplement lunch with healthier food and ease the

burden on families. Staffing shortages have been a key obstacle. An interesting byproduct of the pandemic has been an increase in teen activity. The Y launched Teens Together. This is a new middle school group that plans service projects and social events. They are working proactively to address negative health ramifications of the covid pandemic. They have many programs from child care to seniors. They partner with the food bank. They serve on average 100 families per month. They also serve as a warming and cooling shelter.

They incurred additional costs to comply with covid safety protocols. They had a 25% loss in revenue. This is in excess of \$1.5 Million Dollars. Over the last year the YMCA has filled a 65% increase in financial assistance requests. They raise funds from their annual campaign to provide the financial support to fulfill their mission of giving everyone the ability to come to the Y regardless of their ability to pay. They have received PPP Loans that were forgiven and a grant support from the Porter County Community Foundation, Eli Lilly and Early Learning Indiana. Funding from this grant will be used to construct a 2,200 sf addition to the YMCA. They feel confident they will meet the deadlines. The addition will be used for a variety of programs. On the weekends it can be used for teen activities. Earlier in the day seniors can utilize the space. It can be used for child care programs.

Q – You have received pandemic funds? What and how much?

A – Porter County Community Foundation \$10,000, Eli Lilly \$14,278; Early Learning Indiana - \$231,227(2021) and \$469,495 this year. They received two PPP Loans that were forgiven. They were \$647,000 and \$663,943.

Q – If you did not receive the full amount of your request, how would you see that project through and still meet the date.

A – We would have to consider reductions to the project.

Q – You have a commitment that you can meet the deadline.

A – Yes. Larson Danielson has assured us.

Next Monday the Committee will hear the last four presentations. May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the scoring meeting.

**Public Comment - None**

There being no one else wishing to address the Committee, Jim Biggs declared the Public Comment section closed.

The meeting adjourned.

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Jim Biggs, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Vicki Urbanik