

**Portland Children's Levy  
Allocation Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2010 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Portland City Council Chambers**

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*The full record of the meeting may be viewed on the Portland Children's Investment Fund website: [www.portlandchildrenslevy.org](http://www.portlandchildrenslevy.org).*

**Attending:** Alissa Keny-Guyer, Adrienne Livingston, Dan Saltzman (Chair); absent Ron Beltz, Ted Wheeler

**Welcome/introduction of Allocation Committee and Children's Levy staff**

**Approval of minutes of January 15, 2010 Meeting**

**Keny-Guyer:** Motion to approve

**Livingston:** Second

**Vote:** All in favor

**Public Comment**

**Sharon Gary-Smith** from **Cascadia Behavioral Health** spoke.

**Leverage Fund Collaboration Grant Proposal**

**Meg McElroy and Lisa Pellegrino** presented a proposal.

**Background**

During its January 15 meeting on the Leverage Fund, the Allocation Committee voted to use \$500,000 of the Leverage Fund for Collaboration Grants. These grants are funder-initiated partnerships on projects in any of the five program areas. Projects can include capacity building, service system improvements, or direct services. A Collaboration Committee of funders and individuals in the funding community has been formed to help seek out and develop projects for Collaboration Grants.

**Collaboration Committee**

The first meeting of this group occurred on Wednesday March 31. Membership in the committee includes:

- Alissa Keny-Guyer, representing the Allocation Committee
- Mark Holloway, Social Venture Partners Portland
- Howard Klink, United Way
- Suk Rhee, Northwest Health Foundation
- Sue Hildick, Chalkboard Project
- Individuals from Meyer Memorial Trust and Oregon Community Foundation were also invited to participate but were not able to commit at this time.
- Levy Staff

This group will use its connections to the local funding community to cultivate potential projects for Levy funds, and will recommend well developed projects to the Allocation Committee.

A time sensitive opportunity for collaboration has developed quickly. The collaboration committee and Levy staff recommend that the Allocation Committee commit \$100,000 of Collaboration Grant funds toward the project described below.

### **Collaboration Grant Proposal**

One-time commitment of \$100,000 total Levy funds toward collaboration with Social Venture Partners Portland (SVPP) application for federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF) dollars.

- Federal SIF dollars will be awarded through a competitive process to grantmaking organizations to match local philanthropic dollars with federal dollars for grantmaking that would address one or more of SIF's three goals. From the options SVPP has selected to apply for funds to "prepare America's youth for success in school, active citizenship, productive work, and safe and healthy lives."
- SVPP is soliciting local funders for a total of \$500,000 in the first year that would be matched 1:1 by the SIF federal grant. SVPP would then award the combined funding to local programs that address the goal stated above.
- Local organizations selected as grantees of the SVPP/SIF funds would be required to match the federal/local investment they receive with additional funds, 1:1 cash match.
- SVPP intends to use the total federal and local sources to grant to up to four of their past grantees: Children's Relief Nursery, Friends of the Children, Metropolitan Family Services (kindergarten readiness program), and Morrison Child and Family Services (sexual abuse treatment program). SVPP would conduct a competitive process to award an additional grant.
- If SVP's application for SIF funds is successful, then the Allocation Committee would decide use of Levy funds with particular programs and other collaboration details.
- The federal funding is renewal for up to 5 years. SVPP would need to reapply annually and raise matching dollars from local funders each year. At this point, the Levy's commitment would be one-time only.
- Applications for the federal SIF funds are due April 8 and the Letter of Commitment from the Allocation Committee must be submitted with SVP's application. Federal decisions on SIF funds are expected in June 2010.

**Mark Holloway** from **Social Venture Partners** addressed the committee.

### **McElroy: Staff Rationale for recommendation:**

- If SVP's application is successful, this partnership could leverage up to \$4.9 million over 5 years in federal and local funding sources to match the Levy's \$100,000.

- SIF's focus on youth aligns with the Levy's focus on children and youth.
- Organizations identified by SVPP as potential grant recipients have also been successful grantees with Levy funds.
- If SVP's application is not successful, then the Allocation Committee can recommit the \$100,000 toward another Collaboration Grant opportunity. We should know this summer whether the Levy funds will be used in this project or not.

**Livingston:** I think it is a great opportunity. I would have questions about how the funds will be distributed once the application is approved.

**Saltzman:** This sounds like a great first use of our leverage fund.

**Keny-Guyer:** I move we approve the proposal

**Livingston:** Second

**Vote:** All in favor

**Keny-Guyer** updated the committee on the work of the Collaboration Committee.

**McElroy** and **Pellegrino** updated the committee on other proposals that may come to the committee.

### **Other Potential Collaborative Grants**

Two other projects are currently under discussion by staff and other funders. The Collaboration Committee will review these (and other projects to be determined) as they develop:

- Partnership with Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to support development of Parenting Education resource and referral capacity in the metro region and to extend the Lane County Parent Helpline into the metro area. The resource and referral services would be provided through OR 211 and the parent support/helpline would be provided by Birth to Three's Parent HelpLine out of Lane County.
- Partnership with Multnomah County Department of School & Community Partnerships and the Commission on Children, Families and Community to provide joint training and professional development for individuals working in local after school programs. The City of Portland Planning Bureau may also be a potential partner due to their ability to offer training in youth development to youth-serving agencies.

**Sharon Gary-Smith** from **Cascadia Behavioral Health** spoke.

**Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.**