



Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF)

GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of September 23, 2021

Online Zoom Meeting at 4:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, Chairperson, GCTF
Cathy Rivera Castro, Council Member
Dr. Yvette Paulino, Council Member
Christopher Felix, Council Member
Dr. Faraz Ouhadi, Council Member
Anthony Camacho, UOG Legal Council

Jennifer Calvo, Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation
Remylynn Yamanaka, Program Manager, GCTF
Joann Paulino, Extension Assistant III, GCTF
Jim Espaldon, Ayuda Foundation
Natasha Charfauros, Office of Senator Therese Terlaje

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm

II. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2021

- Motion Approved: 1st by Christopher Felix, 2nd by Cathy Rivera Castro- Council Members were all in favor to approve the minutes from August 26, 2021.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

As per GCTF Council decision on 8/26/2021, the sole purpose of this meeting is to review FY 2022 Applications. Therefore, we will dispense with this regular agenda.

IV. REPORT FROM GCTF PROGRAM MANAGER

As per GCTF Council decision on 8/26/2021, the sole purpose of this meeting is to review FY 2022 Applications. Therefore, we will dispense with this regular agenda.

V. OLD BUSINESS- None

VI. NEW BUSINESS- Review of applications

- Dr. Rachael stated because of the public law having to do with the government boards, she had asked legal counsel, Anthony Camacho if it is ok that they discuss the applications in an open format, or does it need to be confidential?
- Anthony Camacho stated unless the applicant says this is confidential or proprietary or there is a discussion that might potentially disclose patient confidential type of information. Other than that, the council members could have a public discussion about the applications.
- Cathy Rivera Castro stated that she is okay with the open discussion, but suggests maybe not to publicize any of the scoring because it is a private information.
- First application to be reviewed is the Ayuda Foundation.
 - Ayuda Foundation is requesting \$679, 223.00 to purchase airfare or airline tickets for an estimated 350 patients and their escorts.
 - The remaining is the allowable administrative fee that's going to be used to pay for their employee and other operations to help with the program which is also an allowable cost.
 - Dr. Yvette had asked Mr. Espaldon if there are any instances when a patients might be deemed ineligible for this program.
 - Mr. Espaldon responded, the only time that a patient will be approved is if their insurance



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coverage covers air transportation for the patient, 95% of the time, insurance companies does not cover air transportation for the patient.

- e. Dr. Yvette had asked Mr. Espaldon, if the patients are covered by their insurance, but it doesn't cover the person (escort), will the person accompanying them with your program cover that individual?
 - f. Mr. Espaldon said, "yes".
 - g. Cathy Rivera Castro had another question for Mr. Espaldon, she had asked him, does the Ayuda Foundation provide any assistance when they land at the airport to get to their hotel, hospital, or are they on their own?
 - h. Mr. Espaldon stated if the patient has other issues and depending on their needs are, he refers them to other organizations, medical referral assistance office who will help arrange for ground transportation.
- V. Second application to be reviewed is the Edward M. Calvo Foundation.
- a. Edward M. Calvo is requesting \$660,000.00. They are allocating \$600,000.00 for patient services and \$60,000 is for their administrative fee. The EMC foundation allocates \$1,000.00 to cancer patients which can be used for medications, transportation, or anything cancer related.
 - b. Cathy Rivera Castro wanted to get clarification on one of the items that was listed in the application which was the issue of legal issues. She noticed that the application stated that it was to assist a patient in writing wills. Ms. Castro would like to get the opinion from the UOG legal counsel because legal or funding legal issues has been a sensitive subject and legal issues is not direct services.
 - c. Legal Counsel stated based on the GCTF rules and regulations, the provision of legal services would not really be a stretch to include that under the definition of the GCTF regulations. With that being said, Ms. Castro had asked Jen Calvo if receiving funding from the GCTF, to eliminate the funding of legal services and maybe through other contributions they may get from the community.
 - d. Jennifer Calvo agrees and stated that she will remove the option about legal issues in the application.
 - e. Cathy had asked Remylynn to send out a letter to Edward M. Calvo stating that they will eliminate the option about legal issues in the application, so GCTF has it documented for audit purposes.
 - f. Another issue that was pointed out in the EMC application was the line that says travel and transportation. Dr. Rachael suggested to just put transportation.
 - g. Jennifer Calvo agreed with the suggestion to change the line that says travel and transportation to just transportation.
- VII. Third application to be reviewed is the Get Healthy Guam Coalition.
- a. Renee Vexler who is the representative for Get Healthy Guam Coalition was not able to attend because she is off island.
 - b. Get Healthy Guam Coalition is requesting for \$60,000.00 for an education and outreach project. The purpose of this projects is to create adolescent friendly posters and story books and a teacher education program on the topic of cancer prevention linked to tobacco and alcohol. They want to do a teacher training. Training teachers to be facilitators and to help children or adolescents learn more about tobacco and alcohol.
 - c. Ms. Castro informed, Dr. Rachael Leon Guerrero to have Ms. Vexler to include in her tobacco education and prevention, vaping.
 - d. Dr. Paulino pointed out her concern that was indicated in the application. She noticed the Get Healthy Guam Coalition is working with an international group and they are contracting the majority of the requested funds to pay a group in Great Britain. She is asking if that is allowable.
 - e. Legal Counsel stated if this group does not have an office located in Guam? Then it's not



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eligible.

- f. Dr. Rachael stated, the Get Healthy Guam Coalition does have an office on Guam, but they want to subcontract the organization in Britain. She asked legal counsel if it's allowed to subcontract to an off island organization?
- g. Legal Counsel mentioned that he does not see any prohibition.
- h. Mr. Espaldon informed the GCTF council members that under the past budget session that passed, the GCTF budget for 2022, all grants to organizations are for direct services only.
- i. Dr. Rachael thanked, Mr. Espaldon for bringing that up and stated GCTF still has about \$200,000.00 carried over for FY 2021 which they can use that carryover to pay for education and outreach services.
- j. Dr. Rachael suggested that the council members should table further discussion. Dr. Yvette Paulino made a motion to table the discussion to next week. Second by, Dr. Ouhadi. The council members were all in favor of tabling the review of applications until next week.

VIII. Discussion/ Information

- i. Mr. Espaldon discussed about transporting patients off-island. He mentioned that they have lost four patients and the questions that keeps coming back to him is whether he can assist flying the body back with the airlines. He indicated that he cannot use the return paid ticket for the return flight and apply it towards bringing the body back. His questions is do they have the ability to assist the patient who has passed away who was undergoing treatment? Whether they can help bring the body back, at least to the same amount that they paid for the return flight back.
- ii. Mr. Felix stated it depends on what Mr. Espaldon has written in his application. If not, he advised Mr. Espaldon to amend the application to include to assist the patient who has passed away who was undergoing treatment to bring the body back home.
- iii. Ms. Rivera had asked legal if a deceased person qualifies as direct services.
- iv. Legal Counsel stated that he would have to look it up in the law. The reason is the term regulations do not define direct or indirect services. He would have to do more research to give a definitive answer.
- v. Dr. Rachael informed Mr. Espaldon that he has an option to amend the application or wait until next year to submit.

IX. RECESS

- *Motion Approved: 1st by Christopher Felix, 2nd by Yvette Paulino- Council Members were all in favor to recess till next week.*