



Draft Minutes of the Monday, January 29, 2024, meeting

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC)

The Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) held a public meeting on Monday, January 29, 2024, beginning at 4:00 PM.

Agenda and/or Materials: [GMAC Mtgs2024 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/gmac)

I. Call to Order: Welcome, Roll Call, and Announcements.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Stacy York, Chair, who requested everyone to introduce themselves. Ms. York advised Michelle Shuman, Administrative Assistant, Grants Management Unit (GMU) to proceed with roll call.

Members Present

Ellen Richardson-Adams
Tom McCoy
Leslie Bittleston
Shayla Holmes
Stacy York

Members Absent

Ali Caliendo
Ann Polakowski
Fernando Serrano

A quorum of the GMAC members was confirmed.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Grants Management Unit (GMU) staff present:

Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III
Michelle McNeely, Social Services Program Specialist III
Tawny Chapman, Social Services Program Specialist III
Michelle Shuman, Administrative Assistant III

Stacy York, Chair, opened the meeting to public comment.

I. Public Comment 1

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

There was no public comment.

II. Vote for funding recommendations given by the GMU for the NOFO for Victims of Human Trafficking Applicants (Discussion, Possible Action)

Stacy York, Chair, gave the floor to Ms. Quintero, Social Services Chief III, GMU.

Ms. Quintero thanked everyone for attending the emergency meeting. She stated that at the Thursday, January 18, 2024, GMAC meeting we did not have a quorum; therefore, a vote on the funding recommendations was not moved forward. She informed the members that the deadline for the funding decisions for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Victims of Human Trafficking was January 15, 2024. Ms. Quintero went on to summarize the recommendations from GMU.

AWAKEN had a score of 96.40. We are recommending not only full funding, but an additional \$50,000 for Direct Services. Awaken specifically serves Washoe County, which includes Reno, Sparks, and Incline Village. The request for funding is to sustain and expand meaningful services for adult and youth victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by providing trauma informed services. Their request is for a new case manager for 18 months, this includes wages, fringe, and benefits. The objective is to increase and expand direct services for victims by serving 35 program participants. The service activities provided will include crisis intervention, emotional moral support, case management, transportation, education assistance, and social development activities. The agency has more than 12 years of experience working with this unique population, and they requested \$98,235. We are recommending full funding and an additional \$50,000 for direct services.

The Embracing Project (TEP) scored 91.8. Their request is for \$200,000 and we are recommending full funding. TEP serves sexually exploited youth and commercially sexually exploited children that have been identified through state services and other agencies in Southern Nevada. TEP or The Embracing Project provides specialized wrap around services to youth aged 12 through 21 at the only youth focused drop-in center in Clark County. To expand services, TEP is requesting the \$200,000 for increasing the capacity of the already established program designed around holistic case management and trauma informed services, and an additional advocate recruitment will allow for reduced caseloads with increased home visits and outreach. TEP will provide advanced crisis intervention specialist training.

Xquisite had a score of 89.80. The amount requested was \$199,634. We are recommending full funding. Xquisite has served survivors of sex trafficking since 2012 and has since opened its Diamond Strong Freedom Center in 2022 that serves 107 new survivors to date. The request is for providing survivors with trauma informed services and trained advocates, strength and resilience for survivors to live free from control and violence. To provide informed basic medical examinations and care to accomplish these programs, an online Advocate Academy will be developed to provide training to help quickly equip potential advocate applicants to fully support survivors.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Regional Human Trafficking and Exploitation (HEAT) Unit was application number four with a score of 89.40. Their request is for \$199,802 and we are recommending full funding. The WCSO requests funding for the embedded Human Exploitation and Trafficking HEAT Unit, victim advocate, which serves communities throughout Northern Nevada and neighboring states. The request is for

funding a victim advocate, including salary and benefits, training and travel, and a software subscription for a client database. The victim advocate will serve as a liaison between victims and HEAT detectives investigating cases, establishes, and maintains a network of community support with collaborations through partnerships with agencies to create programs and develop resources, as well as monitoring cases to provide follow up.

Ms. Quintero ended the summary and communicated that she was ready to answer questions.

Tom McCoy questioned where the service area was for the first named application. Ms. Quintero answered that it was AWAKEN and the location is Northern Nevada.

Ellen Richardson-Adams asked for an explanation to the WCSO HEAT Unit's serving communities in neighboring states. Did this mean that other states were able to receive funding? Ms. Quintero answered no, HEAT works with other states such as California to help victims of human trafficking. This does not mean the other states are eligible for this funding or that these other states will receive these funds. Ms. Richardson-Adams stated she understood.

Ms. York asked for a vote. Ellen Richardson-Adams made a motion for a vote. Leslie Bittleston second the motion and all members stated "aye". No one opposed.

The recommendations for funding were approved by GMAC.

Stacy York, Chair, opened the meeting to public comment.

III. Public Comment 2

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

There was no public comment.

IV. Wrap up and Adjournment.

Chair Stacy York thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.