

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board
November 14, 2018

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Neroy Carter
Joyce Crease
Paul Fuller
Susan Hill
Randy Jones
Mary Pepperney
Mary Runyan
Michelle Thomas
Virginia Walker
Jane Wallace
Pam Zack
Camille Zalar

Absent

Debra Boyle
Jerome Brockway

Staff

Renee Dragon
Alissa Drees
Ronald Smith

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington

Call to Order

Michelle Thomas called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes

Michelle Thomas asked the board to review the minutes from September 12, 2018. After the board read over the minutes, Paul Fuller made the motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2018 and Susan Hill seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chair's Report

Michelle Thomas informed the board that the Senior Levy Program Specialist position was vacant as of October 5, 2018, and that filling the position was being actively pursued. She also informed the board of the following resignations and expiring terms: Debra Boyle, Joyce Crease, Sandy John, Randy Jones and Camille Zalar. Neroy Carter inquired as to the length of the term, and Michelle Thomas replied 3 years. Mary Pepperney asked where nominations should be sent, and Kathryn Whittington responded that they should be sent to Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of Board. The 2019 Senior Levy Advisory Board Meeting Schedule was also presented.

Funding

Ron Smith presented the Revenue & Expense Report as of October 31, 2018. He stated that the year began with \$952,571.93, and \$1,810,574.77 was collected in taxes from the Senior Levy for a total available amount of \$2,763,146.70. The total expenses YTD were \$1,500,589.75.

Contract Reports

Contract Report: Alissa Drees presented the contract report. The report represents payments made against provider's contracts beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Alissa reported that all the providers should have used approximately 75% of their annual budget as of October 2018, and she went through each program. Mary Pepperney questioned why some of the percentages used were down? Alissa responded that some of the percentages were down, for instance, in Chore-Handyman provided by Country Neighbor and Ashtabula Senior Center due to the grass cutting season being done for the year. They may offer snow plowing and clearing, when the snow begins. Mary was concerned that maybe other needs could be met when a program ended, and that services were not being duplicated, such as technology, tai chi, etc. when they may be offered for "Free" other places. Alissa mentioned that she contacted the Ashtabula Senior Center in regard to the increase in their percentage to date usage for their Independence & Wellness Program. They stated that it was due to an increase in "prescription assistance" and an increase in seniors wanting "technology assistance". Susan Hill responded that technology classes are offered for "free" at county libraries. Alissa replied that she would look into this. Neroy Carter wanted to know what happened to any unused funds? Ron responded that any unused funds went back into the fund.

Wait List: Alissa Drees reported that CNP-Home Delivered Meals, ARHHS-Personal Care, ACCAA-Homemaker, CNP-Homemaker and ACCOA-Chore all consisted of significant wait lists. She also mentioned that for the 2019 Homemaker Contract Conneaut Human Resource Center requested \$8,000.00 less; Country Neighbor Program requested \$10,000.00 more due to increased need in Andover and Orwell; and Ashtabula County Council On Aging requested \$1,100.00 less. Michelle Thomas questioned how the Conneaut Human Resource Center's Homemaker territories were divided in Conneaut, and was wondering if Conneaut could pick up some territory in Kingsville and North Kingsville? Mary Pepperney and Paul Fuller questioned whether the problem causing the wait list was due to staffing, need base or need for more contract money? Patrick Arcaro inquired as to why AACCA was asking for less money, but had a wait list? And, if staffing was a problem, was it because of the wage paid? Mary Pepperney suggested a need to form a Task Force to look into the provider's needs verse staffing. Alissa responded that she would take into account all of these concerns and would e-mail everyone with her findings.

Committees

1. Personal Care/Independence & Wellness Committee –Paul Fuller, Susan Hill, Mary Pepperney, Mary Runyan and Michelle Thomas. Alissa will schedule a date for the meeting after the holidays.
2. Nominating Committee- Patrick Arcaro, Dr. Brockway, Paul Fuller and Susan Hill. They will meet once applications are received.

Old Business None

New Business:

RFP evaluation/approval–Independence & Wellness

RFP Evaluation Discussion:

Randy Jones discussed how the YMCA proposal was re-worked for a better rate. Paul Fuller responded that this was a good opportunity to reach a group of people that have never been reached before and could help with passing the upcoming Senior Levy. Michelle Thomas expressed that the YMCA was an outreach that was enriching to the community. Mary Pepperney was approached by an entity that wanted to co-sponsor (for an administrative fee) with another entity (technology provider), but the other entity was not a human services provider. Nothing was pursued further. Michelle Thomas suggested that next year they reach out to libraries to offer outreach programs. Susan Hill stated that libraries are set up to offer outreach services and could possibly partner with another provider to offer such services. Typically, libraries do not charge a fee because they are funded by grants. Patrick mentioned that the majority of the libraries are on the ACTS bus route. Michelle Thomas suggested that money be transitioned for library programs next year.

Kathryn Whittington said that she was approached at the Ashtabula Senior Center by (3) seniors that were upset about possible Senior Levy funds being given to the YMCA. The individuals felt that the money was being diverted from programming that directly benefited the seniors. And, that the money was going to be given to an organization that was funded and in the middle of renovations. Michelle Thomas reminded everyone that the Ashtabula Senior Center has their own levy, and people misunderstand. Kathryn Whittington feels that these people are the voters, and that maybe the board needs to send someone to the Ashtabula Senior Center to clarify and inform the seniors that they are not losing funding. Paul Fuller, Randy Jones and Mary Pepperney agreed to go speak at the Ashtabula Senior Center. Alissa agreed to set this meeting up. Ron Smith stated that we would be using carryover funds to fund the YMCA contract, and that no one other contracts had funds reduced. He also stated that the carryover money needed to be used before the next Levy. Michelle Thomas reminded everyone that Patrick Arcaro has the final decision as to whether to recommend the YMCA contract to the commissioners. Patrick Arcaro indicated that he was more on board with the YMCA proposal after meeting with the YMCA and going through what they were actually proposing.

RFP Approval:

Michelle Thomas went through the evaluation committee's recommendation for each of the following Independence & Wellness contracts and made a motion to approve. All contracts were "approved" as a group, with "all in favor", and "no one opposed".

INDEPENDENCE & WELLNESS SERVICES				
PROVIDER		AMOUNT FUNDED 2019		UNIT RATE
Ashtabula County Community Action Agency		\$ 5,500.00		\$ 9.29
Ashtabula County YMCA		\$ 18,936.00		\$ 3.68
Ashtabula County Council On Aging		\$ 65,157.00		\$ 15.51
Conneaut Human Resource Center		\$ 28,800.00		\$ 16.00
Country Neighbor Program-Independence & Wellness		\$ 63,517.95		\$ 21.85
Country Neighbor Program-Congregate Meals		\$ 23,400.00		\$ 6.35
Geneva Area Seniors Corporation		\$ 73,776.00		\$ 12.38
		TOTAL:		\$279,086.95

Upcoming Senior Levy

Mary Pepperney suggested that the board be pro-active and form a workgroup to promote the Senior Levy. Don't just take for granted that the senior levy will pass. She also suggested that the group reach out to the senior centers and listen to the seniors' needs and wants; and also educate them on what resources are available to them. Michell Thomas recommended finding out what the senior today was going to want in 5 years. Patrick Arcaro added that we were still having the same conversations we had 10 years ago. What are the board's viewpoints? The levy has passed 70% of the time. He suggested that the group take copies of the Annual Report and go through it. Mary Pepperney asked if a spokesperson could be established for the Senior Levy? Patrick Arcaro responded "yes". Michelle Thomas recommended that this was a good time to go to Senior Centers to talk about the Senior Levy. Patrick Arcaro suggested digging out videos from past Senior Levies and creating brochures similar to the one's used by the Jefferson Area School Levy. The videos could be tweaked and taken to the senior centers

Public Comment

No public available for comment.

Adjourn

Susan Hill made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Pepperney seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting

January 9, 2019

Ohio Means Jobs