

**Minutes**  
**Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting**

**November 17th, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present**

Patrick Arcaro  
Willietta Bunch-  
Marbury  
Neroy Carter  
Christine Litweiler  
Emory Moore  
Mary Pepperney  
Joseph Rapose  
Mary Runyan  
Dianne Solebrino  
Virginia Walker  
Pam Zack  
Lynn Zalewski

**Absent**

Michelle Thompson  
Jerome Brockway  
Jane Wallace  
Rhonda Rodriquez

**Staff**

Ronald Smith  
Alissa Drees  
Darcy Mosier

**BOCC**

Kathryn Whittington

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**Call to Order**

Chair, Lynn Zalewski called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Lynn Zalewski asked the board to review the minutes from September 15, 2021. After the board reviewed the minutes, Mary Runyan made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2021. Joe Rapose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Chair's Report**

Chair, Lynn Zalewski shared there are three members whose terms will be expiring at the end of 2021, they are Joseph Rapose, Rhonda Rodriquez and Michelle Thomas. Lynn thanked Rhonda for her two years of service and Michelle for her twelve years of service on the Senior Levy Advisory Board. Joseph Rapose has applied to serve another term.

Lynn brought to the board's attention the proposed meeting schedule for the Senior Levy Advisory Board, fiscal year 2022. She added unless there are any changes, the provided schedule will be in place for the 2022 year.

**Funding**

Ron Smith presented the Revenue & Expense Report as of October 31, 2021. Ron shared, as of the end of October the Senior Levy collected \$1,864,065.08 and there is an available balance of \$2,798,226.85. Ron showed the total expenses at the end of October, was \$1,576,626.77 which is approximately 80.6% of the contracted expenses for the FY 2021.

## **Contract Reports**

**Contract Report:** Darcy Mosier presented the contract report. This report represents payments made against provider's contracts beginning in January through the calendar year. Darcy reported the providers goal to date is to have used approximately 75% of their annual budget which is through the month of September 2021. ACCAA; Homemaker services was below the target at 44%. Darcy shared the correspondence with ACCAA which explained the low expenditure is due to lack of available labor. Chore service providers, ACCOA; 98%, CNP; 97%. Both providers are currently over their target percentage and have not requested additional funds. CHRC, Chore service; has used 11%, which is well below their target percentage. ACCAA; 52%, used for Independence & Wellness services. Darcy reminded the board there was an uptick in units for August then a drop for September in units for ACCAA. Darcy added, October's invoice was received and again there was a large increase of a total of 90 units and reiterated ACCAA continues to look at ways that they can be proactive, especially to their seniors.

**Wait List:** Darcy Mosier reviewed the providers displaying a waitlist. ARHHS Personal Care had twenty-eight (28) clients on their waitlist. Darcy contacted Connie Fox at Region Home Health regarding the waitlist, and she supported that ARHHS does not have enough units in their grant to eliminate the wait list, presently. ARHHS provided additional information stating that some clients that are currently on the waitlist may be receiving other services i.e., at a skilled nursing facility or could be temporarily staying with a family member. ACCAA; Homemaker had two (2) clients on their waitlist in September. Those clients chose to suspend services at this time.

## **Committee:**

1. **Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee Quarterly meeting update:** Pam Zack, Vice Chair, updated the board summarizing the last quarterly committee meeting with the four Senior Center directors on November 10, 2021. All centers were represented. Pam shared Country Neighbor Program's activities being offered to get people involved and spark interest in participating both in person and through FB live. Joshua Woodard, Programming Coordinator, explained their recent virtual tour of Savannah which also included a cooking experience and Ghost tour. Barb Klingensmith, Executive Director added they were offering Technology Classes, Quilt Club and working on streaming Premiere Fitness. Geneva Area Seniors Corporation has recently launched their first ever Facebook page. Bob Gruber, Director, stated that the Facebook page is about 75% complete with the help and assistance of IT from Geneva Library. Geneva is utilizing the "My Senior Center" software to enter their data into their data base which was an area that was almost non-existent prior to the addition of technology at their center. Bob added he is exploring options to post live clips on their Facebook page of touring the local Fire Department and Northwest Ambulance Service, geared towards senior safety. Bob stated he continues to brainstorm ways to address the stigma of the senior center and how it is more than just a place to play BINGO. He would like to see seniors participating at the center every day not just on BINGO- Tuesdays, and

Thursdays, which are almost at capacity. Bob added they struggle the other days of the week with seniors engaging. Bob concluded, Friday is a craft day with better participation, but Mondays and Wednesdays are sparse. Conneaut Human Resource Center is also trying to boost numbers to pre-pandemic. Ryan Tattrie, Director, feels the SL Independence and Wellness Committee and the Senior Center Directors quarterly meetings need to include more discussion on programming. Ryan shared that he has been thinking of a way to collaborate with the other senior centers to form (SCOAC) Senior Center of Ashtabula County and somehow tie in all individual centers and possibly connect through social media. Lisa Bruckman, Director of Ashtabula County Council on Aging expressed the need to collaborate with each other and use mass marketing of some sort to promote senior center awareness. Lisa shared her senior center clients will often say “Oh, I didn’t know you did that.” and “Oh, I didn’t know that was offered here.” All directors agreed that marketing is a puzzle with many challenges as the centers deal with reaching a multi range of age groups with diverse interests who desire variety. Ideas were shared about possibly using A-Tech media in some way along with a centralized calendar so when a center offers a Facebook Live event anyone in the county would know it is happening and be able to participate. The directors are willing to collaborate and partner with each other, bringing each of their talents to the table to brainstorm the ideas that were discussed. The Independence & Wellness Committee will continue to meet with them quarterly to offer support and help. The general census is the quarterly meetings have generated a positive response allowing the directors to share ideas, concerns, and promote growth.

2. Nominating Committee: Lynn Zalewski, Chair, shared the nominating committee met to discuss the vacancies on the board for FY 2022. There are two members leaving the board, Rhonda and Michelle. Joe Rapose did re-apply for another term as his term also expired. Lynn thanked Joe for continuing her service on the board. Lynn asked the board for a motion to nominate Joe Rapose for another term on the Senior Levy Advisory Board. Mary Runyan made the motion to accept Joe Rapose to another term on the Senior Levy Advisory Board, Willietta Bunch-Marbury, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

1. Contract update: Darcy Mosier shared, Alissa Drees, Fiscal Supervisor presented the 2022 Senior Levy contracts to the Ashtabula County Commissioners with the recommendations from Director Arcaro on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The proposals were received and awarded as outlined. Providers have signed their respective contracts and the contracts were sent to the Ashtabula County Commissioners office on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the Commissioners’ signatures.

No public available for comment.

### **Adjourn**

Mary Pepperney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dianne Solebrino seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Board Meeting**  
**January 12th, 2022, at 10 a.m.**  
**TBD**