

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting

March 16, 2022

Zoom Meeting/ In person, OMJ

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Jerome Brockway
Christine Litweiler
Emory Moore
Mary Pepperney
Joseph Rapose
Mary Runyan
Dianne Solembrino
Jane Wallace
Pam Zack
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Willietta Bunch-
Marbury
Virginia Walker

Staff

Ronald Smith
Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington

Call to Order

Chair, Lynn Zalewski called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Lynn Zalewski asked the board to review the minutes from January 12, 2022. After the board reviewed the minutes, Mary Runyan made a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2022. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Chair, Lynn Zalewski brought attention to the Conflict-of-Interest form and reminded members if they have not returned the signed form to Darcy Mosier, please do so.

Funding

Ron Smith presented the Revenue & Expense Report as of February 28th, 2022. Ron notes, as of the end of February no real estate taxes have been received and anticipates those monies coming in mid to end of April. Ron showed available revenue of \$994,021.17 and total expenses were \$263,403.87.

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 target is to have used approximately eight percent of their annual budget which is through the month of January 2022. ACCAA: Homemaker service was below the target at 3%. Darcy shared the correspondence with ACCAA which explained the low expenditure

is due to lack of available labor. ACCAA did share they have hired one new homemaker staff and is in the process of hiring another staff member. Chore service providers: CNP has used 1% of their contract and CHRC has used 0%. Darcy shared, historically CNP Chore service begins the FY slowly and the services typically pick up during the nice weather months. CHRC has not had any request for chore services to date. Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County shows 2% of their contract being used for Payeeship. At this time there were no Guardianship units submitted which keeps their percentage on average lower than target. Darcy explained, CCOAC does use other funding sources first for Guardianship and by the end of summer Guardianship will begin using Senior Levy funding. ACCAA, 2-1-1 was well above the target of 8% at 17%. Darcy expressed 85 of the 98 units submitted by ACCAA (2-1-1) was for 2-1-1 materials being distributed to Ashtabula County seniors. CNP: Congregate Meals was at 3% and is predicted by the Executive Director, Barb Klingensmith to increase due to the re-evaluation of their Home Delivered Meal recipients. This may shift the number of meals distributed from home delivery to congregate site. Geneva Senior Center was at 3%. Bob Gruber, Director of the center explained the inclement weather along with COVID related illnesses caused the center to be closed for several days in the month of January and directly affected their units.

Wait List: Darcy Mosier reviewed the providers displaying a waitlist. CNP; Home delivered meals had two (2) clients on the waitlist. When asked if those clients were now receiving meals, the director had explained those clients had been in and out of the hospital and those slots were being held for them upon their return. ARHHS Personal Care had thirty-one (31) clients on their waitlist. Darcy contacted Ashtabula Regional Home Health regarding their waitlist. ARHHS shared they must stay within their allotted budget from Senior Levy funding. Executive Director, Sue Shadle did share ARHHS has not admitted any new clients for services at this time due to staff shortage. Sue added, there are few job applicants responding for the positions and they also have had a few current staff members out with FMLA situations. CNP: Personal Care had four (4) on the waitlist and those waiting are due to lack of available labor. ACCAA; Homemaker had thirteen (13) clients on their waitlist in January. When Diana Brooks of ACCAA was contacted regarding the waitlist, she reported they are having a terrible time trying to fill the homemaker positions. Diana added she did lose two long term employees due to personal circumstances. CNP; Homemaker had eight (8) clients on their waitlist. Darcy explained CNP currently have two homemakers providing services. The executive director shared she continues to seek staff and has offered incentives but has not been successful at filling the positions.

Committee:

1. Senior Conference Committee update: Darcy Mosier summarized the Senior Conference Planning Committee meeting held on February 16th, 2022, via Zoom. The planning committee agreed to hold the 2022 Senior Levy Conference on June 24th, 2022, from 9:30 to noon, using a hybrid format. The Ashtabula County Senior Centers will host a limited number of in-person attendees. There will be a Master of Ceremony as well as guest hosts. The speakers for the event will be the Ohio State Attorney General's Office-Virtual Consumer Protection on Senior Scams, Joleen Sundquist from Ashtabula County Community Counseling Center addressing Seniors and Social Isolation; Detection and Prevention, and Joe Rossi from Direction Home of Northeastern Ohio will cover Aging in Place; A Guide to Growing Older at Home. The Committee agreed to forgo vendors this year due to the virtual event. However, the committee would like to include any

handout information that local businesses or organization would like to share and be beneficial resources for the seniors, be included in the Promotional Bags. The Committee is asking the Senior Centers to share a recorded video (up to a minute long) showcasing their programming opportunities and these will be shared during the conference. Advertising for the event will be done through flyers, emails as well as social media. Refreshments will be provided at the senior centers along with promotional bags. The next planning committee meeting will be held on March 21st, 2022, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Kathryn Whittington expressed there is some confusion regarding the different formats the committee wished to use for the virtual conference. Kathryn explained to the board members each format and the method used to deliver i.e., Facebook Live, Zoom, Live Streaming. After discussion, Director Arcaro suggested changing the location of the host from the County Commissioners conference room to the Ohio Means Jobs conference room. Director Arcaro added, if necessary Great Wave would be able to offer tech support. The Senior Conference Planning Committee will be meeting again on March 21st, 2022, to continue discussing the format for the Senior Conference.

2. 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 March 10th, 2022, via Zoom. All four senior centers reported that seniors are slow to return to the centers, but they are seeing a slight increase in attendance as they seem to be getting out of their comfort zone. The wellness calls continue to be an important connection. Country Neighbor is encouraging their seniors to transition from home delivered meals to the congregate meal site that will renew socializing. Ashtabula Center reported that many of their wellness calls are to homebound seniors where conversation is important. Barb of County Neighbor mentioned that their need for volunteers 55 & older for their Senior Companionship services have not had many responses and most responses have been from people younger than 55. After a suggestion, Barb is going to check with the RSVP of Ashtabula County program for assistance regarding obtaining volunteers. Ryan Tattrie from Conneaut Human Resources shared his computer screen to show the committee some of the results from the Schedules Plus survey he has been working on. He is gathering great senior client feedback. Geneva continues to work on their website challenges to track data. Ashtabula is working on updating their website. Both Geneva & Conneaut are experiencing renovations in their main halls. Bob in Geneva shared that he submitted his resignation about 3 months ago giving a six-month notice. To his knowledge the board has not begun the search for his replacement. Darcy Mosier encouraged the centers to collaborate with each other in simple ways such as sharing their centers calendar of events, menus, etc. on each other's Facebook pages. Barb commented that she believes they are all guilty of being busy and not taking as much time to collaborate as they could. Lisa added that planning ahead is an important factor. Darcy reported to the centers that SLAB has decided to hold a Virtual-Hybrid version of a Senior Conference on June 24, 2022, and what their rolls will be along with all the pertinent information.

3. Program Committee: The SL Program Committee met to discuss possibly changing the verbiage to the SL RFP, Section 3- Program Planning and Development, "B", measurable outcomes. This change was discussed in

August 2021 during the RFP Evaluation Committee meetings. The Program Committee continued to discuss the verbiage in January 2022 and to further explore those changes to the RFP.

The committee agreed that the challenge providers may be having in providing measurable outcomes in their RFP is due to the RFP wording being too ambiguous. Also, the committee questioned how the providers measurable outcomes would ultimately affect their over-all consideration in getting a contract and/or their SL funding. After discussion the committee agreed to take out Section 3-Program Planning and Development, “B”, Measurable Outcomes throughout the RFP, RFP Pre Conference script, and the RFP Proposal Score Sheet. The committee agreed new verbiage will be placed in Section 3-Program Planning and Development, #9. “Describe how your organization’s vision and mission align with the Senior Levy Mission Statement”, “Our mission is to provide superior service, promote well-being and self-sufficiency, alleviate conditions of poverty and improve health and safety.” This will also be added to the RFP Pre Conference script and the RFP Proposal Score Sheet where it will be valued at 5 points. The Measurable Outcomes was valued at 15 points. The remaining 10 points were distributed evenly among the other weighted values. Chair Lynn Zalewski asked the board for a motion to approve the change in verbiage to the Senior Levy RFP and score sheets. Pam Zack made the motion to change the verbiage. Joe Rapose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Country Neighbor requested additional funding for their 2021 Transportation Contract #21-4018-S in the amount of \$5,519.68 totaling their contract amount for FY \$323,759.68. Request was approved and awarded by Director Arcaro.
2. Mary Pepperney shared an update from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio, former Area on Aging and their recent survey pertaining to Ashtabula County. The results of this needs assessment of services will help to develop Direction Home of Eastern Ohio’s 2023-2026 Strategic Area Plan. The Strategic Area Plan is a document that will help drive the services and supports for older adults in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties. Chair, Lynn Zalewski inquired, when the results of the survey are available to the public the board would like to review the results.

No public available for comment.

Adjourn

Dr. Brockway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting

May 11, 2022, at 10 a.m.

TBD