

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
March 20, 2024
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave., Ashtabula

Present

Bob Kenyon
Mary Pepperney
George Peterson
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Cristine Rutz
Sharone Sing
Ron Smith
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Patrick Arcaro
Jerome Brockway
Veronica Hanna
Emory Moore
Dianne Solembrino
Kathryn Whittington

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Call to Order

Chair, Joe Rapose called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Chair asked the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024. George Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024, SLAB meeting. Lynn Zalewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

The chair reminded board members to sign and turn in conflict-of-interest forms to Darcy at the end of the meeting, if they have not already done so.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through February 29th, 2024. Alissa shared the balance forward and actual current revenue is \$1,098,693.04, The levy has not collected any revenue thus far from real estate taxes. The total contracted expenses year to date is \$333,237.45 leaving an unobligated available balance of \$198,836.86.

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 8% of their annual budget which is through the month of January. Darcy brought the boards attention to Chore services provided by Conneaut Human Resource Center at 0% which is below the estimated 8%. Darcy explained CHRC historically begins their chore services in the spring by providing lawncare for seniors. All other services and providers are within a reasonable range of the approximate percentage.

Wait List: Darcy Mosier reviewed the providers displaying a waitlist. The waitlist consists of seniors who qualify for services through the senior levy, but the provider currently is unable to provide services due to limited funding or unavailable staffing. ARHHS Personal Care had sixteen (16) clients on their waitlist which is a direct result of staying within their contracted monthly budget. ACCAA; Homemaker services had two (2) clients on their waitlist in January. ACCAA explained the waitlist is a staffing issue. Director, Carmen Kuula

added, it has been difficult to establish consistency in the staff. Board discussed possibilities of providers cross training staff between homemaker and personal care services.

Committee:

1. 2024 Senior Conference Planning Committee update: Darcy shared the planning committee met on February 22, 2024, to finalize details for the 2024 Senior Conference. Darcy summarized where the committee was currently in the planning process. June 7th is the Senior Conference at Lakeside High School from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Donuts and coffee will be offered at 9:30 am during registration check-in. Theme is “Let’s Rethink Aging”. Warren Dillaway’s photography exhibit will be on display in the cafetorium. Speakers are Scott Yamamoto from Ashtabula County Auditor's Office; Homestead Exemption Act and credits available for seniors who qualify, Ashtabula County Metropolitan Housing Authority on Senior Housing, Bonnie Konczal represents the YMCA; outreach programs, Matha Gillespie; Alzheimer’s Association, Healthy Living for the Brain and Body and Samantha Dragon of 2-1-1; How to connect to local community services. Darcy added the promotional items are pending approval and save the dates were sent on 1/31/24 to potential sponsors and vendors. Six sponsorships have been received and two vendor table only, secured. Volunteers for the event have been contacted and agreed to help. A new Senior Levy commercial is in the process of being made and A-Tech media students will be collaborating on the project. Giant Eagle has been contacted for a donation of a sheet cake, and other items. Board members continued discussing details of senior conference.

2. Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee Quarterly meeting update: Chair, Joe Rapose shared the committee met on March 13, 2024, via Zoom. Lisa Bruckman, Barb Klingensmith, Kristina Praxton, Ryan Tattrie and Carolyn Holden were present. SLAB committee members present were Lynn Zalewski and Mary Pepperney.

Ryan Tattrie shared with the committee there has been an increase of new senior attendees since the beginning of the year. They currently have from 12-15 seniors attending programming on weekdays. Ryan shared in December that he would like to create a questionnaire to hand out to all attendees specifically asking them what programming they would like to see in their senior center. Ryan and staff are working on the questionnaire and will distribute when finished. On 3-21 CHRC will be co-hosting the Easter Brunch at the Ashtabula County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Ryan shared Jefferson Community Center was hosting this year's Senior Spring Prom. Ryan brought to the attention of the committee that he has witness an increase in senior homelessness in the Conneaut area. Lynn Zalewski shared there is a Homeless Coalition in Ashtabula County that addresses homelessness and would send Ryan the information for that organization. SLAB continued senior homelessness discussion.

Carolyn Holden shared she is very happy with the way things are progressing at Geneva Senior Center. GASC is actively getting new clients weekly. Card and bingo days are solid days of 30 plus seniors. M-W-F is filling in nicely since the first of the year with new programming and new attendees. Some new programming activities GASC has added that are successful is canvass painting with Heather and ceramic painting in Madison, paid for by Geneva United Methodist Church. They have added chair yoga which has been very successful along with the 8-week walking challenge partnering with County Neighbor Program. Carolyn shared they received grant funds from Ashtabula Foundation for new tables and signs and the city of Geneva is going to begin construction this spring on the entire back entrance of the senior center. The renovation will include an ADA compliance ramp, new doors, and entryway.

Lisa Bruckman of ACCOA shared she is up 10 percent this quarter with 156 unduplicated clients and 17 new seniors attending. Lisa said the TOPS program is growing and the center has added 4 new exercise classes. In addition, she has added one more BINGO Day. Lisa continues the crock pot cooking, armchair travel, both once a month and are well received by the attendees. ACCOA’s community collaboration has two major events in the future, Senior Care Network and ACCOA is bringing back the Senior of the Year Award in October and will have the Annual Senior Picnic in September.

Conversation continued regarding extended or staggered hours that the senior centers might provide for those clients who want to participate in the activities and educational opportunities at the senior centers but have commitments during the hours the senior centers are open.

Barb Klingensmith and Kristina Paxton of CNP shared highlights of this year's Ohio Association of Senior Centers and new and trending ideas in technology, AI, fitness, and center availability beyond “normal” senior center hours. Discussion about flexible hours continued among center directors. Kristina was happy to share CNP version of the “Cupid Crew” and how the Senior center attendees made homemade Valentine cards for all those seniors receiving home delivered meals. The cards were delivered with the meal, and a personal invitation and calendar of the activities and meals available at the center. Kristina was very pleased to add the center got several inquiries and are currently working to provide those seniors who would like to attend the center, transportation due to their desire to participate but not able due to transportation issues. Barb added, they are having an essential oil presentation, speakers on senior scams, and an Alzheimer's Org. presentation. The next quarterly meeting will be in June 2024.

Old Business: Joe Rapose pointed out to the board the spreadsheet included in the SLAB packet which provides the complete Contract Report for FY 2023. This information shows the providers expenditures and unused balances.

New Business:

No public available for comment.

Adjourn

Chair, Joe Rapose asked the floor for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Pepperney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting
May 15th, 2024, at 10 a.m.
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.**