

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
May 15, 2024
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave., Ashtabula

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Jerome Brockway
Veronica Hanna
Bob Kenyon
Emory Moore
Mary Pepperney
George Peterson
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Cristine Rutz
Sharone Sing
Ron Smith
Dianne Solembrino
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Katheryn Whittington
(absent)

Call to Order

Chair, Joe Rapose called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Rapose asked the board to review the Senior Levy Advisory Board minutes from March 20, 2024. After the board reviewed the minutes, Bob Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes from March 20, 2024. Mary Pepperney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

The chair had no new information to report.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through April 30, 2024. Alissa shared the balance forward is \$1,098,398.53. Alissa added the first quarter taxes have been received giving a current year revenue of \$1,138,869.63 and total revenue of \$2,237,268.16. The grand total expenses year to date is \$774,760.58 leaving an available balance of \$868,817.44. Alissa pointed out to the SLAB, this balance is right in line with 2023 revenue and expenses.

Contract Reports

Contract Report: Darcy Mosier presented the contract report. This report represents payments made against provider's contracts beginning in January 2024 through the calendar year. Darcy reported the providers goal to date is to have used approximately 25% of their annual budget which is through the month of March. Darcy brought the boards attention to

Chore services provided by Conneaut Human Resource Center which was at 0%. Darcy contacted Executive Director Ryan Tattrie of CHRC to inquire why seniors in Conneaut were not using chore services. Ryan expressed most chore funding is used for lawn care services which is typically used between the months of May and September. Ryan went on to share seniors are aware of chore services available outside of lawn care. He shared he has not had any inquiries about other services at this time. ACCAA, Independence & Wellness; Information and Referral service was at 50%. Ashtabula County Community Action Agency: Information and Referral, is using Senior Levy funds at this time and when the levy funds have been exhausted, ACCAA will then draw from other funding sources. Ashtabula County Council on Aging, Independence & Wellness is also at 50%. Darcy reviewed ACCOA's previous invoice pattern and shared Senior Levy funding is often exhausted by July. ACCOA then uses their other funding resources to fund programming for the remaining of the year.

Mary Pepperney suggested having executive directors of providers receiving funding by senior levy to be invited to come to a SLAB meeting to introduce themselves and give a brief synopsis of current needs and supports that have been identified by the providers and how they are specifically addressing those needs in programming. The committee agreed for Darcy to call and arrange two executive directors to meet at the next four SLAB meetings.

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. This challenge often results in a senior client being placed on a prioritized waitlist. ARHHS Personal Care had twelve (12) clients on their waitlist which is a direct result of limited in-home care staff and staying within their contracted monthly budget. Country Neighbor Program: Homemaker had thirty-five (35) clients on their waitlist for March which is the direct result of their staffing shortage.

Committee:

1. 2024 Senior Conference Planning Committee update: Chair, Joe Rapose shared the planning committee met on April 19, 2024, to finalize details for the 2024 Senior Conference. Darcy recapped key areas with board i.e., venue, event schedule, speakers, volunteers, registered attendee count and vendor/sponsor count. At this time funds raised are \$8,400.00, total cost of event is \$9,493.45 leaving a difference of -\$1,093.45. Darcy explained the total amount raised does not include the \$5,000.00 donation from senior levy. SLAB board inquired what organizations were sponsors and Darcy gave a detailed list of all sponsors, the amounts, and all vendors. Darcy reminded the board there was a strong probability more inquiries regarding interested vendors would occur, however they would not be mentioned in the program, due to the program printing deadline. Details of the annual event were further discussed.

2. RFP Committee; Review process and timeline: Joe Rapose brought to the board members attention the proposed timeline for the 2025 Senior Levy RFP release, and the schedule for the evaluation committee meetings, provided in their SLAB packet. Joe reminded committee members if there is a schedule conflict with the evaluation meeting process, to please contact Darcy as soon as possible.

Old Business: 2025 Senior Levy Campaign. Joe Rapose shared Lynn Zalewski, Pam Zack and himself met earlier that morning to discuss Pam Zacks availability to continue as the Senior Levy Campaign Treasurer due to her lengthy travels out of state during the 2025 SL campaign period. She feels her ability to do campaign banking, receiving mail and contributions, and following the strict regulations of campaign finance might be challenging, during her travels. The SLAB continued discussing several key campaign points and agreed to contact county board of elections seeking answers to ballot regulations and perimeters of campaign treasurer's position. Darcy will share findings to the questions asked with the SLAB, when received.

The campaign committees were reviewed and once the chair or core committees are established a timeline can then be set by the committee. Members of the 2020 campaign committee reminded board members; campaign volunteers do not have to serve on the SLAB to volunteer for the 2025 campaign. Few members volunteered to serve on the steering committee and board members agreed to reach out to previous steering committee members for guidance and volunteer for the 2025 SL campaign.

New Business: Feed the Hope date set for September 13th, 2024. Joe Rapose asked the floor for a motion to donate up to \$10,000.00 to Feed The Hope. Mary Runyan made a motion to donate upon request up to \$10,000.00 for Feed The Hope. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Mary Runyan made a motion to end the meeting. Bob Kenyon seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting
July 17, 2024, at 10 a.m.
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.