

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
January 17, 2024
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave., Ashtabula

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Bob Kenyon
Emory Moore
George Peterson
Cristine Rutz
Sharone Sing
Ron Smith
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Jerome Brockway
Veronica Hanna
Mary Pepperney
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Dianne Solembrino
Kathryn Whittington

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Call to Order

Vice Chair, Bob Kenyon called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Bob asked the board to review the minutes from November 20th, 2023. After the board reviewed the minutes, Lynn Zalewski made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20th, 2023. Emory Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Vice Chair, Bob Kenyon welcomed the Senior Levy Advisory Board to a new year and directed the boards attention to the returning/reappointed Senior Levy Advisory Board members, Emory Moore, and Sharone Sing. New members Ron Smith and George Peterson were introduced to the board and shared their history and background. The present board members introduced themselves to the new members.

Bob addressed the Conflict-of-Interest forms in the SLAB binder. He asked the board members to please fill the forms out and return them to Darcy before the end of the meeting. Bob asked Alissa Drees for the Revenue and Expense Report.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through December 31, 2023. Alissa shared the Senior Services Levy began FY 2023 with \$968,732.67. The levy collected \$1,942,145.05 thus far from real estate taxes, and the total revenue is \$2,910,877.72. The grand total expenses are \$1,812,479.19. The available balance before the reserve is \$1,098,398.53. The available balance less the reserve and estimated accruals and obligations is \$261,702.65.

Alissa presented the Ashtabula County Senior Levy 2024 Proposed Budget to the board. Alissa stated the balance forward is \$1,098,398.53. The estimated revenue from the Senior Levy, which was reported by the County Auditor's office, is \$1,845,156.10 with a total amount available of \$2,943,554.63. Alissa showed total expenses for the year will be approximately \$1,979,069.80, less obligations with a potential available balance of \$127,788.95. Bob asked the floor for a motion to approve the proposed FY 2024 Senior Levy budget. George Peterson made a motion to approve the FY 2024

proposed budget and Cristine Rutz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bob asked the floor if there was any discussion regarding the 2024 Senior Levy proposed budget. Patrick Arcaro shared there will be an additional funding stream for Senior Services, FY 2024. Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners were awarded grant funds through the Healthy Aging Grant of approximately \$461,000.00. These funds have been channeled to Job and Family Services to administrator. Director Arcaro added, these funds will be used to offset the expenses of the levy for very specific services noted in the grant, for example meals, transportation, and personal care services.

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 92% of their annual budget which is through the month of November 2023. Darcy brought the boards attention to Ashtabula County Community Action Agency; Home Delivered Meals contract showing they have used 75% of their contract amount. Darcy shared ACCAA was contacted regarding the unused contract amount leading into the end of the contract year. Carmen Kuula explained the lower numbers this year is about getting more seniors enrolled. Carmen went on to explain they have had a bit of turnover of clients, as the new enrolled, they also seemed to have almost as many clients discontinue the service. Carmen also added, November and December they have enrolled more clients and did not lose as many from the program. She ended by saying they are trying to promote the service and are encouraging more seniors to enroll. Darcy continued by reviewing ACCAA's Homemaker services which has used 73% of their contract funds. Darcy shared Carmen's explanation to the low usage of funds; Carmen reiterated that staffing has been the issue. She added ACCAA has clients that have been assessed and are ready for services, it has just been difficult to establish consistency in staffing. Carmen shared ACCAA believes going into the new year, they are stable and will get back on track with utilizing the contract number of units.

Country Neighbor Program, Inc., Homemaker was 51%. Barb Klingensmith, Executive Director explained clients have been assessed and qualify for the homemaker service, but staffing in-home care services continues to be challenging. Barb added she is willing to discuss with the SLAB their ideas on how to secure and retain staffing for in-home care services. The SLAB discussed possible solutions concerning staffing for in home care service providers and agreed to follow up with Barb about ideas that may not have been previously explored. Darcy added as the senior population rapidly grows, so does the need for the home care workers to help seniors age in place. Darcy stressed the shortage of in-home care staffing is not just in Ashtabula County or Ohio, it is a national health care shortage. Country Neighbor Program also displayed low percentages in Personal Care at 76%, Companionship, 51% and Congregate Meals, 47%.

Wait List: Darcy 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 ten (10) clients on their waitlist. Susan Shadle, Executive Director of Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services explained their waitlist has declined greatly due to more people in and out of acute services, more quickly. Sue went on to say, at this same time they are still having recruitment issues and could still use another aide. Country Neighbor Program: Homemaker had thirty-six (36) clients on their waitlist for December, which is the direct result of limited staffing.

Committee:

1. Reappointments to Committees: Bob Kenyon brought to the board's attention in the SLAB packet is the 2024 Senior Levy Committee List. Bob added the committee member list is the same from the previous year and if anyone would like to change committees, please contact Darcy. Bob also pointed out there was no committee members under the Senior Conference Planning Committee and to let Darcy know if you would like to be on the 2024 Conference Planning committee. Bob reminded the board members all who are able are encouraged to participate at the annual event.

2. Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee Quarterly meeting update: Bob Kenyon summarized the December quarterly meeting with the senior center directors Ryan Tattrie and Carolyn Holden on December 5th, 2023, via Zoom. Lisa Bruckman of ACCOA and Kristina Paxton, Activities Coordinator for CNP, sent a quarterly report.

Ryan Tattrie from Conneaut Human Resources said the lobby kiosk was up and running. He said senior clients can now choose their activities and sign in with their client ID. Ryan shared his plan to put out a questionnaire for all new senior clients to fill out. He would like to know what they would like to see their senior center offer in programming. Ryan said there continues to be a conversation about how to bring in new clients to the center and how to keep them coming back. CHRC continues to collaborate with GASC, ACCOA and Jefferson Senior Center.

Carolyn Holden expressed she was pleased with the way things are progressing at the Geneva Senior Center. She shared they are actively getting new clients weekly. Great programming days continue to be cards and bingo and she continues to explore new programming on days that are not as active. They have brought in new activities such as tours, monthly birthday celebrations and karaoke. Geneva United Methodist Church partners with GASC for crafting, painting and lunches.

Lisa Bruckman, director of ACCOA emailed her quarterly report. Due to a schedule conflict, she was not able to attend. Lisa provided ACCOA offered 445 activities this quarter, and 311 unduplicated seniors visited the center this quarter. There was an 11% decrease in attendance from the second quarter. She continues to offer BINGO, crafts, speakers, games, Medicare education, card games, monthly movies, and popcorn. Lisa added, anything involving food, or free stuff attached to a presentation, parties etc., is a successful event. Her goal for 2024 is to improve foot traffic, bring more awareness of the senior center and what it has to offer, build stronger community-based strategic partnerships, and secure additional funding.

Kristina Paxton, Activities Coordinator for Country Neighbor Program sent a quarterly report for the third quarter. Kristina said there was a small increase of likes on their Facebook page and 18 new senior clients visited the center this quarter. CNP continues to offer games, movies, music, knitting, crocheting, crafts, and food demos as a part of their programming. Although participation was down for the quarter, they believe during the winter months it will pick up. The shift in attendance appears to be seasonal. Her goals are to have more guest speakers, learning classes and physical activities. They continue to collaborate with ACMC, Ann Wiley, Gerri Fields, Heyday Health, and UH. Their biggest challenge is getting new people to attend regularly.

Next quarterly meeting will be in March 2024.

New Business:

1. Funding request for 2024 Senior Conference; Vice Chair, Bob Kenyon reviewed with the board the particulars of the 15th Annual Senior Services Conference which will be held on June 7th, 2024, at Lakeside High School. Darcy said the first senior conference planning committee meeting will be by the end of January. The planning committee will be notified by email of the date and time. Bob asked the board for a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 donation for the senior conference. Ron Smith made the motion to approve the donation of \$5,000.00 towards the senior conference. George Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

No public available for comment.

Adjourn

Emory Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cristine Rutz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting
March 20th, 2024, at 10 a.m.
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.