

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
July 16, 2025
Ashtabula County Job & Family Services

Present

Jerome Brockway
Bob Kenyon
Emory Moore
Mary Pepperney
Cristine Rutz, Zoom
Sharone Sing
Ron Smith
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Patrick Arcaro
Veronica Hanna
Paula Pristov
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Dianne Solembrino

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington,
Zoom

Call to Order

Vice Chair, Bob Kenyon called the meeting to order.

Bob introduced guest speaker Brenda Cobb, Community Liaison for Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services. Q & A time followed the presentation.

Approval of Minutes

Bob asked the board to review the minutes from May 21, 2025, meeting. After the board reviewed the minutes, Mary Pepperney made a motion to approve the minutes from May 21, 2025. Lynn Zalewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report- nothing to report currently.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through June 30, 2025. Alissa shared the current revenue is \$1,156,151.21, giving a total revenue of \$2,141,380.88. Contract expenses are \$990,654.97 leaving an available balance of \$585,616.73. Alissa brought to the boards attention the current revenue is in line with the June 30, 2024, Revenue & Expense Report.

Contract Reports

Darcy Mosier presented the Contract Report, which outlines payments made against provider contracts from January through the current calendar year. Darcy noted that, as of the end of May, providers should have used approximately 42% of their annual budget.

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency (ACCAA): Homemaker Services

This service has used 7% of its funding to date. The provider cited ongoing staffing instability and shared that they are actively developing strategies to recruit and retain employees for in-home care services. Board members discussed the persistent staffing challenges in detail, as well as the feasibility of allocating funds to a service that providers are currently unable to staff and deliver effectively to the county's senior population.

County Neighbor Program (CNP): Chore Services

Chore services are at 8% utilization. This low percentage is attributed to the seasonal nature of lawn care

services. Darcy noted that CNP Executive Director Barb Klingensmith anticipates a significant increase in service units during June, July, and August due to the mowing season.

County Neighbor Program: Personal Care Services

Currently at 33% of funding used. Barb Klingensmith informed Darcy that a new personal care aide was recently hired, and she is optimistic this will allow more clients to be added to the personal care roster.

Arcadia Home Health and Staff Services

To date, they have used 16% of their Senior Levy funding. They are actively seeking referrals from other providers and organizations to grow their roster of senior clients.

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency (ACCAA): Independence & Wellness Program

This program has used 72% of its funding. Darcy reminded the board that ACCAA typically exhausts its allocated funds by September. However, the provider continues offering Information and Referral services using alternate funding sources.

Ashtabula County Council on Aging (ACCOA): Independence & Wellness Program

Currently, 63% of the funding has been used. Darcy shared that ACCOA supplements its programming through additional funding sources, enabling it to serve clients through December 2025.

The board continued its discussion regarding provider programming, budgeting, and the challenges faced in service delivery due to staffing.

Wait List: Darcy Mosier reviewed the providers currently reporting waitlists. These waitlists consist of senior clients who qualify for services funded by the Senior Levy but are unable to receive them at this time due to provider limitations, including staffing shortages or budget constraints. As a result, clients are often placed on a prioritized waitlist based on urgency and need.

Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services (ARHHS) – Personal Care has six (6) clients on their active waitlist. These individuals have been assessed and are ready for services; however, due to adherence to budget parameters, ARHHS is currently unable to enroll them. Additionally, ARHHS maintains a **secondary waitlist** with seven (7) clients who are temporarily ineligible for services due to receiving skilled nursing care, being hospitalized, or requesting a temporary service hold. **Country Neighbor Program (CNP) – Personal Care** currently has a waitlist of four (4) clients. CNP recently hired a new personal care staff member and is optimistic that, with this additional capacity, they will be able to eliminate the waitlist soon. **Country Neighbor Program (CNP) – Homemaker Services** currently has fifty-nine (59) individuals on its waitlist. The program is presently exceeding its target budget allocation and is working to balance fiscal responsibility with the goal of serving as many clients as possible. CNP Executive Director Barb Klingensmith noted that the agency prioritizes clients based on the urgency of their needs when managing the waitlist.

Committee:

1. Senior Conference Venue Update: Darcy Mosier presented a 2026 Senior Levy Venue Comparison to the board, outlining three potential venue options. She briefly highlighted key considerations for each, including date availability, venue rental costs (based on current quotes), food service availability, IT support, and the usable space at each location.

Following the discussion, the board agreed to convene a Senior Conference Planning Committee meeting prior to the next board meeting on September 17. The purpose of the committee meeting is to identify a preferred venue and develop preliminary plans to present to the full board, allowing for timely venue reservation.

2. Independence & Wellness Committee quarterly meeting summary.

Darcy Mosier opened the meeting with a review of the previous minutes and introduced Jodi Watson as the new Director of the Geneva Area Senior Center. Acknowledgements: Lynn Zalewski thanked attendees for their support during the successful Senior Levy campaign, especially for community outreach and sign placement.

Center Updates:

- Country Neighbor (Tiffany Artman):
 - Attendance and engagement are up; volunteer numbers are strong.
 - Activities include Tai Chi, cross stitch, and chair volleyball.
 - Main challenge: limited space. The board is exploring expansion.
 - Focus shifting back to in-person programming for summer.
- Conneaut Human Resource Center (Ryan Tattrie):
 - Steady attendance with 10–12 participants daily.
 - Uses virtual check-in system; serves as a cooling center.
 - Facility is aging with rising repair costs.
 - Planning transportation to senior prom and looking into trip sponsorships.
 - Participants prefer routine, though new activities are being tested.
- Geneva Area Senior Center (Jodi Watson):
 - Planning a "Christmas in July" event.
 - Popular activities include bingo, coffee, and karaoke.
 - Participation varies based on activity offered.
 - Exploring the use of surveys to gather input but notes that programming needs vary by center.

Additional Notes:

- Barb Klingensmith shared a story emphasizing the importance of home-delivered meals beyond nutrition.
- Other directors echoed the critical, multifaceted role of senior services.
- Mary Pepperney provided an update on recent discussions with Direction Home of Eastern Ohio.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for September 2025 – Exact date to be confirmed.

New Business:

Board Member, Lynn Zalewski shared the post office box secured for the 2025 Senior Levy Campaign has now been closed.

Old Business:

Public Comment:

Adjourn

Mary Pepperney made a motion to end the meeting. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting
September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Job & Family Services

2924 Donahoe Drive, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004