

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

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Jerome Brockway
Veronica Hanna, Zoom
Bob Kenyon
Emory Moore, Zoom
George Peterson
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Ron Smith
Dianne Solembrino
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Mary Pepperney
Cristine Rutz
Sharone Sing

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington, Zoom

Call to Order

Chair, Joe Rapose called the meeting to order.

Joe introduced guest speakers Jill Valentic, Director of Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County and Carolyn Holden, Director of Geneva Area Seniors Corporation. Both directors shared what they do at their respective agencies and how they deliver services and programming to senior clients through funding provided by Senior Levy. A brief question answer time followed the presentation.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Rapose asked the board to review the minutes from May 15, 2024, meeting. After the board reviewed the minutes, Bob Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes from May 15, 2024. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report- nothing to report currently.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through June 30, 2024. Alissa shared the current revenue is \$1,138,869.63, giving a total revenue of \$2,237,268.16. Contract expenses are \$1,084,423.79 leaving an available balance of \$572,107.07. Alissa brought to the boards attention the current revenue is in line with the June 30, 2023, Revenue & Expense Report.

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 42% of their annual budget which is through the month of May. Darcy pointed out to the board Ashtabula County Community Action: Homemaker services has currently used 31% of their funding. Provider shared staffing continues to be unstable, and they are strategizing ways to recruit and retain new employees for in home care services.

Ashtabula County Council on Aging: Chore services was at 78% due to an increase in lawn care services. County Neighbor Program: Chore services was at 67% which is the result of a special project that was completed in early spring. Ashtabula County Community Action Agency: Independence & Wellness was at 81%. Darcy reminded the board, historically ACCAA's funding is often exhausted by September and provider continues Information and Referral services using other funding resources. Ashtabula County Council On Aging: Independence & Wellness: showed 87% of their funding has been used. Darcy shared ACCOA also uses other funding sources to provide programming to clients through December 2024. Geneva Area Senior Corporation: Independence & Wellness was at 65%. GASC is aware of their funding percentage at this time and understands they must provide programming through FY 2024. The board continued discussing provider programming and budgeting.

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 available staffing. This challenge often results in a senior client being placed on a prioritized waitlist. ARHHS Personal Care had fourteen (14) clients on their waitlist. Darcy explained, seven of the waitlist clients are currently receiving skilled nursing care, three clients are in the hospital, and two clients requested services to temporarily be held. ARHHS secondary waitlist, has six clients who are in skilled nursing and qualify for personal care services, but ARHHS has no openings currently due to available staff and/or budget perimeters. ACCAA: Homemaker has twenty-eight (28) clients on the waitlist. ACCAA staff explained the waitlist number is solely due to limited staff. ACCAA states their efforts to recruit and retain staff remains challenging. Country Neighbor Program: Homemaker had thirty-four (34) clients on their waitlist for May which is the direct result of staffing challenges. ACCOA: Chore services have nine (9) clients on their waitlist who are only interested in mowing services. ACCOA is not able to provide those lawn care services to those on the waitlist due to budget perimeters.

Committee:

1. Senior Conference Planning Committee 2024 review: Joe Rapose, Chair expressed his thank you and appreciation to the Senior Levy Advisory Board, Executive Director, Patrick Arcaro and Job & Family Service staff for their time and effort hosting the 15th Annual Senior Conference.

Darcy Mosier broke down the budget, expenses, number of attendees, vendors, and sponsorships of the 2024 senior conference. She reminded the board and the committee the venue for 2025 would need to be reserved by October to secure a favorable date for the 2025 annual conference. The board further discussed the challenges and successes of the conference and possible options to better meet the needs of the senior attendees moving forward.

2. Independence & Wellness Committee quarterly meeting update: Joe Rapose shared Ryan Tattrie from Conneaut Human Resource Center, Carolyn Holden from Geneva Senior Center, and Lisa Bruckman from Ashtabula County Council on Aging, were in attendance on 6/24/24, via Zoom meeting. Joe Rapose and Darcy Mosier were present.

Ryan Tattrie shared new senior attendees have been coming into CHRC. He observed some territorial behaviors from the "regulars" towards the new seniors visiting. Lisa and Carolyn also shared they too have the same issues at their centers. Discussion and idea sharing continued among the three directors on strategies they have used to dissolve some of the territorial tendencies among the senior center attendees. Ryan talked about security in the building due to the several other organizations that occupy business space at CHRC and everyone's safety. This opened a dialog with all directors on fire safety, lock down/active shooter, weather alert policies and quarterly safety drills. Some directors touch on these topics while others thought it would be beneficial to include wellbeing and safety as apart of their programming.

Lisa shared her programming coordinator seeks input about new activity ideas from the regular seniors that attend ACCOA. Lisa added her concern is connecting with the seniors who are at home isolating, and she continues to try and

figure out how to get them in the center and what they would like to do to keep them coming back. Discussion continued regarding different programming that involves coordination of transportation and the challenges they have faced.

Carolyn Holden shared they have been getting ready for the senior prom on 6/27/24. They have a dinner coming up at Geneva United Methodist Church, Texas Holdom and BINGO. They have had five new members that have been coming back on a regular basis. She discussed some of the challenges with RSVPing for the major events causing unnecessary expenditures. Lisa shared some of the ways she has addressed her RSVP issues.

Lisa Bruckman shared the increased number of seniors participating in some of the larger events that have taken place in the spring and some of the up-and-coming events coming this summer. She also shared an activity she does weekly utilizing her technology to live stream on Facebook called Freezer Meals. Lisa shared in detail the activity process as well as her objective doing the activity with the seniors; healthy meal, two meals out of one bag, using technology and tasting new flavors. Lisa also shared the exercise classes continue to grow and the grief group has changed days and times.

New Business:

1. Ratify Conneaut Human Resource Center request for additional funds: Chair, Joe Rapose asked the floor for a motion to ratify Conneaut Human Resource Centers request for additional funds of \$1,978.75 for Senior Services Levy; Chore Services. Lynn Zalewski made the motion to ratify CHRC request for additional funds. Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Joe asked the floor if there was any discussion. Motion carried.

2. Ratify Ashtabula County Council on Aging request for additional funds: Chair, Joe Rapose asked the floor for a motion to ratify Ashtabula County Council on Aging request for additional funds of \$33,000.00 for Senior Services Levy; Chore Services. Jerry Brockway made the motion to ratify ACCOA request for additional funds. Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Joe asked the floor if the was any discussion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Senior Levy Campaign, 2025 information: The board discussed a campaign timeline and previous campaign highlights. Core members of the campaign committee are Lynn Zalewski, Ron Smith, Jerome Brockway, Joe Rapose and George Peterson. Pam Zack will remain treasure of the campaign. The board discussed reaching out to others in the community that have served on the campaign committee or might like to volunteer for the committee. Further discussion took place regarding key points, meeting schedule and important target dates. The campaign committee agreed further discussions would take place after the September 18th Senior Levy Advisory Board meeting.

Public Comment:

Adjourn

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

Next Board Meeting

September 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.