

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
January 18, 2023
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave., Ashtabula

Present

Patrick Arcaro
Jerome Brockway (Zoom)
Bob Kenyon
Emory Moore
Joe Rapose
Mary Runyan
Cristine Rutz
Sharone Sing
Dianne Solembrino
Jane Wallace
Lynn Zalewski

Absent

Mary Pepperney
Pam Zack

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington

Call to Order

Chair, Lynn Zalewski called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Lynn Zalewski asked the board to review the minutes from November 11th, 2022. After the board reviewed the minutes, Bob Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes from November 11th, 2022. Mary Runyan seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Chair, Lynn Zalewski welcomed the Senior Levy Advisory Board to a new year. Lynn directed the boards attention to the new Senior Levy Advisory Board members, Veronica Hanna, Sharone Sing and Cristine Rutz. The new members took a few minutes to share their history and background. Lynn also welcomed the returning board members, Dr. Brockway, Bob Kenyon, Mary Pepperney, Mary Runyan, and Dianne Solembrino. The board members present introduced themselves to the new members. Lynn addressed the open positions of chair and vice chair of the Senior Levy Advisory Board, for the FY 2023, and added Joe Rapose and Bob Kenyon were willing to fill those chairs if approved by the board. Lynn asked the board for a motion to except the recommendation from the board for Joe Rapose as the Chair and Bob Kenyon as the Vice Chair. Dianne Solembrino made the motion to except the recommendation from the board, Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Congratulations were extended to both members and Lynn thanked the board for their support over the past two years while she was Chair. Lynn Zalewski then passed the Chair duties to Joe Rapose. Joe Rapose thanked both Lynn and Pam for their years of serving on the Senior Levy Advisory Board and for chairing the board for the last two years.

Joe 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. Joe asked Alissa Drees for the Revenue and Expense Report.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through December 31, 2022. Alissa shared the Senior Services Levy began FY 2022 with \$994,021.17. The levy collected \$1,853,527.57 thus far from real estate taxes, and the total revenue is \$2,847,548.74. The cash balance is \$968,732.67.

Alissa presented the Ashtabula County Senior Levy 2023 Proposed Budget to the board. Alissa stated the balance forward is \$994,021.17. The estimated revenue from the Senior Levy, which was reported by the County Auditor's office, is \$1,822,736.32 with a total amount available of \$2,791,468.99. Alissa showed total expenses for the year will be approximately \$1,937,440.12, less obligations with a potential available balance of \$197,537.85. Joe Rapose asked the floor for a motion to approve the proposed FY 2023 Senior Levy budget. Mary Runyan made a motion to approve the FY 2023 proposed budget and Lynn Zalewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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 2022. Darcy brought the boards attention to Country Neighbor Program, Inc., in-home care services. CNP Homemaker was 69%, Personal Care was 42%, Chore was 69%, Companionship was 0% and Congregate Meals was 56%. Throughout FY 2022, these services have been below target. CNP Executive Director, Barb Klingensmith explained to Darcy that in-home care services have had openings for in-home care staff for all of 2022, if not longer. Barb added she has been able to fill openings at times, but the real challenge is retaining staff after positions are filled. Barb explained she has raised the hourly wages, given incentives, has provided certified training programs, to name a few. Barb shared she was participating in a round table discussion hosted by Direction Home of Eastern Ohio on Friday, January 20 where the panel will be discussing the challenges the in-home care industry is facing locally and nationally in regards to staffing.

ARHHS; Personal Care was below the target at 75%. Executive Director Susan Shadle shared they currently have two openings for home health aide positions that she has not been able to fill. As of January 1st, ARHHS was able to increase the starting wages, offer insurance, 401K, and cost reimbursement for education. Susan explained they first need to get potential employees in the door for an interview. She shared ARHHS has scheduled interviews for those qualified, but unfortunately many of those who might be potential employees do not show up for their interview. Currently, ARHHS has job positions posted on ACOMC job site, Indeed, ZipRecrutier and OMJ.

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 thirty-two (32) clients on their waitlist which is directly the result of limited in-home care staffing. ACCAA; Homemaker had twenty-seven (27) clients on their waitlist in December. When Melinda of ACCAA was contacted regarding the waitlist, she reported ACCAA waitlist numbers were down in December due to having both part time and a

full-time staff. Melinda went on to share the full-time staff member had given her resignation on that very day, leaving them with only a part time staff member for homemaker services. Melinda anticipated January's waitlist may be elevated due to the reduction in staff. Country Neighbor Program: Personal Care had five (5) clients on their waitlist for December, due to staffing.

Committee:

1. SLAB Committee reappointments: Joe Rapose brought to the board's attention that there were signup sheets circulating the table for the Senior Conference Planning Committee and the Senior Levy Campaign Committee. Joe asked the board members to please sign up for these committees prior to leaving the SLAB meeting. Joe also reminded the board, that everyone is strongly encouraged to participate in both the senior conference and senior campaign events. In addition, the Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee, Program Committee and Nominating Committee members will remind the same for the FY 2023. If there are any questions or concerns about the committee list, please contact Darcy Mosier.

2. Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee Quarterly meeting update: Lynn Zalewski summarized the December quarterly meeting with the three senior center directors on December 8th, 2022, via Zoom. Three of the four directors of the senior centers attended the meeting. Darcy Mosier started off the meeting sharing the SLAB had approved to move forward with the Annual Senior Conference, in person this year. The date of the conference will be June 9th, 2023, from 9a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lakeside High School.

Ryan Tattrie from Conneaut Human Resources said that CHRC's front lobby kiosk will soon be up and running. Ryan explained this will allow clients to independently scan in and select the activities they will be participating in at the center that day. He also added this will allow for excellent data tracking. Ryan shared clients were still not fully participating in the in-person programming as much as he had hoped after COVID-19 had closed the doors to the centers. However, Ryan said the senior clients are actively utilizing Zoom classes and presentations for programming. CHRC's Tuesday night BINGO has been successful with about 55 people attending each week. Some goals for the upcoming year would be to continue gatherings at the lakefront pavilion along with some possible day trips or even overnights.

Barb Klingensmith from Country Neighbor Program introduced the committee to Christina Paxton who is their new program director. She is developing a rapport with the clients and asking them to share what they would like to do and what they would like to see offered at their center. Barb added attendance is down at both Andover and Orwell Centers. They have recently discovered a new group of clients interested in history, resulting in them establishing a history club. Christina continues to offer virtual cooking classes with the ingredients from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Barb was happy to share this idea has sparked an interest at the state level and may even advance to the federal level. Barb feels staffing is her biggest challenge and is hoping for stabilization in 2023.

Will Boomhower from Geneva Senior Center enlighten the committee on the many challenges at their center. He shared they need approximately \$73,000.00 to \$90,000.00 to operate. Will admitted GASC has missed several grant opportunities for 2023 due to cut off dates. Will shared most of the programming from the past is gone at the center and they offer a limited number of activities. He believes they need a strong fundraising campaign to raise funds to bring programming up to what it was prior to COVID-19.

The SLAB members discussed GASC transition of Program Directors. Darcy shared she did call the center to introduce herself to the new director, Carolyn Holden. Darcy reminded Carolyn that if she had any questions or concerns to please call JFS and she would assist her in any way. Mary Runyan thought directing Carolyn to the other senior center directors for added support, would also be helpful.

Next quarterly will be in March of 2023.

New Business:

1. Funding request for 2023 Senior Conference; Chair, Joe Rapose reviewed with the board particulars of the 13th Annual Senior Services Conference which will be held on June 9th, 2023, at Lakeside High School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The board discussed the event and shared with the new board members some of the highlights from previous senior conference events. Joe asked the board for a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 donation for the senior conference. Bob Kenyon made the motion to approve the donation of \$5,000.00 towards the senior conference. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Ratify Country Neighbor Program, Inc. request for additional senior transportation funds of \$20,000.00; The board briefly discussed the additional funding request. Mary Runyon made the motion to ratify Country Neighbors request for \$20,000.00 additional funds. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Ratify Conneaut Human Resources Services request for additional funding for Independence & Wellness in the amount of \$1,470.00. Bob Kenyon made the motion to approve the additional funding of \$1,470.00 for Independence & Wellness. Jane Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried. A brief discussion followed the motion regarding the process that must be followed when providers feel there is a need to request additional funds from the senior services levy.

No public available for comment.

Adjourn

Lynn Zalewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting

March 15th, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.