

Minutes
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Meeting
January 15, 2025
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave., Ashtabula

Present

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

Absent

Veronica Hanna

Staff

Alissa Drees
Darcy Mosier

BOCC

Kathryn Whittington

Call to Order

Chair, Joe Rapose called the meeting to order and welcomed guest speaker Lisa Bruckman, Executive Director of Ashtabula County Council on Aging.

Approval of Minutes

Joe asked the board to review the minutes from November 20th, 2024. After the board reviewed the minutes, Bob Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20th, 2024. Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

Chair, Joe Rapose welcomed the Senior Levy Advisory Board to a new year and directed the boards attention to the returning/reappointed Senior Levy Advisory Board members, Veronica Hanna, Cris Rutz and himself.

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.

Funding

Alissa Drees presented the Revenue & Expense Report through December 31, 2024. Alissa shared the Senior Services Levy began FY 2024 with \$1,098,398.53. The levy collected \$1,926,757.60 from real estate taxes, and the total revenue is \$3,025,156.13. The grand total expenses are \$2,039,926.48. The available balance before the reserve is \$985,229.65. The available balance less the reserve and estimated accruals and obligations is \$247,477.23.

Alissa presented the Ashtabula County Senior Levy 2025 Proposed Budget to the board. Alissa stated the balance forward is \$985,229.65. 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 \$2,830,385.75. Alissa showed total expenses for the year will be approximately \$2,024,140.87, less obligations with a potential available balance of \$158,767.65. Joe asked the floor for a motion to approve the proposed FY 2025 Senior Levy budget. Dr. Brockway made a motion to approve the FY 2025 proposed budget and Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried. Joe asked the floor if there was any discussion regarding the 2025 Senior Levy proposed budget. Discussion continued comparing FY 2024 actual revenues verses 2025 projected revenues.

Contract Reports

Contract Report: Darcy Mosier presented the contract report. Darcy reported the providers goal to date is to have used approximately 92% of their annual budget which is through the month of November 2024. Darcy brought the boards attention to those providers who have exhausted their funding for FY 2024 or are close to exhausting their funding for FY 2024. All chore provides, ACCOA, CHRC and CNP have used all of their SL funding. CCOAC has used all of their funding for Guardianship and Payeeship. ACCAA and GASC have used all of their funding for Information and Referral and Independence

and Wellness programs. ACCAA and CNP; Home Delivered Meals are within target range, CHRC and CNP; Homemaker services are within target range while ACCAA; Homemaker is at 61%. Staffing continues to be the reason for the low use of funds. ARHHS; Personal Care is within target, while CNP has used 65% of their funding for 2024. CNP and ACTS are at the target mark for Transportation. CNP Congregate Meals has used 75% of their funding and Ashtabula YMCA Outreach 63%, which is below the funding target. CNP traditionally drops congregate meal site numbers in the winter due to weather and the YMCA outreach program believes in FY 2024 units were calculated differently and gave a more accurate account of those being served by senior levy services hence less usage of funding resources.

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 eleven (11) clients on their waitlist. This waitlist number has remained consistent throughout FY 2024. ARHHS continues to serve as many clients as their budget allows. Qualified clients will go on the waitlist until an opening becomes available. Country Neighbor Program: Homemaker had twenty-three (23) clients on their waitlist for December, which is the direct result of limited staffing and increasing need.

Committee:

1. Reappointments to Committees: Joe Rapose brought to the board's attention the 2025 Senior Levy Committee List provided in the SLAB packet. Joe added the committee member list is the same from the previous year and if anyone would like to change committees, please contact Darcy.

2. Independence & Wellness/Technology Committee Quarterly meeting update: Joe Rapose summarized the December quarterly meeting with the senior center directors Ryan Tattrie, Carolyn Holden, Barb Klingensmith and Lisa Bruckman on December 10th, 2024, via Zoom. Also joining from CNP was Jim Long, new assistant director and Tiffany Artman, program director. Barb shared OSHIP certified representative is available to facilitate Medicare education seminars/classes as well as take appointments for those who need assistance navigating Medicare open enrollment. Tiffany expressed a drop in attendees after Thanksgiving due to weather and snowbirds. CNP goal for 2025 is to continue to explore new ideas that attendees suggest and see what other centers are doing and what's working to bring in new clients. Barb also added the OAOCC will be holding their annual conference in Newark, Ohio and said she would be happy to share the information and even share a ride to the two-day event if anyone was interested.

Carolyn from Geneva Area Senior Corp. said they started a new pinocle group on Mondays and seniors seem to be really enjoying that. Carolyn added bingo Wednesday is still going strong. Carolyn shared the construction is still going on at the back entrance. Currently GASC is waiting for the lift to be installed, and the automatic doors are in, making the center ADA compliant. Goals 2025- Carolyn would love to provide prepared meals from community action as a congregate meal site. She added many of the seniors have requested it and it is needed.

Lisa Bruckman said ACCOA had 351 unduplicated clients from 7/1-10/30. ACCOA has added a bible study on Wednesdays and Lisa added the freezer meals have been slow due to the weather but felt it was temporary, and she has added repurposed arts, and a genealogy class once a month, provided by ACDL.

Goal 2025- Many trips have been planned for the year, as well as the senior prom in Geneva, and the ACCAA all county senior picnic in May.

Ryan Tattrie of CHRC was unable to rejoin the meeting due to an emergency at the facility.

Next quarterly meeting will be in March 2025.

3. Senior Levy Campaign Committee update: Dr. Brockway gave a campaign update to the board. Dr. Brockway stated the chairpersons for the committee will be doing a presentation to the BOCC on Thursday January 16th to present to the BOCC in order to meet the requirements for the resolution of necessity for the Ashtabula County Senior Service Levy to be placed on the May 6th ballot. Dr. Brockway went on to explain the resolution will then go on the BOCC agenda for January 28th. Commissioner Kathryn Whittington expressed what information the commissioners will be looking for when the Senior Levy chairpersons do their presentation. Dr. Brockway brought attention to the levy campaign committees and reminded the board there will be meetings starting soon, beginning with organizational type meetings. In April, the meetings will become more task related. Lynn Zalewski SLAB member and treasurer of the levy campaign shared the name change on the levy campaign account is complete along with securing a P.O. Box to receive donations. Organizational meetings, dates, times and locations were then discussed and established for February and March.

4. Senior Conference Committee venue update: Darcy shared Lakeside High School was not available to use for the 2025 Annual Senior Conference due to the significant damage done to the school's roof and water damage. Darcy went on to explain the Jr. High was also not an option for the conference due to the uncertainty of the district at this time. She did share two additional venue options were investigated.

Edgewood High School was available on June 12th and 13th, for set up and day of the event. The auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria were available to rent at the cost of \$500.00. Catering, and table rental for attendees and vendors were necessary. Custodial and kitchen staff were available for assistance. Darcy brought to the boards attention there is no air conditioning available at this venue except in the inner cafeteria. The cost would be approximately, \$5,6025.00, which includes venue, food, rental equipment. 6/12-6/13 were the dates available for the event to be held there.

Ashtabula Towne Square Mall was available to rent on June 6. Set up would be available 1 ½ hours before the event and take down 1 ½ hours after event. Cost was \$500.00 for mall space and additional \$250.00 for the use of the community room. Additional tables and chairs along with catering would need to be secured. Darcy reminded the board there would be no way of sectioning off the area so the free event could be limited to just the seniors of Ashtabula County. Approximately, \$5,8060 would be the cost which would include venue, food, and rental equipment. Discussion continued regarding venue options. Cancellation of the event was discussed. There was concern that if the event was cancelled, there will be a lack of interest for the following year, June 2026. All agreed it is something all seniors look forward to and it is greatly appreciated. A motion was made by Mary Pepperney to continue exploring venues and/or to secure Edgewood High School so that the annual event continues in 2025. Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Date options were discussed keeping Edgewood as the venue. After much discussion and deliberation on available dates it was determined that the annual event was going to be cancelled. Dr. Brockway said it was understandable to cancel the annual event due to Lakeside High School current high school closing from extensive damage. It was suggested by Director Arcaro to contact vendors to save the date in 2026, once Lakeside High School was available and the committee could secure a date. Lynn Zalewski suggested using social media to put out a statement. A motion was made to retract the previous motion of exploring venues and/or to secure Edgewood High School. Mary Pepperney made a motion to retract the motion, and Mary Runyan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Lynn Zalewski made a motion to postpone the annual senior conference till 2026 due to the unavailability of the preferred venue adding all other venues that were explored did not provide conditions and surroundings sufficient for the needs of the conference. Dr. Brockway seconded the motion. The board suggested scheduling a senior conference planning committee meeting to discuss alternative options to getting vendor educational information and promotional items out to the senior population that may have attended the senior conference.

5. Nominating Committee Proposed New Senior Levy Advisory Board member, Paula Pristov- Chair, Joe Rapose reviewed Paula Pristov's application to serve on the Senior Levy Advisory Board and to fill the open seat of George Peterson. Mary Runyan made the motion to approve Paula Pristov's application to serve on the SLAB and fulfill the term previously held by George Peterson. Dianne Solembrino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Funding request for 2025 Senior Conference: Funding request was tabled until further information regarding senior conference was established.

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 19th, 2025, at 10 a.m.
Ohio Means Jobs, 2247 Lake Ave.