

**Senior Millage Allocation Committee
July 1, 2011 8:00 a.m.
Calhoun County Building
Lower Level Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chair, Jim Haadsma.

Members Present: Rod Auton, Julie Camp, Shirley Clutter, Jim Haadsma, Jennie Hoffmann, Joanne Konkle, Eusebio Solis, Jill Booth, Ralph Moore

Members not Present: Arlene Bolton, Art Kale,

Staff Present: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy, Leslie Obrig

Guests Present: Tina Renea' Perry

Approval of the Agenda:

Moore made a motion to approve the Agenda, Konkle supported. ***Motion Carried.***

Approval of Minutes: Clutter made a motion to approve the minutes from June 3, 2011 with the change of I to Gibson on page 2, 4. Strategic Planning Consultation, line 1. Auton supported the motion. ***Motion Carried.***

Reports

Booth made a motion to approve the reports. Solis supported. ***Motion Carried.***

Directors Report

Re: Manager's Report for July 1, 2011 - PART ONE

This information is provided as background to the SMAC meeting.

1. RFP Process for FY 2012

Comments from Purchasing needed: Decision whether to move forward with the prior date of late July for publishing or whether we can push the process back 2-4 weeks.

2. Events and meetings of Note:

- Art Kale and Carl attended the Albion Juneteenth celebration on June 18th.
- Rodna serves as Senior Services representative to this fall's Alzheimer's Association walk-a-thon; a planning meeting held at the Fairgrounds on June 16.
- June 9 was a significant day for Elder Abuse Prevention planning a kick-off event including law enforcement, courts and human services. Rodna and Carl attended.

- Rodna, Arlene Bolton, Sherii Sherban and Carl attended a “President’s Luncheon” sponsored by Senior Services, Inc in Kalamazoo on June 23rd, to learn more about their services, including meals preparation.
- Rodna represented Senior Services at the Springfield Health Fair on June 25th.
- June 27th Community Action, AAA 3-B, and Albion officials met concerning consolidating congregated meal sites in Albion to a neutral location.
- Carl attended the AAA Policy Board meeting June 27th in B.C.
- A planning meeting with Sherii Sherban of Senior Times was held June 16 to better organize and support Senior Day at the County Fair on August 17. SMAC member participation Strongly Encouraged.

3. Meetings Pending:

- Consensus on food services from Community Action not resolved yet. CA still proposing 3-days delivery each week of frozen meals. Unsure of Branch County assessment last week of service capacity issues.
- A follow-up mtg on potential for Senior Center in Marshall scheduled for June 30, to be reported at the SMAC meeting.
- Carl will be attending the n4a (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging) conference in Washington DC July 17-20.
- Carl will attend a Food Programs Disaster preparedness mini-summit on July 7th at MSU.
- Carl will attend a State sponsored AAA Disaster Preparedness-Continuity of Operations training on July 14th&15th in Lansing with representatives from AAA3B. Calhoun Co is potentially a case-study.

4. Strategic Planning Consultation:

Rod Auton and Carl have talked with Tim Fallon of TSI Consulting to prep some process for the Planning sessions. We have proposed the Dates of August 31 (Wed) and Sept 13 (Tues) at either 3:30 or 4:00pm for up to 4 hours each day. We plan to meet in the 3rd Flr Human Resources conference rooms. Confirmation of dates received from all SMAC members other than Booth, and Haadsma. There will be some pre-meeting homework for SMAC members. (Booth confirmed dates at this meeting)

Recap Other Pending Short-term Activity

5. **A copy of the 2010 Annual Report will be distributed to the Board of Commissioners.** ACTION to formally adopt it and submit to the Board of Commissioners. Approved by voice vote.
6. **PROJECTS WITH A LIFE OF THEIR OWN FOR 2011** (these will continue until assigned to sub-committees; appoint sub-committee chairs)

PRESCRIPTION VOUCHERS: review practice of providing prescription vouchers for controlled substances, such as oxycontin & vicodin, etc.

MINOR HOME REPAIR: review the idea of freeing this money up for smaller projects serving a larger number of people and reduce numbers of furnaces and roof replacements.

Re: Manager’s Report for July 1, 2011 - PART TWO

1. Community Action update on Meal program operations.

Part One of this report was incorrect in indicating that the CA had not made a more recent decision on the meal preparation. Amanda Schmidt of CA nutrition services wrote the following message on June 13. This voided additional action proposed by AAA and this office to do a more thorough contract review of their services.

Karla and Carl, we will be vacating the Burnham Brook kitchen by July 09, 2011. We are simply relocating back to our Franklin Center kitchen here in Battle Creek. There will be no interruption of services, no change in services, or administration of those services. We will continue delivering four days a week, hot meals.

We will continue to evaluate the possibility of finding a contracted provider for meal production. However, it has been difficult to not only find an entity that is interested and capable, but the cost is much higher than we were expecting. Lakeview schools was very interested and backed out last Friday. The rate that Kzoo Senior Services was offering was around \$4.50 per meal, which would not translate into any savings for us. Therefore, we anticipate remaining in our own kitchen and managing our own production and operations.

CA was not able to find either another food provider that brought any cost savings if they were to move to Coldwater the primary food operations. And daily frozen meals were not agreed to be an acceptable alternative. This would have necessitated a review of our contract with them in changing the terms of service. They are re-starting the kitchen they operated before switching to Burnham Brook 2 years ago.

2. Proposal to sponsor satellite meal/activity center in rural community to replace the congregate meal programs that are losing support as currently operated.

Parallel with this is our review with AAA of the numbers of citizens being served in some of the rural communities. This info was presented to SMAC at the June meeting. Homer and Tekonsha, along with Lakeview Towers (2 at one complex) do not warrant continued support due to sheer numbers. And Albion is under review for justification for continuing 2 meal sites in close proximity to each other. Senior Millage service standards, along with AAA, indicate that 25 average attendees is considered a minimum needed to continue. I do not recommend that we cut them off based on numbers alone right now. My proposal instead:

Work with Tekonsha Twp and City to assess support for the concept of a Satellite Center for Seniors with local management. CA is not in the best position to reinvigorate local support for meal programs. If this service is lost here then other programs, including Whole Person Wellness and Community HealthCare Connection medical van will lose a focal point for their services. Loss of one impacts the others.

If Senior Services shifts the emphasis to more social interaction as important as the meal service, then there may be other options for local food services without the state/federal restrictions on food service. There may be a great value in introducing local groups to manage their local services, with support of Senior Services by reducing an equivalent amount of Nutrition funds to CA. Senior Health Partners is in a position to assist with management support for such a shift. Tekonsha Twp officials are very concerned about the potential loss of this social activity, as much or more than the actual food service.

Items that may require Action from the Senior Service Manager.

- Authorize the development of a plan for local implementation of services at Tekonsha and possibly Homer as test sites for senior-directed services, and report back to the SMAC by the September meeting.
- Authorize the integration of the 2 meals sites at Lakeview Towers into one meal site at the most appropriate site for service to both.
- Continue to review the Albion situation: assess the viability of the Forks Senior Center as a combined meal site, work with the City for its support, and develop a plan for informing clients and community members, introducing any change with minimal client interruption, and support the integration of new clients into any new meal site.
- Insist CA begin to support Washington Heights meal site with an on-site supervisor.
- Require CA to continue to offer the minimum 3 warm meals per week at congregate and 4 warm meals HDM per current contract terms and practice.
- Gibson will join K Fales of AAA in an assessment of nutrition services at CA to determine their continue capacity and quality of services on a continuing basis.

3. Prescription Discount Card Scheduled Phase-Out Process

- a. End all new application for Senior Discount Card effective July 1, 2011.
- b. End all renewals by no later than September 30, 2011.
- c. All support from the County for additional discounting on the Pharmacare managed program ends 12/31/2011.
- d. All registered participants in the program to be mailed a letter stating end of the program on that date; include a Calhoun County Discount Card; and strongly encourage their participation in the Medicare Part D prescription program, with new enrollment October 15 thru December 7.
- e. Communicate same to Benefits Counseling partners at AAA and Forks Senior Center, and the PDAP at Community HealthCare Connections.
- f. Communicate same to all pharmacies in the County.
- g. As necessary, provide additional support to Prescription Voucher program to assist those ages 60 and over but not yet Medicare eligible.
- h. Report this process to Board of Commissioners, and notify Pharmacare.

Errata

Senior Services office has a new **student working as an intern** again this summer. **Trevor Harris** is midway through his Bachelor's program at Miller College in Business Administration and Aging Services Management. As in past practice, he will provide additional support in the office when it might otherwise be closed, support the implementation of a feasibility and needs study for a senior/community center in Marshall, perform on-site tasks at multiple senior agencies in the county.

Tim Eggleston recently retired as Marshall Dial-a-Ride services manager, for a position in another state. We had been developing a good relationship to coordinate back-up services for senior medical appts.

Reminder: **Family Health Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration** on July 14th, 4-6PM at intersect of Emmett and Washington in B.C. Comments at 5PM. RSVP to 269-966-2600 before July 7 or call Senior Services to notify them. Participation would be important as the FHC has been valued and skilled provider of dental services to seniors for many years.

State of Michigan has authorized **Implementation of Estate Recovery** for Medicaid covered benefits, most often associated with recovery of cost for nursing home stays. It allows the state to make a claim against that person's property when they die—most often a home. This is proposed to be effective July 1, but some sources believe that additional rules will be forthcoming that tighten some of the loopholes in the policy. Michigan is the last state in the nation to implement such policy.

Senior Services received a check last week for \$19,000+ as its share of the **Casino revenue**—in lieu of property taxes. This, along with the \$5,900 from last year remains on hold for future appropriate services; notice of such utilization should be made quite publicly.

The Workgroup focusing on a **proposed senior center** in Marshall met 4:00 p.m. June 30. A request for up to \$8,900 for a feasibility/needs study is made to Senior Services. It would include a broader focus on general needs for seniors in the surrounding Marshall area.

ACTION: Approve funds in the Misc Administrative budget to support this request, with the proviso that other groups in the community be requested to cost-share approximately half of it.

Discussion:

Membership- Based on a poll of SMAC members, Gibson recommends Tina Renea' Perry name be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for membership to the Senior Millage Allocation Committee. Discussion followed by members regarding the process of membership recruitment and who is ultimately responsible for making membership decisions. Eusebio made a motion that Tina Renea' Perry's name be forwarded for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for SMAC membership. Clutter seconded the motion. *Motion Carried.*

Konkle will contact a person from Albion that she will invite to attend a meeting to determine her interest in attending a meeting to determine her interest and time availability.

Community Center- Carl reported on the meeting held on June 30, 2011, to discuss feasibility of a Senior/Community Center in the Marshall Area. Gibson discussed the possibility of Senior Millage helping with the cost of a feasibility study. Members discussed their hesitancy about Senior Services taking a lead in this. Gibson pointed out that Senior Services would not be in control, but that we should be supportive of this effort. Members felt that there needs to be a positive plan of action and positive goals.

Meal Program-Gibson reported that Community Action is going to resume meal preparation at their Franklin Center Kitchen where meals were previously prepared before moving that operation to the Burnham Brook Center. There will be no interruption of service and meal recipients will continue to receive 4 deliveries of hot meals and one frozen meal per week. Members discussed options and possible avenues to investigate.

Senior Prescription Discount Card- Gibson reminded members that we are ending all new applications for the card as of July 1, 2011. We will end all renewals September 30, 2011 and the program ends on December 31, 2011. All current members will be mailed a Calhoun County Discount and those eligible for Medicare Part D will be encouraged to enroll in that program.

Information:

Senior Day at the Fair is Wednesday, August 17, 2011. SMAC members are requested to assist with senior activities mid-day.

Gibson noted that we are reducing advertising and only advertising certain programs, because demand for some programs is higher than available funding at this time.

New Business:

RFP- Leslie Obrig from purchasing provided members with a draft time line for the Request for Proposal process and discussed briefly what will take place. Gibson asked for volunteers from this committee to help with the RFP. Konkle, Booth, Hoffmann volunteered to work on the RFP for 2012 funding year.

Strategic Planning Dates- Strategic Planning will be August 31, 2011 and September 13, 2011.

Education: Megan Reynolds –Legal Services of South Central Michigan

Megan Reynolds discussed the services provided to Seniors by Legal Services and answered questions from members, regarding those services. Home foreclosures and eviction issues are increasing.

Gibson asked members concurrence to accept Annual Report. Members adopted the report to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

Gibson introduced summer intern, Trevor Harris.

Adjournment: Auton made a motion to adjourn. Solis supported the motion. ***Motion Carried***
Adjourned 9:26 a.m.

Next Meeting: August 5, 2011 8:00 a.m.

