

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Friday, December 6, 2019 8:00 am – 9:30 am
Calhoun County Building, 315 W. Green Street, Marshall
Garden Level Conference Room

MINUTES

1. **SMAC meeting called to order by Chairperson Gary Tompkins at 8:02am. Roll called.**
 - **Attending:** Gary Tompkins, Yvonne Chapman, Richard Lindsey, Bob Lyng, Michelle Hill, Jim Powers, Tom Hunsdorfer, Diane Peters, Art Kale, Willie Tabb, Teresa Schell
 - **Absent:** Rochelle Hatcher
 - **Excused:** Jill Booth
2. **Approval of Agenda**
 - Motion to accept agenda, with revision to action item 6f from motion to approve to roll call vote – **Lindsey & Lyng: Motion, Second. Motion carried. Voice vote.**
3. **Approval of Minutes for November 1, 2019**
 - Motion to accept minutes – **Lindsey & Hill: Motion, Second. Motion carried. Voice vote.**
4. **Introductions and Citizen's Comments**
 - Introductions: Karla Fales, CEO of CareWell Services SW; Luann Sommers, Director of the Forks Senior Center; Kitty Knoll, Coordinator of Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Mary Jo Byrne, Executive Director of the Fountain Clinic; Maureen Marshall, Program Assistant at the Fountain Clinic; Jen Bomba, Director of Calhoun County Community Development
 - Citizen's Comments:
 - i. Karla Fales announced that Miles for Memories bracelets, a Calhoun County initiative, will be going statewide through a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Luann Sommers shared the Forks Senior Center congregate meal site is now open five days a week.
 - iii. Kitty Knoll thanked the Senior Millage for helping to fund through the Community Action Transportation program a Christmas light van tour including the Calhoun County Fairgrounds Merry Mile.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Manager's Report**

The Senior Services' office is continuing to work on an email distribution issue, and apologizes for the inconvenience to SMAC members who are new or have new email addresses. This problem will be corrected for meetings going forward.
 - b. **Budget Report as of 11/30/2019**

Most programs are on track for spending through the end of the year. PERS & CCO are 30 days behind in billing as they subcontract these services and have to wait to be billed before seeking reimbursement from the County. Final 2019 bills from all vendors will be due February 14. Last year we served 6,400 seniors, this year through October we have served 5,300. Helen distributed a

Calhoun County Senior Services Mission:

Enhance, promote, and ensure the availability of needed quality services for Calhoun County seniors through the effective and efficient allocation of County Senior Millage resources.

spreadsheet showing the countywide distribution of those served with Senior Millage dollars, through October 2019.

6. New Business

a. Joanne Konkle Senior Services Achievement Award 2020

Guzzo recommends sponsoring this award again in 2020 and giving the subcommittee the option to award one or two awards, depending on the quality of nominees received. **Schell & Kale move to award a maximum of two awards next year, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion carried.** Kale, Schell, Hunsdorfer, Lyng, Hill & Powers volunteered to sit on this subcommittee.

b. Senior Hearing & Vision Programs Contract Amendment

Guzzo recommends moving \$5,000 at the request from the Calhoun County Health Department from the Hearing program which has experienced lower demand this year to the Vision program to cover a short fall in the Vision Program. **Powers & Lyng, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 11-0, with one excused, and one absent.**

c. Fountain Clinic Dental Program Supplemental Request: \$50,544

Mary Jo Byrne and Mo Marshall from the Fountain Clinic presented that while they were surprised at the large gap in program funding, they explained that the Fountain Clinic does not get final bills until all work is completed, and while a treatment plan is completed for each patient, unexpected health issues crop up. Prices have increased, and some high-risk patients have been referred to Battle Creek Oral Surgery due to underlying health conditions. The Fountain Clinic is currently maintaining a wait list for the dental program, but it is manageable, and they are still able to accommodate emergencies. Mary Jo and Mo further explained that Millage dollars only fund treatment, while cleanings and screenings are covered by the Fountain Clinic's own fundraising, of which 303 cleanings had been provided to 220 patients through the end of November. If Millage dollars are unused at the end of the year, the Fountain Clinic bills some cleanings and screenings, but this does not usually happen. This happened in 2018 after not spending \$20,000 in 2017. In her Manager's Report, Guzzo provided the five-year history of funding and numbers served in the Dental Program.

Because of the large supplemental they are requesting; the Fountain Clinic are not asking for an administrative fee on top of the supplemental. If SMAC did not approve the supplemental, the Fountain Clinic would have to pay their bills with money from their general investment fund, which currently stands around \$1 million. Mary Jo sees dental and oral health as the next frontier in medicine and believes this will be a continuing issue for seniors as Medicare does not cover dental work, and people are living longer. **Hunsdorfer & Lyng move to approve the supplemental request. Lindsey moves to add the usual 10% administrative fee (\$5,000) on top of the supplemental request and asks to make this additional fee a separate vote. Roll call vote taken. Vote on administrative fee passed 7-4, with one excused and one absent. Vote on original request passed 11-0, with one excused and one absent.** The supplemental will now go to the Board of Commissioners for approval at the December 19 meeting. Hunsdorfer cautions SMAC against giving vendors money they haven't asked for, as this may set an unintended precedent for the future.

d. Renew for Seniors: Senior Millage Renewal Campaign

Lindsey gave a recap of the first meeting, which was held on November 21st, with ten in attendance including four SMAC members. The campaign committee is currently working to invite chairs and honorary chairs. Lindsey will be chair, Peters will be treasurer. Next steps are working to create a

budget, flyers, and digital media. Luann Sommers and Kitty Knoll will ask for senior center volunteer to put together a mailing sometime in 2020. Karla Fales submitted a grant to Allegra for printing and is working on submitting grants to community foundations. The next meeting will be held on **January 16 at 6pm** at the Marshall Public Library.

e. Haven of Rest request to consider funding emergency shelter Discussion

Helen and Tom Hunsdorfer met with Daniel Jones, Executive director of the Haven of Rest, the only emergency shelter in Calhoun County besides SAFE PLACE Domestic Violence Program. Helen believes Jones would welcome one-time funding, possibly through the Senior Strategic Project Fund, but he is really looking for ongoing funding to support the shelter. This could be a topic to discuss at strategic planning, as we would have to cut other programs to support this one. Hunsdorfer would like to continue conversations to look for opportunities to support the homeless senior population. Kale wonders about looking at root causes of homelessness, as opposed to treating it afterwards. Schell explains that Medicaid does not support assisted living, and to qualify for Waiver or PACE services, a senior must have a home residence. Another issue is that not all senior housing is subsidized, so it eats away at monthly income. Guzzo will schedule a tour of the Havens programs and invite SMAC members to learn more about the program and the problem. Lindsey and other SMAC members would like to see Jones come to SMAC with a request to develop specific senior programs, as opposed to funding a percentage of the shelter's budget.

f. Senior Strategic Project Fund

Approving this fund would mean \$1 million of fund balance would be transferred into a senior strategic project fund, with approval from the Board of Commissioners. An approval today would only create the project fund account, criteria for funding projects would be decided later.

Hunsdorfer & Schell move to open discussion and create a Senior Strategic Project Fund. Peters would like to see funding cycles created, as opposed to using a first-come, first-serve model, to ensure comparability. Kale thinks that Senior Millage dollars should only be used for services and suggests that revenue sharing from Firekeepers and Personal Property Tax (PPT) reimbursement from the state funds could be set aside into an annual fund, similar to the structure of the Local Revenue Sharing Board. Lyng suggests increasing mini budget limit from \$5,000 to fund smaller projects. SMAC asked for a special January meeting just to discuss the project fund. **Hunsdorfer revises his motion and moved to schedule a January meeting. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed, 11-0, with one excused and one absent.** Guzzo and Chairperson Tompkins will work to set a January date.

7. Next regularly schedule SMAC Meeting: Friday, February 7, 2020, 8am, Senior Health Partners' renovated space at the Battle Creek Family YMCA, 28 Penn Street Entrance located on the back side of the Family Y Center, near the corner of Capital Ave. and Penn

8. Upcoming Events:

- Date and time in January TBD, **SMAC Senior Strategic Project Fund meeting,**
- Friday, March 20, 9:30am-3:30pm, **SMAC Strategic Planning,** Miller Manor, Battle Creek
- Wednesday, April 8, 9am, **Senior Fair,** Marshall Middle School
- Thursday, May 21, **2020 Centenarian Luncheon,** Schuler's in Marshall

9. Adjournment at 10:11am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner