

## Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Friday, March 1, 2019 8:00am – 9:30am  
Calhoun County Building, 315 W Green Street, Marshall, MI

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### MINUTES

1. **SMAC meeting called to order by Chairperson Gary Tompkins at 8:02am. Roll called.**
  - a. **Attending:** Art Kale (left at 8:35am for another meeting), Gary Tompkins, Tom Hunsdorfer, Richard Lindsey, Willy Kalnins, Jim Powers, Willie Tabb via Skype, Teresa Schell via conference call, Rod Auton, Michelle Hill, Diane Peters
  - b. **Absent:** Rochelle Hatcher, Jill Booth
  
2. **Introductions and Citizens Comment:** Karla Fales, CareWell Services; Luann Sommers, Forks Senior Center, Albion; Megan Banning, Calhoun County Finance; and Mary Jo Byrne, Fountain Clinic
  
3. **Approval of Agenda for March 1, 2019**
  - a. Motion to accept agenda with changes made on March 1, 2019 – Lindsey & Powers: Motion, Second and Approved. **Motion carried.**
  
4. **Approval of Minutes for February 1, 2019**
  - a. Motion to accept minutes with corrections to Gary Tompkins name spelled without an H. – Lindsey & Kalnins: Motion, Second and Approved. **Motion carried.**
  
5. **Vendor Presentation: Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM)**

Given by Alisa Parker, Managing Attorney, LSSCM provides general civil legal services for low-income persons and senior citizens in south and central Michigan counties. Primarily focus on domestic relations, housing, public benefits, consumer/debt collection matters, and utilities. Battle Creek office serves Calhoun, Branch, and Barry counties. Services provided specifically for seniors include simple wills, power of attorney documents, simple deeds for purposes of estate planning, and assistance with getting the Home Heating Credit. Any senior, regardless of income, can get an intake through legal services. In 2018: advised 280 seniors concerning various legal issues, assisted 5 seniors with getting utility service restored, assisted 16 seniors with getting the home heating credit, represented 17 seniors in eviction proceedings and preserved housing, and prepared 18 durable power of attorneys for seniors.
  
6. **County Finance Fund Balance Report**

Given by Megan Banning, Deputy Controller with the County, who works mostly with budgeting. Historically, underspending by vendors, unbudgeted personal property tax reimbursement from the state, and unbudgeted payment in lieu of taxes payments dollars from Firekeepers have led to accrual of a large fund balance. It is hard to predict tax dollars, so there is always going to be some margin of error with budgeting. In 2018, Senior Services spent down \$187,000 of the fund balance, which is a good thing. Senior Services is expected to continue to spend down the fund balance. County policy is to

maintain 8-12% of prior year expenditures to maintain a responsible fund balance. This policy is being reviewed, looking at mandating fund balances be kept at three months expenses, which roughly equates to 25% of expenditures. If property tax stabilizes, we can budget better. Ideas to spend down fund balance: funding large projects and/or making special allocations. In 2015, SMAC voted to direct Firekeeper's money to senior center operations, but this was never put into place with Finance.

## **7. Reports:**

### **a. Transportation Flyer**

Idea inspired by Lindsey, who observed Oaklawn staff were unfamiliar with senior transportation options in the County. Guzzo wanted to emphasize that there are more options than just Community Action for seniors. Moving forward, Rozeveld will look at the possibility of having two different versions: one specifically for seniors and one for the general public. Auton wondered about quality control, Guzzo responded that transit providers would be removed from the list if complaints were received by the Senior Services office.

### **b. 2018 Annual Report**

GIS was able to normalize data and give us the percent of seniors served in each township and county. This data leads to the question: How do we reach seniors living in low-served townships?

### **c. 2019 Budget Report – See the Contract Spending Report for February 28, 2019**

### **d. Senior Fair & SMAC volunteer sign-up**

SMAC members are needed to sign-up to staff the Calhoun County Senior Services table, as Guzzo, Rozeveld & Stevens will have other items to attend to during the event. If you did not sign up at the meeting and are interested, please contact the office. 55 vendors have signed up so far, there are 20-30 spaces left. Highlights for this year include the debut of the Great Brain from Miles for Memories, and the inflatable colon from the Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition. Steven's goal is to maintain a more accurate attendance count than previous years.

### **e. Manager's Report – discussion on Strategic Planning, March 22nd**

Guzzo & Tompkins have been brainstorming discussion topics. Guzzo will be emailing out a draft of topics to discuss later this month, please respond with your thoughts and feedback. Planning will take place 9am-3:30pm, at Oaklawn. Information on where to park and how to enter building will be sent – the Strategic Planning Session will be in the Maple Room or large classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Wright Medical Building, please park in the parking garage across the street.

### **f. Hearing & Vision update – Richard Lindsey**

Oaklawn is talking to an optometrist and ophthalmologist about sharing a space in an Oaklawn building in Albion. Primary physicians are interested because one federal requirement for diabetic patients is an eye exam, so they will be able to send these patients right around the corner instead of hoping they go get an eye exam another time. Possibility of a summer opening? Senior Millage is also looking at investing in a hearing booth as part of this project.

## 8. New Business

- a. **Revision to the Prescription Assistance Min. Service Standard to allow for payment of co-pays and deductibles – no supplemental funding request at this time.**

Asking for ability to use senior millage funds to pay co-pays exceeding \$40. These are seniors living at 200% or less of the federal poverty level. Powers & Lindsey, Motion & Second. Voice vote taken. Approved 10-0, with 3 absent.

- b. **Contract Amendment for the Personal Emergency Response System Program, adding 10% to the remaining contract for administration. Would add \$6,000 for 2019 & 2020.**

Guzzo supports. Not a huge waitlist. Kalnins & Hill, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Approved 10-0, with 3 absent.

- c. **Mini-grant: City of Marshall, Albion Marshall Connector - \$3,500.**

Currently running at a deficit, hoping transit study will bring some relief. Tabb & Lindsey, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Approved 10-0, with 3 absent.

- d. **Mini-grant: Accessible trail at Kimball Pines - \$5,000**

Brief presentation from Nancy Macfarlane. Accessibility is a current issue, as trail is currently crushed gravel. Propose to pave ½ mile section of trail. County is considering paving another ½ mile to make a full mile loop. Estimate is \$65,000, but does not include tree removal, etc. Will be used by Calhoun County Medical Care Facility residents and Marian E Burch Adult Day Care clients. Opportunities for passive recreation in the future. Lindsey & Powers, Motion & Approved. Roll call vote taken. Approved 10-0, with 3 absent.

- e. **Mini-grant application: Marshall House Exercise Equipment - \$5,000**

Guzzo does not support because it is not feasible to fund exercise equipment at all other senior complexes, and this would not be a countywide initiative. Peters suggests looking at used equipment from Athletico and other places. Lindsey supports, argues County finance says to spend fund balance. Auton wants to wait to vote until strategic planning, so we can have a further discussion on wellness. Tompkins suggests tabling. Kalnins & Lindsey, Motion & Second. Motion carried to table until strategic planning. Approved, 10-0, with 3 absent.

## 9. Save the following dates for upcoming Senior Services events:

- a. Tuesday, March 5, 8:15am, **Site Visit**, Charlotte Senior Center & ALIVE Center
- b. Saturday, March 16, 10am-11am, **Spin for Miles for Memories**, Family Y Center, BC
- c. Friday, March 22, 9am-3pm, **SMAC Strategic Planning**, Oaklawn meeting room
- d. Thursday, April 4, 10am-1:30pm, **2019 Calhoun County Senior Services Health Fair**, Marshall Middle School
- e. Friday, April 5, 8am, **SMAC Meeting**, Marshall County Building
- f. Thursday, May 23, 11:30am, **Centenarian Luncheon**, Schuler's in Marshall
- g. Thursday, August 8, **Senior Day at the Ball Park**, CO Brown Stadium, Battle Creek
- h. Wednesday, August 14, **Senior Day at the Calhoun County Fair**, Marshall

## 10. Adjournment: Tompkins, 9:52am

Respectfully submitted, Kate Rozeveld