

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, November 6, 2020 8:00am – 9:30am

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:02am.

- a. **Attending:** Jim Powers, Gary Tompkins, Willie Tabb, Bob Lyng, Diane Peters, Jill Booth, Yvonne Chapman, Tom Hunsdorfer, Richard Lindsey, Art Kale, Teresa Schell (8:20am)
- b. **Absent:** Rochelle Hatcher
- c. **Excused:** Michelle Hill

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to accept agenda – **Tabb & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 10-0 with one absent and two excused.**

3. Approval of the October 2, 2020 Minutes

- a. Motion to accept minutes – **Lyng & Kale: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 10-0 with one absent and two excused.**

4. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

- a. **Introductions:** Karla Fales, CEO, CareWell Services; Brad Wilcox, Assistant Administrator, Calhoun County; Dan Pontius, Director of Operations, Senior Services of Southwest Michigan; Jen Bomba, Community Development Director, Calhoun County; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Linda Grap, Director, Senior Health Partners; Lucy Blair, Communications Manager, Calhoun County; Laura Ferrara, CEO, Senior Care Partners PACE; Kitty Knoll, Coordinator, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Carl Gibson; Nichelle Payne, Family Services & Volunteer Coordinator, Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity; Stacy Wines, Chief Program Officer, CareWell Services
- b. **Citizen's Comments:**
 - i. **Heritage Commons:** Kitty Knoll shared that while the center remains closed, Heritage Commons is offering virtual lunch and learns in November and December and they also have an ongoing exercise class. Manager Helen Guzzo sent flyers and the most recent newsletter to SMAC earlier in the week.
 - ii. **Carl Gibson:** concerned about the future of Heritage Commons.

5. Vendor Presentation: Organizational Changes to Senior Health Partners

Linda Grap, Director, Senior Health Partners

Laura Ferrara, CEO, Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E.

Senior Health Partners Director Linda Grap is retiring at the end of 2020 after 17 years serving Calhoun County seniors. While the “pay to play” model of Senior Health Partners (SHP) has been successful for the past 20 years, COVID-19 has changed things so this model is no longer

sustainable for Senior Health Partners to now become a part of Senior Care Partners PACE. PACE has served as the fiduciary for SHP for over 10 years. All staff except Linda will remain, so PACE CEO Laura Ferrara does not see any changes to current Senior Millage programming. Contracts are already through Comprehensive Senior Care Corporation (PACE is a doing business as), so there will be no contractual changes. Laura will fill Linda's position until a permanent manger/director can be hired in 2021.

6. Reports

a. Budget Report

After receiving September invoices, 41% of contractual funds remain with 25% of the year left to bill. The Meals program will start to draw down more dollars as the federal and state fiscal years just started. Transportation has 65% of funds not spent, and they are asking to reallocate \$20,000 of those unspent dollars to do a marketing campaign after COVID-19 cases start to decrease again to promote all the safety protocols in place to protect both riders and drivers. Minor Home Repair has talked with Helen about adding \$60,000 each year to the remaining years in the current contract, this could come from the unfunded Heritage Commons contract (\$50,000) and the SHP Partnership (\$25,000) which is not required with the new model of SHP being a business unit of SHP instead of a "pay to play" collaboration.

Manager Helen Guzzo added the Senior Strategic Projects to the balance sheet. Albion Community Gardens and Senior Care Partners PACE have already made draws. The four contracts end December 31, 2021.

Guzzo is estimating anywhere from \$500,000 to \$750,000 in contractual spending being left over at the end of the year. Brief discussion on using unspent dollars to creatively combat social isolation in seniors as we continue to see the COVID-19 pandemic drag on. Tom Hunsdorfer suggested forming a Task Force to examine how to address social isolation involving SMAC members and vendors. Yvonne Chapman volunteered to serve on such a subcommittee.

b. Manager's Report

The 2021 RFP subcommittee met virtually and heard presentations via Zoom last week. The only vendor change is the Ramps program switching from the Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity to Senior Services of Southwest Michigan.

Manager Helen Guzzo supports Community Action's request to reallocate \$20,000 in the transportation program to marketing. This funding would be sent as an advance and Community Action would report against it, likely in 2021. Helen just wrote a letter of support for Community Action to start a fare card system to make Battle Creek Tele-Transit, Marshall Dial-a-Ride and Community Action all the same cost.

Continuing conversation on volunteerism and underserved townships. The Senior Services office occasionally receives phone calls for requests for services that do not fit into the 22

funded programs. How do we partner with area churches and volunteer groups to create volunteer teams that could mobilize rapidly when a senior is in need of timely assistance such as moving? Vendor staff met with the supervisor of Leroy Township in October to talk about potential programming options, and will meet later this month with Convis, Fredonia, Lee, and Pennfield townships to have a similar conversation.

Ongoing conversation around Heritage Commons and its relocating to a new site. SMAC members recommend that Heritage Commons form into a nonprofit organization instead of being a program of CareWell Services. A nonprofit would be more of a community partnership and would contract with CareWell Services for management services as in the model of the Forks Senior Center. Diane Peters has joined the Steering Committee. A site selection committee has been formed, and hopefully a capital campaign committee will organize as well. The contractual amount of \$50,000 has been included in 2021 budget but no bids were received so these will be unassigned dollars. CareWell has received other funding for senior center operations and felt like it did not make sense to also apply for Senior Millage funding. CareWell Services could apply later in the year if we issue an RFP, likely for Senior Strategic Projects or for the 2022 contractual RFP. Discussion around the Heritage Commons Steering Committee not meeting from March to October and if CareWell would continue to provide if the Steering Committee did move to incorporate as a 501c3.

7. New Business

a. 2020 RFP Recommendations for 2021; all contracts for 3 years

- i. Bed Bug Remediation, Senior Services SWMI: \$30,000
- ii. Benefits Counseling, CareWell Services: \$40,000
- iii. Community Care Options, Comprehensive Senior Care Corp dba SHP: \$400,000
- iv. Handy Helper, Senior Services SWMI: \$40,000
- v. Hearing, CareWell Services, \$60,000
- vi. Personal Emergency Response System (PERS), CareWell Services
Year 1: \$76,168 Year 2: \$75,000 Year 3: \$75,000 = \$226,168
- vii. Prescription Assistance, The Fountain Clinic: \$30,000
- viii. Senior Center Operations, Albion: Forks Senior Center: \$50,000
- ix. Senior Center Operations, Marshall: No proposals received
- x. Senior Ramps, Senior Services SWMI: \$30,000
- xi. Vision Services, CareWell Services: \$25,000

Powers & Lindsey: Motion & Support. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 11-0 with one absent and one excused.

b. Community Action Senior Transportation Contract Amendment

Approve using \$20,000 of underutilized funding for an advertising campaign.

Powers & Lindsey: Motion & Support. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 11-0 with one absent and one excused.

c. Handy Helper Minimum Service Standard Revision

Manager Helen Guzzo met with Handy Helper staff to rewrite the Minimum Service Standard to include a section on continuous service, including snow removal for Meals on Wheels clients and mowing for seniors who live in municipalities that ticket for tall grass. **Lyng & Peters: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 11-0 with one absent and one excused.**

8. Upcoming Events:

- a. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, December 4, 2020, 8am**
- b. October 15 – December 7, Medicare Open Enrollment**

9. Good of the Order

Carl Gibson shares he is excited about opportunities for Senior Health Partners that joining PACE offers and appreciates the grow of PACE and its acceptance in the aging field and to the public. Carl was recently appointed to the State Advisory Committee to the Commission on Services to the Aging and will be sure to keep SMAC in the loop of any relative state developments. Jim Powers and Tom Hunsdorfer reiterate their desire to see a SMAC subcommittee or task force work on fighting social isolation in seniors. Manager Helen Guzzo and Chairperson Gary Tompkins will have a conversation and figure out next steps to make this happen.

10. Adjournment at 9:26am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner