

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, January 8, 2021 8:00am – 9:30am

MINUTES -- Revised

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

- a. **Attending:** Commissioner Gary Tompkins (Homer Township, MI), Michelle Hill (Emmett Township, MI), Diane Peters (Marshall, MI), Willie Tabb (Albion, MI), Tom Hunsdorfer (Albion, MI), Richard Lindsey (Marshall, MI), Commissioner Rochelle Hatcher (Battle Creek, MI, left at 9am), Jim Powers (Marshall Township, MI), Yvonne Chapman (East Leroy, MI), Jill Booth (Village of Homer, MI, left at 9am), Art Kale (Village of Homer, MI), Bob Lyng (Marshall Township, MI)
- b. **Excused:** Teresa Schell

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to accept agenda – **Lindsey & Lyng: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.**

3. Approval of the December 4, 2020 Minutes

- a. Motion to accept minutes – **Powers & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.**

4. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

- a. **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo (Battle Creek, MI), Specialist Kate Turner (Marshall, MI), Intern Emily Batch (Battle Creek, MI)
- b. **Introductions:** Dr. Daniel Brauner, Chief of Geriatrics at WMU School of Medicine & board member for Senior Care Partners PACE; Laura Ferrara, CEO, Senior Care Partners PACE; Jen Bomba, Community Development Director, Calhoun County; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Susan Vanderweide, Manager, Senior Health Partners; Kitty Knoll, Coordinator, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Carl Gibson; Maureen Mickus, professor at WMU; Lucy Blair, Communications Manager, Calhoun County; Brad Wilcox, Assistant Administrator, Calhoun County
- c. **Citizen's Comments:** none.

5. Special Presentation:

Senior Strategic Projects funding of Grandpads Technology in the Senior Care Partners PACE Program & The effects of Social Isolation on Older Adults
Laura Ferrara, CEO, Senior Care Partners PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)

Calhoun County Senior Services

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Vision: Calhoun County Senior Millage - Funding choices for seniors, age 60 and over, while promoting health, safety, dignity and independence

Daniel Brauner, MD, Chief, Geriatrics, Western Michigan University, Stryker School of Medicine

Dr. Brauner shared information from several academic journals relating social isolation and loneliness to negative health outcomes. Laura Ferrara reported on health outcomes that PACE tracks in their participants, and how those have improved since receiving a Grandpad. Most changes have been modest, but still significant. Laurel, a PACE participant, joined to share her experience with her Grandpad and had great things to say about the device.

Diane Peters was able to share her screen with the committee so that SMAC members could see what her admin screen looks like for her mother-in-law's Grandpad. Senior Millage has funded the purchase of 100 Grandpads for the PACE program.

6. Reports

a. Budget & Manager's Report

Governor Whitmer recently announced that individuals aged 65 or older could start receiving the COVID-19 vaccine starting Monday, January 11. The Senior Services office is assisting with scheduling, and staff will also assist with clinics. Interested seniors can call the hotline at 269-441-0912. **Currently all appointment slots are full, and a waitlist has been created until more clinics are scheduled.**

b. Heritage Commons Senior Center Steering Committee

Diane Peters reported that the steering committee met in December and heard a presentation from a volunteer architect regarding initial drawings for the old Goodwill space in the K-Mart Plaza complex in Marshall near the I-69 exit. There is an additional space available next door, which the committee is also considering adding to the plans. Still no firm plans to sign a lease for the former Goodwill space.

c. Reducing Social Isolation Subcommittee

Co-chair Tom Hunsdorfer reported that the subcommittee met in December, and will meet again on Monday, January 11 and then every other Wednesday until the March 5 SMAC meeting. The purpose of the subcommittee is to present an action plan with specific recommendations at the March meeting. Maureen Mickus will be sharing her research about loneliness and social isolation at the January 11 meeting.

7. New Business

a. Mini-Grant: City of Marshall, Albion-Marshall Connector - \$3,500

If the countywide transportation effort were to move forward, that could alleviate the need for funding to cover the current deficit. **Lindsey & Powers: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with three excused.**

b. Mini-Grant: Neighborhoods, Inc. Housing Rehab Administrative Support - \$5,000

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Discussion on how SMAC can help get the word out about these services. This is another route to fund necessary home repairs/modifications, in addition to Community Action's Senior Minor Home Repair program. **Lyng & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with three excused.**

c. Mini-Grant: CareWell Services Safe@HomeKits - \$5,000

SMAC members may be called upon to help assemble and deliver kits. Due to seniors being moved up in priority for the COVID vaccine, this project will be pushed back until things calm down, hopefully in February. **Peters & Tabb: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with three excused.**

8. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, February 5, 2021, 8am-9:30am

9. Upcoming Events:

- a. Senior Millage All Vendor Meeting, Wed., Jan. 13, 9am-10:30am
- b. Calhoun County Ramps & Housing Rehab. Coordinating Committee, Wed., Jan. 20, 8:30am-9:30am
- c. Calhoun Professionals in Aging Network: *Update on the COVID Pandemic and Vaccines*, Thurs., Jan. 28, 8:30am-9:30am with Richard Van Enk, Ph. D., Director, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology for Bronson Healthcare

10. Adjournment at 9:42am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner

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