

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Toeller County Building, Basement Conference Room

190 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49014

Friday, July 9, 2021 8:00am – 9:30am

(2nd Friday of the month due to July 4th holiday)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 8am

- a. **Attending:** Commissioner Gary Tompkins, Tom Hunsdorfer, Yvonne Chapman, Jim Powers, Willie Tabb, Art Kale, Michelle Hill, Commissioner Jake Smith, Diane Peters, Dominic Oo, Jill Booth (8:02am), Bob Lyng (8:04am)
- b. **Excused:** Richard Lindsey

2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and June 4, 2021 Minutes

- a. Motion to accept agenda and minutes: **Powers & Hill: Motion, Second. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.**

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments – 2nd in person SMAC meeting

- a. **Staff:** Helen Guzzo, Kate Turner, Rebecca de Finta
- b. **Introductions:** Kitty Knoll, Manager, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Karla Fales, CEO, CareWell Services; Jen Bomba, Director, Calhoun County Community Development; Dan Pontius, Director of Operations, Senior Services of Southwest Michigan; Shane Williamson, Executive Director, Albion Community Foundation (via Zoom)
- c. **Citizen's Comments**
 - i. Karla Fales: CareWell Services is continuing to encourage folks to get the COVID vaccine in partnership with the Albion Health Care Alliance and the Population Health Alliance; paying ambassadors \$15/hour to canvas door-to-door; has t-shirts for those who have been vaccinated.
 - ii. Kitty Knoll: Heritage Commons is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Marshall United Methodist Church, please come visit; ice cream social today, Friday, July 9, from 2-4pm to celebrate fourth anniversary.
 - iii. Luann Sommers: The Forks Senior Center reopened on Tuesday, July 6th and over 90% of those who have come in have reported being vaccinated!
 - iv. Dan Pontius: Senior Services of Southwest Michigan has funding through the Athens Community Foundation specifically for ramp builds, safety modifications, small home repairs, etc., please spread the word to those you may know in the Athens area. Senior Services is working to reopen the congregate meal sites that closed during the pandemic, and conversations have been renewed with the Copper Kettle in Athens about launching a restaurant dining program.

4. Reports

a. Centenarians of Calhoun County Project

24 of the 35 Calhoun County centenarians agreed to participate in this storytelling project. The grand unveiling will be held **Friday, July 23rd from 2-4pm at the Marshall United Methodist Church**. It will be an open house-style reception and is open to the public. Please invite your friends and family. The office is working on a schedule of festivals and fairs to display at, and a sign-up sheet will be emailed later this month asking for volunteers to help staff the table.

b. Budget Report/Administrative Budget Adjustments

Manager Helen Guzzo and Specialist Kate Turner continue to keep a close watch on both program spending and the number of seniors served. Mid-year reports are being sent out to vendors with a July 31st due date, and vendors are asked to reflect on their rebuilding efforts and spending through the first six months of the year. A summary of the mid-year reports will be presented at the August SMAC meeting, along with the 2022 contractual RFP amounts which will require approval.

Guzzo wants SMAC to be aware that Jeff Short from Community Action's Minor Home Repair is going to ask for a change to the minimum service standard to increase the project limit from \$3,500 to \$4,300, maybe just for furnaces. They will also be asking for a supplemental of \$30,000-\$50,000. Laura Ferrara from Senior Care Partners PACE will be asking SMAC to revise the Community Care Options minimum service standard to include allowing funding for caregiver support activities.

c. Manager's Report/Review Strategic Planning Agenda

Brief discussion on the importance of paying attention to emerging trends and issues and how fund balance can be strategically used. This will be a topic at Strategic Planning on Friday, August 20th. Manager Helen Guzzo shared the proposed Strategic Planning agenda with SMAC and asked for any revisions by July 29th.

d. Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center

Carl Gibson is leading the Grow With Us fundraising campaign, and an online campaign has been launched through Patronicity, and can be found at: https://www.patronicity.com/project/grow_with_us_heritage_commons_senior_center_renovations#!/. The fundraising committee has a goal of raising \$50,000 by September 30th. As far as renovations to the new site go, an electrician was out to the site this week and flooring samples will be in soon.

5. New Business

a. Increase Mini-Grant Contractual Spending budget by \$25,000

\$25,000 was originally budgeted for the Senior Health Partners partnership but as that was dissolved, this money is currently unobligated. **Booth & Lyng: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 12-0 with one excused.**

- b. Contract Amendment to Senior Services, Inc. Ramps for Accessibility program because of wait list of 14 and demand for the program for \$50,000 and for allowing building and inspections fees be charged as a line item in addition to a per unit fee per linear foot for the cost of the ramp.**

\$50,000 was offered in the 2021 RFP for Senior Center Operations in Marshall but received no bids, leaving this money unobligated in the 2021 budget. Director of Operations Don Pontius explained that permitting and zoning costs have increased and vary widely by community, as well as lumber costs have increased dramatically. A brief discussion was held on the large cost difference between wooden and metal ramps, with a wooden ramp averaging \$3,000 versus a metal ramp averaging \$5,000. It was also mentioned that wooden ramps can get quite slick in wet weather, and Pontius shared that weather stripping can be requested but is not a part of the standard ramp build.

Powers & Hill: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 12-0 with one excused.

- c. Bohm Theater in Albion: Mini-Grant Request for Senior Matinees \$5,000**

As the Bohm Theater reopens and rebuilds, this is an opportunity for older adults to get out and enjoy a free movie and discounted concessions. Age, gender, zip code, and race/ethnicity will be collected at the door to measure which populations are being served. If an older adult comes with a younger caregiver or aide, they will not be turned away.

Powers & Tabb: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 12-0 with one excused.

6. Upcoming:

- a. *Unveiling of the 2021 Centenarians of Calhoun County*, Friday, July 23, 2021, 2pm-4pm
Open House style reception, Marshall United Methodist Church, 721 U.S. Hwy. 27N
- b. *CareWell Services Annual Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Implementation Plan*, Monday, July 26 at 4:30pm, 200 W. Michigan, Kool Family Community Center, Lew Boyd Rm
- c. *Awarding of the Joanne Konkle Award to Linda Grap*, Thursday, Aug. 5
Reception at 6pm in the Law Library, 3rd Floor, Marshall County Building
Resolution at the Board of Commission Meeting at 7pm
- d. ***Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, August 6, 2021, 8am-9:30am at the Albion Community Table, Albion College, Wesley Hall, 705 E Michigan Ave., Albion***
- e. *SMAC Strategic Planning*, Friday, August 20, 2021, 9am-3:30am
Miller Manor, 310 WahWahTaySee Way, Battle Creek, 49015
- f. *Calhoun County Walk to End Alzheimer's*, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2022, Binder Park Zoo

7. Adjournment at 9:09am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
Strategic Planning
Friday, August 20, 2021, 9am-3:30pm
Miller Manor, 310 WahWahTaySee Way, Battle Creek

- 1) Opening Team Building Activity
- 2) Review what we've accomplished
 - Fund balance
 - Progress made since Zoom Strategic Planning Retreat, August 2020
 - How are staff spending their time?
 - Review priorities established in previous strategic planning
 - SMAD identified challenges and success
- 3) Review Senior Strategic Projects funding to date
Have funded projects achieve our goals?
- 4) Review marketing efforts
- 5) Have utilization of services for underserved populations increased?
 - Township outreach – Example of success in Lee Township
 - Men
 - Minority Populations – Burmese, Spanish speakers, African Americans
- 6) How are we encouraging and supporting volunteerism?
 - Senior Ambassadors
 - Commodity Distribution
 - New efforts?
- 7) How do we continue to reduce social isolation and encourage physical activity/wellness?
- 8) What other emerging trends do we need to be aware of to accomplish our mission?

Strategic Priorities 2019/2020

- 1) Be good stewards of Senior Millage tax dollars by funding effective and efficient services needed by older adults, age 60 and over, to live the best possible health, safety, dignity and independence.
- 2) Encourage collaboration among service providers and units of local government to maximize the use of Federal, State, United Way, and other local funding available to serve older adults.
- 3) Have a highly effective and trained staff to manage the competitive request for proposals process, organize special events, assess and evaluate programs, respond to requests for information, help individual seniors solve problems, and provide Medicare/Medicaid counseling.
- 4) Improve the marketing of Senior Millage-funded programs so that the public is knowledgeable about them and makes referrals to the programs to those in need in the community.
- 5) Support the Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) so that SMAC is a trusted and respected decision-making committee.

Calhoun County Senior Services Mission:

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

Vision:

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

Core Values:

- Seniors have **access** to the services they need because the delivery system is **well-coordinated** and **collaborative**.
- Seniors are **valued** members of our community.
- Seniors have **choices** about **where** and **how** they live in our community.
- Seniors can live **independently** in the community as long as possible.