

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, November 4, 2022

8:00am-9:30am, In-Person

Marshall County Building, Garden Level Conference Room

315 W. Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** at 8:05 am
 - a) **Attending:** Tom Hunsdorfer, Dominic Oo (8:06), Jim Powers, Diane Peters, Bob Lyng, Michelle Hill, Shirley Tuggle, Tom Tarkiewicz, Willie Tabb
 - b) **Excused:** Jake Smith, Gary Tompkins, Bobbie Smith

2. **Approval of Agenda and October 7, 2022, Minutes** **Action: Voice Vote**

Motion to accept agenda and minutes with a name correction for member, Tom Tarkiewicz Lyng & Tabb, Motion & Second. **Voice vote. Motion Carried 9-0 with three excused.**

3. **Introductions and Citizen's Comments**
 - a) **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo, Specialist Rebecca de Finta, Administrative Assistant Teri Zadigian
 - b) **Introductions:** Jack Reed, Marshall; Paulette Porter, CareWell Services; Isabell Nazar, Homer; Jen Bomba, Community Development; Shane Williamson, Albion Community Foundation; Marsha Starkey, Albion Senior Housing Commission (via Zoom), Abby Finn, Milestone Senior Services (via Zoom), Jeff Short, Community Action Agency (8:21)

4. **SMAC Member Interviews – Nomination would go to the Board of Commission, Nov. 17, 2022**
 - a. **Discuss nomination process**

We proposed filling a partially completed term that would terminate in April 2023. Because of the Open Meetings Act we cannot go behind closed doors to discuss candidates even though this process can cause embarrassment to the applicants. One idea that was proposed is doing the nomination process with a subcommittee. Another proposal would be to meet the candidates one time prior to having to decide at the first meeting. There will be a discussion regarding this matter at the SMAC meeting in December 2022 or January 2023.
 - b. **Isabell Nazar, Homer**, vote 6 – 3 in favor, Isabell is the nominee for the open SMAC seat.
 - c. Jack Reed, Marshall, The Vice Chair thanked Jack for reapplying for a seat on SMAC.

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

5. Special Presentation – Albion Senior Housing Commission, final report for the 2020 Senior Millage Strategic Project contract: \$150,000

Marcia Starkey, Co-Director, Albion Senior Housing Commission

Shane Williamson, Albion Community Foundation

Shane Williamson, Albion Community Foundation shared that in December of 2020, Albion Community Foundation founded the Senior Housing Committee. In January 2021 they started commission meetings and asked the community what they wanted to see regarding senior housing. They worked with Brick Street Marketing to promote the project to developers. They engaged over 100 area residents in a discussion as to what type of housing they wanted and with local organizations to see how this project would benefit them. They Identified 11 potential sites in Albion and did not turn down any proposed sites. From March 2021 to March 2022, they sent out a market study survey to residents and Albion College alum with the results finding that Albion and the Eastern side of Calhoun County could support 100-150 units of independent living. One of the developers, BRIO, formerly United Methodist Retirement Communities, dispersed their own study and received record returns with positive results. They just announced that the Albion Community Foundation and BRIO have a partnership for this project. The money that SMAC approved got them to the point where they could attract a developer who can make this project a reality.

6. Budget & Managers Report

Helen Guzzo

Senior Services Manager, Helen Guzzo, shared that Dick Rutkoskie has met with Brenda Hunt and Stacey Wines about creating more programming at the Kool Family Center. There is a commitment to form a group of older adults that can work with various organizations, including us. Senior Ambassador, Cheryl Roberts, has been asked to co-chair a work group with Dick about this. Senior Millage could possibly shift funding from the Benefits Counseling program over to Senior Center programming in Battle Creek. We already provide funding for Senior Centers in Marshall and Albion.

Community Action Senior Transportation has been brainstorming about how to get seniors over to Kalamazoo or Jackson for medical appointments which would take them over county lines. MDOT rules are that you cannot take vehicles that they pay for across county lines. The proposal is to purchase or assist with a purchase of a small van to take those seniors across the county lines.

Neighborhoods, Inc. (NIBC) received a \$5,000 mini-grant for a study and recommendations about homelessness among older adults in Calhoun County, but NIBC has had some leadership changes. Helen is meeting with the interim CEO, Whitney Wardell on Monday, November 7th. Do they want to return the funding or progress with the study/recommendations?

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7. New Business

Action: Roll Call Votes

- a. **Amend 2020-2023 Meals contract to increase unit costs for reimbursement, Home Delivered Meals, \$6.45 to \$8.00, and Congregate/Restaurant from \$7.25 to \$8.50**
 Our meals contract with CareWell Services is \$482,000. The meals are subcontracted with Milestone Senior Services to make and deliver the nutrition programs. Traditionally for every \$1.00 spend in the meal program, 52¢ comes from CareWell Services through State and Federal funding, and 48¢ is paid by Calhoun County Senior Millage. In 2012 the food provider changed from Community Action to Milestone Senior Services because of service/quality issues. CareWell will not be requesting any supplemental funding for 2022, but there probably will be a supplemental funding request in 2023 depending on the availability of other state and federal funding and the demand for the program in the community. The quality of food has been very high. Paulette Porter shared there hasn't been a unit rate increase since 2017 even with the increases in food costs. The intent of Milestone Senior Services and CareWell Services is to expand the Restaurant program beyond the Copper Kettle in Athens. Discussion of the closing of the Albion Congregate site at the Forks and the success of the meal site when it was at a local church, the program intends to open a restaurant dining program in Albion in 2023.

Peters & Hill, Motion & Second. Roll Call Vote taken. Motion Carried 9-0 with three excused.

- b. **Retain the income limit of 250% of 2023**

SMAC decided to raise the income standard in 2022 from 200% of poverty to 250% of poverty. It has been successful in helping more seniors and contributed to the rebuilding of the numbers of older adults served by funded programs. The County has increased spending this year through supplementals. Senior Millage is still retaining a healthy fund balance so that the income limit increase can continue in 2023 and then there will be another year of experience to determine if Senior Millage can afford to make the income limit increase permanent.

Powers & Tuggle, Motion & Second. Roll Call Vote taken. Motion Carried 9-0 with three excused.

2022 Poverty Guidelines up to 250%

Annual			
Household/ Family Size	100%	200%	250%
1	\$13,590	\$27,180	\$33,975
2	\$18,310	\$36,620	\$45,775
3	\$23,030	\$46,060	\$57,575
4	\$27,750	\$55,500	\$69,375

Monthly			
Household/ Family Size	100%	200%	250%
1	\$1,133	\$2,265	\$2,831
2	\$1,526	\$3,052	\$3,815
3	\$1,919	\$3,838	\$4,798
4	\$2,313	\$4,625	\$5,781

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c. **2023 Meeting Calendar – When to do Strategic Planning?**

Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo is requesting that the SMAC meetings be moved to second Friday in April, July & September. Does the August Strategic Planning work? Because there is so many issues to discuss, SMAC decided to have a January meeting on January 6.

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 14 (*moved to 2nd Friday*)

May 5

June 2

July 14 (*moved to 2nd Friday*)

August 4

August 11 – SMAC Strategic Planning, 9am-3:30pm

September 8 (*moved to 2nd Friday*)

October 6

November 3

December 1

Powers & Oo, Motion & Second. Voice Vote taken. Motion Carried.

8. Old Business -Minimum Service Standard Revision for the Minor Home Repair program, increase the program limit to \$7,000 instead of 2 times in a lifetime with a \$3,500 program limit

Community Action Assistant Director of Housing/Weatherization, Jeff Short shared that they are proposing changing the language to the minimum service standards and providing a comprehensive list that outlines scope of program for minimum service standard.

Powers & Oo. Motion & Second. Voice Vote taken. Motion Carried.

9. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, December 2, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

10. Adjourned 9:41 am

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca de Finta

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