

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, April 1, 2022

8am-9:30am, In-Person

Burma Center, 765 Upton Avenue, Springfield, MI 49037

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:03am

Attending: Tom Hunsdofer, Michelle Hill, Dominic Oo, Commissioner Gary Tompkins, Diane Peters, Commissioner Jake Smith, Shirley Tuggle (8:13 am), Jim Powers

Excused: Willie Tabb (joined via Zoom as member of the public), Bob Lyng, Yvonne Chapman, Richard Lindsay, Jill Booth

2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and March 4, 2022, Minutes Action: Voice Vote

Motion to accept agenda and minutes

- a. Jim & Michelle: Motion & Second. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

Staff: Kate Turner, Specialist; Helen Guzzo, Manager; Rebecca de Finta, Administrative Assistant; Julia Brandt, Intern

Introductions: Abby Finn, Director of Operations, Milestone Senior Services; Jeff Hargus, SMAC Applicant; Pam Lasley, SMAC Applicant; Tha Par, Executive Director, Burma Center; Paulette Porter, Chief Program Officer (by Zoom), CareWell Services; Anne Clark, Manager, Senior Health Partners; Isabelle Nazer, community member from Homer.

Citizens Comments: None

4. Special Presentation: Tha Par, Executive Director, Burmese American Initiative, The Burma Center

5. Executive Director Tha Par gave the history of the Burma Center along with information about the services they provide not just to the Burmese community, but to the larger Battle Creek/Springfield community as well. In addition, she gave an overview of the vision they have for the future of the center and what will be required in order to achieve that vision, in terms of their capital campaign.

6. SMAC Interviews for a new member/Vote on Recommendation to the Board of Commission

- a. Pamela Lasley, Springfield, MI

- b. Jeff Hargus, East Leroy, MI

SMAC voted to recommend Pamela Lasley of Springfield to fill the open seat recently vacated by Jill Booth. Powers & Oo: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 8-0 with four excused. This recommendation will go to the Board of Commissioners for approval at their April 12th meeting.

7. Reports

a. Update on Heritage Commons Renovation/Relocation, Paulette Porter via Zoom

CareWell's Chief Program Officer Paulette Porter shared that the exterior signs have been installed which has attracted attention to the project. The contractor is ratcheting up work, so they are progressing quickly, installing fixtures and appliances. A slideshow was presented with photos shown of game room, kitchen, multi-purpose room and library. The financials were given showing they have raised \$350,000.00, but still need \$34,398.00 to complete the project with \$257,375.00 in expenditures to date. CareWell has applied for two grant requests totaling \$55,000.00. Their anticipated opening is in May 2022. They are planning to do a soft opening and donor event and then have the grand opening in July 2022. In-person programming for their temporary location at the Marshall United Methodist Church is returning to in-person starting April 4, every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

b. Budget Report, Helen Guzzo

To date, SMAC has approved 3 mini-grants totaling \$11,000 and increased contractual spending to over \$3 million. The first phase of Strategic Projects is due April 12. Abby Finn, Director of Operations for Milestone Senior Services, shared that Milestone has hired a new home repair tech that will be specific to just Calhoun County, and the home repair department is starting to bill ramps with 2022 funding. They have recently wrapped up ramps started in 2021 by completing 7 ramps in March 2022.

c. Manager's Report, Helen Guzzo

Manager Helen Guzzo shared that the Kool Family Center is finally reopening. SMAC has never been asked to fund anything for Kool Family Center in the past, but they are in need of upgrades including having their pool tables refinished so there may be a possible future mini-grant request. The Senior Ambassador group has been vocal that there is no central programming spot for older adults in Battle Creek, whereas both Marshall and Albion have vibrant senior centers. Helen informed the group that while it seems odd to possibly award mini-grant dollars to the Battle Creek Community Foundation, BCCF works hard to balance the budget for the Kool Family Center to ensure it does not become a drain on the Foundation's general budget, and they raise their operating dollars from tenant rents. Brief discussion was had on previous conversation about a senior fair passport program, which Paulette Porter, Chief Program Officer for CareWell Services, said is still very much in the works.

Senior Services had their All Vendor Meeting on March 23, which went very well and vendors report 2022 is off to a good start. The Senior Fair planning committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 7 to discuss a future Senior Fair in late summer/early fall. Helen is meeting with Mary Frisby and a consultant on Tuesday, April 5 to discuss a re-opening plan for Adult Day Care at Marian Burch. Helen highlighted the wild success that Milestone has had with the restaurant dining program at the Copper Kettle in Athens and looks

forward seeing the program expand to the Duck Lake Tavern and the Tekonsha Café. This is an innovative model that could traditional congregate dining sites and works to engage both younger seniors and men.

On Wednesday, April 6, SMAC members were invited to attend site visits/tours of True Care Living, a pickleball demonstration at Full Blast, Village of Mill Creek, and lunch at Kingdom Builders International. These organizations have made it known that they intend to submit for Senior Strategic Project funding, so these tours will help SMAC understand what the needs are and see the facilities for themselves. All SMAC members are invited and encouraged to attend. Directions on how to get to each facility, where to park, and where to enter the building will be sent out ahead of the visits on Wednesday.

Senior Millage brochures have been updated, printed and distribution has started. If any members would like brochures, please stop by the office to pick them up. Helen also shared that the Substance Abuse Council received the medication lock boxes they purchased with a mini grant from SMAC, and these lock boxes are now available to be distributed. Anyone who would like a box can contact the Senior Services office.

8. New Business

Action: Roll Call Votes

a. Approve the 2022 Joanne Konkle Leadership in Senior Services Award

Art Kale, Dominic Oo, and Michelle Hill will serve on the selection subcommittee. Powers & Tuggle: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carries 7-0 with four excused, one not present.

b. Milestone Senior Services, Handy Helper Program Supplemental Request: \$35,000 Brian Penny, Home Repair Program Supervisor

Handy Helper has spent down a large portion of its contract due to all the snow received in February and having to plow Meals on Wheels clients' driveways and sidewalks several times. Peters & Hunsdorfer: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carries 8-0 with four excused.

c. Mini-Grant Request: Walk the Beat, Albion Farmers Market Music - \$5,000 Cliff Harris, President, Walk the Beat – Albion

Tuggle & Smith: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carries 8-0 with four excused.

9. Tour of the Burma Center

10. Upcoming: Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, May 6, 2022, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

a. Wednesday, April 6, 9am-2pm, Site Visits to probable Senior Strategic Projects

b. Tuesday, April 12, 3pm, Senior Strategic Projects Letters of Intent due

c. Tuesday, April 19, 10am-Noon, Down listing of Strategic Projects

d. Calhoun Professionals in Aging, Thurs., April 28 at Lakeview Assisted Living in Battle Creek, 8:30-9:45

11. Adjourned 9:22am

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca de Finta