

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, May 6, 2022

8am-9:52am In-Person

Garden Level Conference Rom

Marshall County Building, 315 W Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Attending: Gary Tompkins, Tom Hunsdorfer, Bobbie Smith, Willie Tabb, Diane Peters, Bob Lyng, Shirley Tuggle, Jim Powers, Pam Lasley, Dominic Oo

Resigned before the May 6th meeting: Richard Lindsey

Excused: Michelle Hill

Absent: Jake Smith

2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and April 1, 2022, Minutes Action: Voice Vote

- a. Motion to accept agenda and minutes: Bob & Willie Motion & Second. **Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 10-0 with one excused and one absent.**

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

Staff: Kate Turner, Specialist; Helen Guzzo, Manager; Rebecca de Finta, Administrative Assistant; Jen Bomba, Director, Community Development

Introductions: Jack Reed, Heritage Commons Advisory Board Chair; Luann Sommers, Director, Forks Senior Center; Lenn Reid, City of Albion City Commissioner; Haley Snyder, City Manager, City of Albion; Abby Finn, Director of Operations, Milestone Senior Services; Pat Fosdick, Board Member, Village of Mill Creek; Kitty Knoll, Manager, Heritage Commons Senior Center; Anne Clark, Program Manager, Senior Health Partners; Annette Chapman, Senior Vice President, Battle Creek Community Foundation (by zoom); Isabell Nazer, Homer; Jennifer Bouchard, Property Manager, Village of Mill Creek; Kris Hirzel, Occupational Therapist, Senior Care Partners/P.A.C.E., Karen Hagemann, Senior Care Partners/P.A.C.E.

4. Special Presentations:

a. Senior Care Partners/P.A.C.E. Use of Grandpads

Kris Hirzel, Occupational Therapist, SCP/P.A.C.E., and Karen Hagemann, SCP/P.A.C.E.

Employees of Senior Care Partners/P.A.C.E. provided a presentation on the P.A.C.E. program's use of Grand Pads devices highlighting the benefits which included socialization, especially during COVID. Because of the Grandpad, P.A.C.E. transitioned to virtually programming such as BINGO, Coffee Hour Story, interactive community programming, connection to family and connection to healthcare providers. They gave examples of clients who benefitted from devices, especially the visual aspects vs just a phone call. The devices are also used to include families in real-time care plan meetings. One of the functions is a calendar that keep track of meetings, appointments, reminders (e.g., medications, doctor appointments, transportation pick-up) all in one place which allows for greater

independence. When not in use it can displays photos and time/day. It can act as a lightweight, portable photo album which can assist with memory and encourages mental activity with games and music. Its simplified navigation can be set up remotely by family members and caregivers.

b. Expansion of the use of volunteers for Transportation and Senior Companions

Abby Finn, Director of Operations, Milestone Senior Services

Milestone Senior Services is developing a larger volunteer program focusing on Calhoun County. The intention is to provide a stipend of \$3.00 per hour up to 30 hours/week. One of the services these volunteers would provide is transportation to appointments, shopping, church services and other activities including travel between counties, which is currently the biggest gap for free transportation options. The program is based off volunteer availability so there is no set times or days. There will be mileage reimbursement at federal rate if the volunteer would like reimbursement. They also want to develop a companion program for socially isolated individuals. They want to track those individuals who have standing, regular appointments that can be matched with a regular driver to develop a friendly relationship for that individual. The program is currently requesting a week advanced notice but as they gain more volunteers, it will become more flexible. This program is non-income based but will accept donations. All volunteers will need to go through a background check, driving record check and provide current insurance. Milestone has supplemental insurance that can cover what individual insurance policies do not cover. Currently Milestone is the federal and state authorized grantee for the Senior Companion Volunteer Program and the Retired Service Volunteer Program (RSVP).

5. Reports

a. Budget Report

Helen Guzzo

Notice the change in the amount of contract funding for the ramps program. A contract Amendment for Ramps for Accessibility to expand time limit to Dec. 31, 2022, is needed later in the meeting to create authority for Milestone Senior Services to complete spending of supplemental funds awarded to the Ramps for Accessibility program in 2021. This contract amendment corrects a mistake the Senior Services Manager made in forwarding 2021 funds to the Ramps program after Milestone Senior Services couldn't spend all of its supplemental funding in 2021. A lump sum of \$30,150.65 was made in January 2022 for Milestone to complete ramps from the waitlist. The County's auditors raised concerns about this lump sum payment for work that is being completed in 2022 and not 2021, so County Finance moved the funding into 2022. This contract amendment extends the time that Milestone Senior Services has to spend \$30,150.65, the remaining part of the \$50,000 supplement made in August 2021. Milestone was unable to complete all the requested ramps in 2021 because their building staff were out of the office in Nov. and Dec. 2021 sick with COVID and were unable to complete construction of requested ramps. Since the start of 2022, Milestone has completed 9 ramps. They submit pictures of the ramps as they are completed.

b. Manager's Report

Helen Guzzo

Robert Holt oldest living man in Calhoun County since the recent passing of Ray Malotte. Because of this, the Centenarian Celebration date will be moved from July 22 to July 15 to accommodate Mr. Holt's ability to be present at the celebration. We are hoping to have the event at Heritage Commons Senior Center once it is open. There was discussion about

using Lance Satterthwaite, facilitator for Strategic Planning meeting again this year. He has served as the strategic planning facilitator for the past three years. He had been doing county wide training so that's how Helen found him. The cost is \$3,500 to spend day with the group and prepare a final report. Gary, Jim and Diane all voiced their approval of him, and the rest of the committee agreed to invite him back this year. The location will be at the Eckford Community Center. Even though it is not airconditioned, the location is lovely and the facility well-appointed otherwise.

c. **2022 Senior Fair, Thursday, Sept. 8, Battle Creek** **Rebecca de Finta**

The Senior Fair is returning this year. It will be held **Thursday, September 8 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Kellogg Arena** instead of the Marshall Middle School so there is more room to accommodate vendors and spread-out participants. There will be room for around 100 vendors and there is an enclosed room off of the main arena for presentations so participants can better hear the presenters. We will have enough time slots for 4 presenters, one ever ½ hour. There will be a concessions window staffed by arena staff that will serve the coffee, tea, water and donut holes. Milestone Senior Service's catering service, Generations, will be catering the sandwiches. We anticipate around 800 people attending this year's event.

6. New Business

Action: Roll Call Votes

a. **Contract Amendment for Ramps for Accessibility to expand time limit to Dec. 31, 2022**

Jim & Tom Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.

b. **Mini-Grant: City of Albion, Amenities for Holland Park: \$5,000**

Hailey Snider, Albion City Manager and Lenn Reid, Albion City Council Member discussed the need for an ADA Picnic table at Holland Park. The table they have sourced would be a larger style table to accommodate more people in addition to wheelchairs. They would also like to add horseshoe pits and trash receptacles. Their ask includes shipping costs, and they would have Albion's DPW crew do the installation. The park is an intergenerational park which is why they feel it is important to accommodate all fitness levels into the design. Physical activity is important for seniors, so they want to make sure the park is accessible to them. In addition to these features, they will be expanding the walking area to for exercise. **Willie & Dominic Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.**

c. **Mini-Grant: Emergency Generator, Village of Mill Creek: \$5,000**

At the beginning of the discussion Helen disclosed that she has been a secretary of the Village of Mill Creek board for the past three years, so she has a conflict of interest, however she is not a voting member. Pat Fosdick, Village of Mill Creek board member and Jennifer Housing Administrator, began the discussion with covering what had been discussed during the April 6 tour for committee members since some members were not present. The Village of Mill Creek serves the senior population, 62 years old and older who are low income. They are funded by HUD. Currently there are 45 residents that live there.

They identified buying an emergency generator a few years ago and have been brainstorming for some time on how they would reach the large goal they had set for themselves. They have received grant through CareWell Services that bumped them to their final stages of fundraising which is why they are reaching out to SMAC in order to capture those final dollars in order add that extra layer of security and safety for their residents should there be a power outage. They competitively bid the project securing five bids and selected Shouldice Brothers and they have been very gracious with extending the timeframe that VMC could gather the funding prior to signing the contract to get the project started. They have also guaranteed the price of the generator even though VMC has not signed the contract yet. Power loss is frequent enough to interrupt the safety of their building with many of their residents who cannot use stairs. The generator will allow for power to the common areas of the entire building, the security systems, elevator, community room and administration office, just not in individual resident units.

Bob & Diane Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.

d. Mini-Grant: The Battle Creek Community Foundation for the Kool Family Community Center, Pool Table Reconditioning: \$2,511

This is the first time the Battle Creek Community Foundation has requested any funding from the committee. Most of their revenue for the Kool Family Community Center runs off the rental of additional spaces, however, that income has not been available due to pandemic. Their other sources of revenue are generated by philanthropic activities. The billiard area has been the most popular activity at the center. Although the tables were replaced seven years ago, funded by donations and they were “top notch” quality, the felt and cue sticks have become worn over the years. The felt on the tables are only meant to last around five years and the amount of daily play they see are causing faster wear. Ron Caddy, a member and player, stepped up and worked with KFCC on getting a quote on the replacement of felt and new cue sticks.

Shirley & Jim Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.

7. Upcoming: *Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, June 10, 2022, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building*

8. Adjourned: 9:52 am