

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, June 10, 2022

8am-9:30am In-Person

Garden Level Conference Rom

Marshall County Building, 315 W Green Street, Marshall, MI 4968

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:01am

Attending: Gary Tompkins, Diane Peters, Tom Hunsdorfer, Bobbie Smith, Willie Tabb, Michelle Hill, Shirley Tuggle, Dominic Oo, Bob Lyng, Jim Powers (8:06am)

Excused: Pam Lasley

Absent: Jake Smith

2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and May 6, 2022, Minutes

Lyng & Tabb, Motion & Second. Voice vote. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused, one absent.

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

a. **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo, Specialist Kate Turner, Administrative Assistant Rebecca de Finta

b. **Introductions:** Chuck Asher, COO, Community Action; Luann Sommers, Director, Forks Senior Center; Isabel Nazer, SMAC applicant; Tom Tarkiewicz, SMAC Applicant; Rod Auton, Administrator, Albion Healthcare Alliance; Jack Reed, SMAC Applicant; Kitty Knoll, Manager, Heritage Commons; Taylor Rossi, Nutrition Programs Manager, Milestone Senior Services (via Zoom); Paulette Porter, Chief Program Officer, CareWell Services; Marsha Starkey, Market Rate Senior Initiative (via Zoom); Laura Jones, Intake Manager, Community Action; Linda Kolmadin, Albion Senior Housing Alliance (via Zoom); Courtney Iobe, Interim CEO, Community Action

c. Citizen's Comments:

1. **Transportation:** Chuck Asher, Community Action, shared that the increase in driver pay saw initial success in attracting new drivers but has since tapered off. Several of their new drivers are off on medical leave, which has caused capacity to take a hit. Transportation is working with the Albion Health Care Alliance to identify homebound older adults in the Albion area who could benefit from having a food box delivered several times a month. This is part of Community Action's effort to work toward continually have a van on east side of the county.

2. **Minor Home Repair:** Chuck Asher, Community Action, notified the committee that the Minor Home Repair program would be requesting additional supplemental funds at the July meeting. Their original contract of \$150,000 was obligated by the end of February, and the first supplemental of \$200,000 is almost completely obligated as well. Minor Home Repair is a high demand program that helps low-income older adults be able to stay living in their homes, independent and living safely in their community. They are often in the homes on fixed incomes which

makes it harder for them to maintain these homes. Chuck suggests that when Minor Home Repair comes up for bid again in 2023 that the committee consider increasing the contract amount to \$300,000/year.

3. **Heritage Commons:** Jack Reed, Steering Committee Chair, announced that Heritage Commons will be holding a donor event on Tuesday, June 21st at 4pm. Members are very excited to move into the new space!

4. **SMAC Interviews for a new member/Vote on a recommendation to the Board of Commission**

- a. ~~Jack Reed, Marshall, MI:~~ withdrew due to an employment conflict.
- b. Isabell Nazar, Homer, MI
- c. Tom Tarkiewicz, Marshall, MI – Tom won the coin toss done to resolve two tie votes. Two roll call votes were taken both resulting in a 5-5 tie. A coin toss was agreed upon to determine the winner. Manager Helen Guzzo tossed a coin and Tom Tarkiewicz won. His nomination will go to the Board of Commissioners at their July 21st meeting, and Tom’s term will be start at the August 5th SMAC meeting.

5. **Reports**

a. **Budget Report**

Manager Helen Guzzo shared that the \$90,000 for Adult Day Care has yet to be reallocated. She has suggested to the Marian Burch Adult Day Care Advisory Committee that the \$90,000 could be reallocated with a contract amendment to serve as a start-up grant to rehire staff for Marian Burch and pay staff during the reopening when not at full capacity and receiving enough reimbursements to cover staff costs. Other spending is on target, and several supplemental requests are expected next month including MHR, PERS and Hearing.

b. **Manager’s Report**

A written report was provided by the Senior Services Manger.

c. **2022 Senior Fair, Thursday, Sept. 8, Kellogg Arena**

Administrative Assistant Rebecca de Finta shared those Senior Fair registrations are open and have gotten off to a slow start. The thought is that vendors are getting back into the groove of doing special events and registrations will hopefully pick up later this summer. A mailing will be going out to previous vendors who have not yet registered.

6. **New Business**

a. **Community Action, Home Heating Assistance Supplemental Request: \$50,000 Courtney Iobe, Interim CEO, and Laura Jones, Intake Manger**

The need for Home Heating Assistance has increased dramatically, especially with rate increases for all household fuels. Breathing issues and less activity leads to using more electricity use in the summer. Even though the past two years have seen an increase in clients, Community Action was able to assist a larger number of people because of pandemic money, but that is no longer available. In 2022 they have had 40 brand new

clients. The \$50,000 additional funding will assist with the increased need. Senior Millage sets a program cap of \$1,000 of assistance per year per household, and there are quite a few people who have already reached their cap. This contract amendment will go to the Board of Commission for approval on July 21, 2022.

Powers & Oo, Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.

b. Mini-Grant: Albion Health Care Alliance, Commodity Distribution/Senior Food Assessment - \$5,000, Rod Auton, Administrator, Albion Healthcare Alliance

The Albion Health Care Alliance has been coordinating the commodity distribution at Peabody Place & George Mather Apartments since the pandemic started. This distribution happens eight times a year. When they deliver food boxes, they also address not just food insecurities, but also provide other socioeconomic support as well. One of the findings from the Albion Food Summit was a barrier to access to transportation to distribution sites and food pantries. There is a need for an assessment to determine just which older adults are having access issues to food distributions. **Lyng & Tabb Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.**

c. Senior Millage Strategic Project Recommendations/Will go to the BOC on July 21, 2022

- 1) Albion Community Foundation, *Age Friendly Community, an AARP Initiative* – Up to \$86,400**
- 2) Albion Community Gardens, *Hoop House for Winter Gardening* - \$19,951**
- 3) Guardian Finance and Advocacy Services, *Technology Success Program/Cyber Security* - \$20,000**
- 4) Senior Services, Inc. DBA Milestone Senior Services, *Volunteer Recruitment Campaign* - \$19,600**
- 5) True Care Living, *Garden Activity Center* - \$150,000**

Peters & Tuggle Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. (Tabb abstained from Albion Community Gardens vote) Motion carried 10-0 with one excused and one absent.

7. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, July 1, 2022, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

8. Upcoming Community Events:

- a. Centenarian Celebration, Friday, July 15, 2-5pm, Marshall**
- b. 2022 Senior Fair, Thursday, Sept. 8, 9am-1pm, Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek**
- c. Health and Safety Senior Fair, Thursday, Oct. 6, 10am-2pm, Tekonsha Township Hall**
- d. Miles for Memories, Community Event, Saturday, Sept. 17, Festival Market Square, Battle Creek**
- e. Walk to End Alzheimer's, Saturday, October 1, 2022, Leila Arboretum, Battle Creek**

8. Adjourned at 9:20am

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca de Finta