

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
April 1, 2011 8:00 a.m.
Calhoun County Building
Lower Level Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Vice Chair, Jill Booth.

Members Present: Rod Auton, Arlene Bolton, Jill Booth, Julie Camp, Shirley Clutter, Jim Haadsma, Jennie Hoffmann, Viola Johnson, Art Kale, Joanne Konkle, Ralph Moore

Members not Present: Tiana Cannon, Eusebio Solis,

Staff Present: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy, Brad Wilcox

Guests: Janet Dickerson

Approval of the Agenda:

Moore made a motion to approve the Agenda, Johnson supported. ***Motion Carried.***

Approval of Minutes: Clutter made a motion to approve the minutes from March 4, 2011. Konkle supported the motion. ***Motion Carried.***

Reports

Gibson noted 2010 YTD Balance sheet fund balance is higher than had been anticipated due to lower spending for Prescription Vouchers because of Part D and Home Heating Assistance spending was lower than anticipated due to other resources that Community Action was able to utilize. Gibson also noted that we had received \$5900 from Casino revenue that was not budgeted for. Gibson suggested that this committee address the issue of the fund balance in the near future. Bolton made a motion to approve the reports. Clutter supported. ***Motion Carried.***

Meeting turned over to Chair Haadsma upon arrival.

Directors Report

This information is provided as background to the April 1st SMAC meeting.

Gibson discussed the following items with committee members:

1. RFP Process for FY 2012

The wheels of progress require that we start planning ahead for the RFP process for the next FY. A draft timeline is attached to this document, pending Purchasing review. This timeline is just to give members an idea of the time involved so they can plan accordingly.

2. 2011 Health Fair in Marshall

Implementation continues for the Marshall Area Senior Health Fair on April 7, at the Marshall Middle School cafeteria. We are set for 56 vendors and possibly 400 seniors walking through. But it is to be remembered that the event is not just for seniors but also for those who are caregivers and family members.

Please inform us if you are seeing the ads in Senior times, BC Enquirer Senior Connections, Shopper, Advisor, and local papers in Albion to Tekonsha area, (this helps determine best publicity sources) and are you hearing or have you heard the ad on WBCK mornings this week and possibly WBMX afternoons?

REQUEST; We could use a couple volunteers at the health fair for registration, or moving people around, or helping with lunch, etc.

Rep Kate Segal is scheduled to attend around 10:30 for a Welcome that will also include staffers joining from Rep Jase Bolger's and Sen Mike Nofs. We are requesting that Co Board members and SMAC members make an appearance if possible. This is one way we give back to the community for supporting the Millage.

3. Policy/Practice Decisions Made this Month:

- Statement for Minor Home Repairs that purchase under terms of a Land Contract meets the requirement of home ownership for application-eligibility purposes.
- Statement to Fountain Clinic, with concurrence of Counsel Lindsey, that the proposal by Fountain Clinic to provide services up to \$9,261 without reimbursement would fully offset the amount that Senior Services was charged without actual dental services being rendered, due to employee embezzlement in first half of 2010.
- Meeting with Community Action concerning the large budget tightening that are pending due to CSBG funds being cut, food and gas prices going up. They are shifting food preparation from Burnham Brook in BC to all of it being done from their kitchen in Coldwater. Proposal to reduce number of congregate sites, rely more on frozen meals (including ensure clients able to use microwave safely), and reduce number of days of hot meal delivery. ACTION: Meet jointly with AAA and SMAC participation for final recommendations.

Recap Other Pending Short-term Activity

4. Strategic Planning in the Near Future:

Rod Auton, Teresa Durham and Gibson met to discuss next steps. There was consensus to focus on two facets: 1) Strategic Planning as a format for SMAC participation, the development of an active document. The time for this step should not be lengthy, possibly 2 sessions, up to 4 hours each. It would go around the traditional focus of developing Mission, Vision and Goals/Objectives. Ms Durham provided names of another firm in the area that might provide an alternative from the prior proposal received. 2) The facet is the Needs Assessment component: what are we to be focusing our resources towards in the future. It is agreed that it is less meaningful for Senior Services to do this as a solo project; it needs the participation of other key players in the field of aging services, particularly AAA 3B. It does not behoove Senior Services to extend funds to an agency not in alignment with our purposes; if we remain simply the 'gap filler' for others service priorities then we have little ability to determine the effectiveness of expenditures other than the self-report of contractors.

5. PROJECTS WITH A LIFE OF THEIR OWN FOR 2011 (these will continue until assigned to sub-committees)

INCOME ELIGIBILITY: Review Poverty Level Guidelines and impact on eligibility.

TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS: 1) review need for a process to allow for discounted cost for groups trips between 2 points; 2) review need for a backup plan in which one of Contractor 3 wheelchair lift vans is out of commission.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARD: review senior Millage discount card vs. the general benefit of the County Rx discount card.

PRESCRIPTION VOUCHERS: review practice of providing prescription vouchers for controlled substances, such as vicadin, etc.

MINOR HOME REPAIR: review the idea of freeing this money up for smaller projects serving a larger number of people and reduce numbers of furnaces and roof replacements.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Part II

For April 1, 2011

Legislative Issues:

- The Item-Pricing law is about to be signed that eliminates the individual pricing of retail store items. However one may feel about its value, it tends to be popular with folks of low income and not able to absorb errors in pricing between the shelf and the register. Most disturbing is the attachment to it that disallows any citizen referendum to reinstate the service, which has been popular.
- Report from Sen Nofs public meeting at Burnham Brook concerning legislative budget
- The intent to start taxing Retiree Pensions is another issue that may not be significant to those with good retirement resources. For those with limited means, it can be a problem; but depending upon the annual income it may be a moot issue for many. But tied in with that is:
- Eliminate special exemptions for seniors and those receiving unemployment compensation.
- Eliminate many deducts from income: pension income, interest/dividend exclusion for seniors, prizes from bingo, raffles, or charity games, pension/retirement plan distributions donated to charitable organizations or used for higher education expenses, income from oil/gas royalty interests.
- Phase-out Homestead property Tax Credit at lower income levels.

[Approximately 1.6 million seniors affected by changes to the personal exemption, the Homestead Property Tax Credit and treatment of pension/dividend/interest income.]

Retirement and Health Care Costs:

Washington Post reports on a Fidelity Investments estimate that “a couple retiring this year will need \$230,000, on average, to cover health care expenses in retirement. That’s down 8 percent from last year’s estimate, and the first decline in the 10 years Fidelity has been making the projections.”

Community Action Again Impacted by Budget Cutbacks:

Rodna and Karla Fales met with CA staff and then Gibson met separately with them this week.

Issues:

1. They are affected by 50% reduction expected in CSBG funds (Community Services Block Grants) which is a fund they can use in a number of ways, including covering shortfalls in services such as Nutrition.
 - They plan to close the kitchen at Burnham Brook Ctr and provide the meals from the kitchen in Branch Co/Coldwater.

- Desiring to delivery HDM 3 days/wk, M,W,F and frozen meals used on Tu,Th when no delivery: due to increased price in food commodities & fuels.
 - Possibility of closing a meal site if has <25 participants. Could affect Homer and Tekonsha.
 - Intent to reduce congregate before HDM in order to maintain some sense of social contact with those that are shut-ins.
 - Intent for CA to make presentations to AAA Boards and SMAC early May in order to implement June or July.
2. Another outcome is reduction in services hours at each of CA's outreach offices, including reducing Albion's office hours to just 5.5 on Fridays. All clients must first apply for just about any CA services through 2-1-1 in order to get qualified and referred back to CA to schedule an appointment. (Must check this out more since 2-1-1 should be transferring an individual on phone to CA and not making them call separately; this is where seniors often get lost in the transfers.)

Trip to Muskegon with Aging Services Leaders on March 25:

Part of purpose was to introduce 2-1-1 to concept of being more closely tied to Aging Services and not a distant cousin. Muskegon (i.e. Tanglewood Ctr) is example of Burnham Brook which has reached its original purpose: strong collaboration among 211, AAA, and PACE program. In fact 211 was originally started there as an offshoot of Senior services and not an add-on later. Here in Calhoun it has recently come more direct control of United Way and is planning on add 3 Counties to its current mix. But on its website it is tied into the Jackson 211 service, which means any online search includes an additional 6 counties going all the way up to Clinton Co north of Lansing. This may be a make-it-or break-it year for Senior Services funding 211.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Gibson will make better contact with Larry Hermen of Centerboard Assoc as additional source for strategic planning. He was referred by Teresa Durham after our last meeting. Once we can get a proposal from his agency, then we can move ahead with scheduling such an activity. Strategic planning at this point should not be focused on the traditional "Mission, Vision, goals/objectives" but should move into more central issues of what is purpose and intent of SMAC, what is it's role in determining what services get funded, what level of activity of the SMAC is appropriate for continuing strong for senior Millage on ongoing basis. A clarification of the professional role of Purchasing vs the soft-side of aging services is critical.

Gibson asked for volunteers to help set up tables for the Marshall Area Health Fair. Set up will take place on April 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 at the Marshall Middle School.

Discussion:

Members discussed the need for a community Needs Survey. Why it is important and how to go about conducting it. The biggest concern seems to be how to do the needs survey. seems to be. Is it something this group can do or will we need to have another organization do the actual survey?

There was brief discussion about the Community Action Meal proposed changes. This topic will be addressed more in depth at the May meeting when Nancy Macfarlane will be here to present proposed changes and answer questions.

Members discussed Strategic Planning... Gibson explained that discussions are important and sometimes it is important to have a facilitator to lead the discussion and to take the discussion in

the right direction to think through the process. Most members agreed that a Needs Assessment is important as it will help everyone to know the questions to ask.

Brad Wilcox spoke briefly about the RFP process and what role Purchasing generally plays in the process. They are professionals, and are experienced at reading and evaluating the Requests for Purchase Members of this committee can certainly read the proposals and give their input. Brad recommends that there be a Needs Assessment and a prioritization budget, and a way to measure the results.

Strategic Planning is important so that this committee can decide what it is that the committee wants.

Education

Auton spoke regarding leadership issues in aging. It is important for leaders in aging services to be looking at future trends, and the types of skills and qualities leaders in aging will need for the future.

Adjournment: Kale made a motion to adjourn. Konkle supported the motion. ***Motion Carried***
Adjourned 9:56 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2011 8:00 a.m.

