

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
Friday December 5th, 2014 8:00 a.m.
Community Action Administrative Offices
175 Main Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017

MINUTES

A lite holiday breakfast prior to meeting 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:015 a.m. and roll call

Roll Call Attending: Rod Auton, Jill Booth, Shirley Clutter, Kathy-Sue Dunn, Jim Haadsma, Art Kale, Dianne ‘Willy’ Kalnins, Joanne Konkle, Ralph Moore, Jim Powers, and Willie Tabb

Absent Excused: Jane Chappell and Drew Walker

Staff: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy, and Lora Stevens

Visitors: Linda Grap, Director for Senior Health Partners; From Community Action Agency (CA) Michelle Williamson, CEO, Charles Asher - Dir. Of Programs; Sharon Wittemore - Transportation/Programs Support Coordinator, Dan Osborn - Project Specialist, Courtney Liles - Dir. of Development and Cheryl Grimes – Emergency Management and Intake Manager.

Presentation: Community Action Agency (CA), Michelle Williams – CEO; providing an updated to the SMAC members on the Senior Millage services that CA provides from the Senior Millage funds. Also updates from Dan Osborne - minor home repair, Charles Asher – service programs, Sharon Wittemore - Transportation, Cheryl Grimes – Intake and Emergency Management

Willie Tabb thanked the CA for their help in Albion with needs assessment and intakes as they used to be 20 minutes and now they are an hour long reviewing needs. Most people have to come back twice and sometime more to get a thorough assessment. The seniors must bring personal information and it is hard for the seniors to know what to bring and this may take several visits. The needs for seniors have not changed, but the type of people have i.e. people with degrees, job loss, educated people, not just the lowest income people anymore. They are not seeing the lower income people like they used to. They are seeing more of this class of people then other counties.

Agenda –Konkle and Auton: (change date of next meeting to February 5th, 2015)
Motion, Second and Approved - **Motion Carried**

Minutes for November 7th, 2014 –Clutter and Moore: Motion, Second and Approved - **Motion Carried**

REPORT: Contract Spending

- Discussion This report is through October 2014
- Gibson reviewed shortages and under-spending categories. These are in-line with expectations at this time of year. Most will spend down their funds by the end of the year.

- Note: Guardian has under spent this year's budget and will be rebranding the name some of their services in 2015 to eliminate the 'stigma' associated with Guardian. They may request additional funds in 2015 to get beyond the identity issue.

Contract Spending – Kalnins and Power: Motion, Second and Approved- *Motion Carried*

Site visit to Forks Senior Center:

Forks will begin moving in to its new location on Monday, December, 8th. Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, Dec 17th from 3pm to 6pm; everyone is invited. Restoration is being done by County employees and rent will be paid directly to Calhoun County. Rodna will be contacting the center to have all SMAC members receive an e-mail of their monthly newsletters.

Note: The meal area is potentially large enough to schedule activities for more than just meals, i.e. exercise and learning classes possible along with meals – Lunch and Learn sessions.

Gibson proposed that the Millage pay for part of this area, currently set at \$6,000 a year lease. This would free up money for more meals. Discussion on absorbing this expense; issue tabled.

United Way grant:

This was awarded and will be receiving \$45,000 year with retro payback back dated from July 2013. This grant will be used for dental services for seniors. The County will receive the money and administer the funds through the Fountain Clinic which eligibility screens seniors in the Battle Creek/Calhoun County area. Money will go for the BC area citizens and the dentists in Battle Creek area treating County residents. Linda Grap discussed that the United Way in BC committee had a hard time understanding that the money supports the citizens, and not just local dentist focused. So a person in Marshall could see BC dentist, and if BC resident could be seen at a Marshall dental clinic they would all be covered. UW funds all the senior programs in Kalamazoo as this county has no millage funding; so this UW process is new thinking in Calhoun.

United Way Grant - Submitted to the Calhoun County Board of Directors in December for Approval to Accept – Clutter and Moore: Motion, Second and Approved- *Motion Carried*

DIRECTOR REPORT:

- ✓ United Way Grant was granted
- ✓ Linda Grap will be attending many SMAC meetings as a representative of the Senior Health Partner collaborative.
- ✓ Scams, of many different forms, are being sent to seniors from all over the Country, please be vigilant

Action Items:

Hands on Battle Creek - \$10,000 mini grant request - not a contract - 8 page application; this is an extension of what they have been doing for many years. *Accept this for 2015*

Fountain Clinic - \$5,000 for prescription vouchers, they are going down no longer need \$18,000 for the year. *Accept this for 2015*

Guardian Finance - want to carry money over to do some re-branding of name. We can't carry over the unexpended funds from 2014, but may increase budget for 2015 to cover this money. (Carry-over of granted funds is not part of our SMAC process.) Seniors are not charged to the individual for money management - grant funded through millage and stays here for seniors in Calhoun County. *Accept this for 2015*

Family Health Center - underspent as treatment plans extend into the New year- and do not have space for UW dental grant. We may be requested to reallocate this money for 2015 to complete treatments. *Accept this for 2015*

Step Forward - state money helps to offset money for senior's property taxes, to keep them from losing their homes to tax foreclosure. NOTE: A Marshall lady will lose her house in February for tax foreclosure, and has not ability to keep it up if the property taxes were paid. In talking to the Treasurer's office Carl proposed that we will pay for her taxes to cover them with the idea that they will reimburse the County upon sale of the property and moving the senior into Marshall House Apartments for her own safety. This is an emergency situation and plan that when home is sold it is sold we will get the money back. A deadline was agreed upon with the Treasurer to force action on the family's part to have planning time before the end of February foreclosure.

Discussion about millage money being used for this type of senior help was presented with pros and cons. Carl has made a verbal offer to do this, but before he does he will discuss this with Richard Lindsey for legal advice. Committee feels we should not do this for anyone as more people will ask for money and this is not what millage money should be used for; all possible sources are to be tapped including family before public funds. No motion on this until Carl comes back with discussion from Richard Lindsey, County Attorney.

***Contract Spending on everything listed above except Step Forward –
Clutter and Booth: Motion, Second and Approved- Motion Carried***

Samantha Pearl, Community Care Health Connections will be submitting requests for Program Grants for Rx Vouchers and Health Assistance Funds for FY 2015. CHC offices are moving from the Toeller building to a new office at 62 East Michigan in December. Watch for Open house update in January.

New Business:

- Linda Grap update: has just added a new person to the whole person site in Pennfield and just started a program at Maplegrove in Albion – Balance class.
 - Also seeking a few more nurses for a whole person wellness program for clinic exercise sites.
 - Athens would like whole person well program. Currently have 22 people for the diabetes and wellness club. Would like to add a lunch and learn with the congregate meals.
 - Albion Whole Person Wellness, we would like to add a meal session on Thursdays. Looking at using the meal area at the new Senior Forks Center.

Announcement:

Jim Haadsma - Thanked Art Kale for working on the SMAC board and for all his input over the years on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners (CCBC). Art has been a great asset as the Chairman for the CCBC and to all the committees has work on over the last 4 years.

Adjournment at 9:55am - Auton and Booth: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried

Next meeting February 6th, 2015 held in the County Building Conference Room on the Garden Level in Marshall