

**Senior Millage Allocation Committee**  
**Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 8:00 a.m.**  
Calhoun County Garden Level Conference Room  
315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

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**MINUTES**

**Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:04 a.m. and roll call**

**Roll Call Attending: Rod Auton, Mike Bearman, Jill Booth, Shirley Clutter, Jim Haadsma, Dianne (Willy) Kalnins, Joanne Konkle, Jim Powers, and Willie Tabb via-teleconference and Drew Walker.**

**Absent Excused: Ralph Moore and Jane Chappell**

Staff: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy and Lora Stevens

Visitors: Linda Grap, Director for Senior Health Partners; Bev Bentley, visitor; Dave Kirby and Martha Morgan, Guardian Finance.

**Agenda –Konkle and Kalnins: Motion, Second and Approved - *Motion Carried***

**Minutes for December, 2014 –Auton and Tabb: Motion, Second and Approved - *Motion Carried***

**Citizens Comments:**

Joanne Konkle – February 27<sup>th</sup> at United Methodist Church in Albion will be hosting a Swiss steak dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with proceeds go to the Forks Senior Center.

Carl Gibson: update on Committee member - Jane Chappell, she has resigned her seat on the SMAC board and will live in Indiana with her family. Chappell regrets having to leave. Calhoun County BOC has appointed only 2 commissioners to the SMAC board 2 SMAC board positions open, more discussion follow.

**Report: Contract Spending**

❖ Discussion

- This report is through the end of 2014 with one more invoice from Community Care Options for approximately to \$20,000 due today.
- Gibson voiced concern with the personal property tax changes, state funding will be changing in the future and not sure what that will mean to the millage.
- Booth asked about the Prescription Vouchers being in the negative as she thought the vouchers were no longer used.
- Gibson described changes in RX vouchers – still use for those 60-65 years or if in donut-hole. Community HealthCare Connections charged some vouchers to incorrect line, but not affecting total contract.

**Old Business:**

- United Way (UW) Grant Update
  - ✓ Working through new processes - all Dental requests must go through the Fountain Clinic and the money will come from the UW grant funds if client is from Battle Creek region or a County resident getting services in Battle Creek.
  - ✓ Grace Health has recently lost dentists and this is affecting some of the non-millage people needing help. They are looking for new dentist.

- ✓ There is a waiting list currently.
- ✓ Grant managers of UW met yesterday in the Battle Creek UW office
  - United Way Side Note: discussion was made about the Triangle Trailer Park in Battle Creek. 300 people from 75 trailers affected if park closes. Poor management of the property is the concern. Health Department is working with the park and Emmett Twp. Gibson - we might have to deal with this in the future.

**New Business:**

**Telephone Reassurance Program (TRP) – presented by Rod Auton**

- This program is international for older adults. People are living longer lives and as they age they are becoming home bound, losing family and circle of people that would have helped them are diminishing. Social Isolation is very hard on seniors.
- Auton discussed the Ireland's program at length and what is working for them, having 3 work stations that are open 6 hours a day on a volunteer basis.
- Auton handed out documents about the TRP for At-Risk Elders including a draft copy of outline prepared by Maureen Mickus at the November meeting.
- Goals to reduce social isolation in older adults and give them support with this calling system. This will be a volunteer based program with a central call center or calling from their homes.
  - ✓ If the volunteer calls from home it is harder to keep a data base of the calls and discussions with the seniors that might help ID a problem which would help refer them to another agency for help.
- Konkle – commented that in the 1970's the County had this program and it worked for several years until the money ran out for the volunteers and they left. Commission on Aging ran this program back then.
- Konkle – insurance with liability coverage. Linda Grap - Senior Health Partners currently has liability insurance for the wellness programs. Insurance needed.
- Konkle – we need to look forward as if this is a tax based funding program, what if the money runs out. The seniors loose out if this is something they relied on and it is cancelled due to lack of funding.
- Office of the Services to the Aging does support this program.
- HIPPA Issues? We must insure privacy and have older adults sign a release form
- Dave Kirby from Guardian. Stated his staff go into home and help seniors with their finances and finds that the senior has signed up for 3 insurance policies or other scams. He feels there is a need for this type of service. One that the senior know is OK to talk to and maybe discuss something that might have recently happened to them. Phone scams/solicitations are high among seniors. This would be an asset to the seniors and to agencies like his to keep the senior safe from scams.
- 911 and Emergency Management-CERT are interested in helping with this program.
- RECOMMENDATION: Gibson recommends the development of a pilot program that would be good for the seniors in Calhoun County.
- Auton would be the start up person because he has seen the County Louth Ireland model. According to Calhoun County Administration and Corporate Counsel, Richard Lindsey, Auton should step down from his SMAC position until he finished developing this pilot program. Haadsma and Booth also advised that Auton be off the board until he is finished with this.
- Auton was excused from the meeting at this time and this will be the last meeting he attends until finished. Everyone agreed he is a valuable asset to this board and want him to continue after.

- Gibson - Startup cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000 max with ongoing funds needed later for rent, insurance, upgrades on phones/computer software, staffing and miscellaneous.
- Motion request was made for \$5,000 for first 2 months and additional \$2,000 if it goes into 3 months to develop Telephone Reassurance Program. Funds will go through Senior Health Partners (SHP) which can contract with Auton. SHP will not take additional administrative expenses.
- Bearman stated that a project like this piloted in Calhoun County is a good thing for seniors, but worried about stating that it is Marshall pilot. He advised that calling it a County wide pilot program would be a better choice of words, not excluding the outlining area of the County seniors allowing services in Townships such as Lee & Clarence that don't receive many services.
- Tabb stated his concerns, mirroring Bearmans' remarks.
- Gibson – TRP call center would be in Marshall, but the pilot seniors would include all areas of the County.
- Powers and Walker will be the liaisons for the SMAC board and this project
- Full report from Auton due at end of April.

**Motion: Approval to authorize the development of this TRP project by the end of May; not more than \$5,000 by the end of April and \$7,000 used by the end of May with Rod Auton as Start Up Consultant – Powers and Kalnins: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried**

#### **Senior Health Fair -**

- Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Middle School Gymnasium from 10:00am to 1:30pm, light lunch provided free.
- Fair name has been changed to 'Calhoun County Senior Fair'. Senior Millage is the sponsoring agency. Brochures will list planning partners. All SMAC is invited.
- Pay Pal does not work well for one agency, fees expensive -\$3.00 a transaction. Will not be using it this year, but will discuss options for payment with Treasurer's office.
- Increased Vendor tables amounts - \$40 for non-profits and \$60 for profit agencies.
- Haadsma – agrees that the CC Senior Millage should take more ownership in what they do to show the citizens where their money is being spent. This will be added to the bottom of all brochures.

#### **Mini Grants -**

- Guardian Finance – Money Management Dave Kirby and Martha Morgan presenting
  - ✓ Thanked the SMAC for their grant funding for guardianship program for seniors.
  - ✓ Grant request for \$5,000 for rebranding the name of Money Management Service. Kirby thinks that the word Guardian scares seniors away as they don't want to have a guardian doing their finances. This will be a free service to help seniors feel in control of their own finances by reviewing and signing their own checks.
  - ✓ Money Management Service will start contacting agencies that know when a senior is in a 'Key Transition', such as a spouse passes away and they now don't know how to do their own finances. Funeral Directors will be a good resource.
  - ✓ Courts don't like name changes, but this one is an addition to Guardian Finance and will not affect their records.
  - ✓ Advertising Plan – ID Money Management Partners as their own; develop material/pamphlets; looking up referral agencies. Asking for \$5,000 for this marketing/rebranding plan.
  - ✓ RECOMMENDATION: Gibson recommended this mini grant approval.
  - ✓ Tabb asked how many seniors with this support; Kirby stated this was for the marketing part – rebranding the name.

- ✓ Jill Booth, Joanne Konkle, Drew Walker and Willie Tabb planned to abstain their votes – concerned with how many seniors this mini grant funding would support.

**Motion: Approval for \$5,000 be awarded to Guarding Finance to marketing and advertising for Money Management Partners – Clutter and Auton: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried (4 No votes and 6 Yes votes)**

Community Healthcare RX Vouchers and Health Assistance Mini Grant

- Health Care Extension is asking for \$15,000 for assisting the Health Assistance Fund and miscellaneous expense and \$5,000 for the Prescription Vouchers. Less than previous years.
- RECOMMENDATION: Gibson stated these are continuation services too small to go through RFP process and recommends approval.

**Motion: Approval for \$20,000 be awarded to Community Health Care Connections for Prescriptions Vouchers and Health Assistance – Booth and Powers: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried**

Linda Grap – Senior Health Partners – handed out flyers – Everyone is invited to a **Alzheimer’s Disease and other Dementia presentation** at Burnham Brook on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Guest presenter, Dr. Graham Atkin from the Van Andel Research Institute **Medical Matters of the HEART** – presentation on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Burnham Brook from 11:30 to 1:00pm, Dr. Christopher Rogers presenting.

#### **Directors Report:**

- Report was handed out in packets and e-mailed before meeting.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> is President’s Luncheon – everyone is invited, this educational event discusses programs for older adults in Calhoun County hosted by Senior Services Southwest Michigan (SWMi) on Tuesday, February 10 from noon to 1:00pm at the Burnham Brook Community Center volunteer lounge.
- Haadsma – rode with the Meals on Wheels volunteer on Friday last week from SWMi. He felt it was very interesting and invited all board members to make a date to ride with a volunteer to deliver meals. SWMi use all volunteers and the socialization along with the meals is beneficial to the older adults in our community and the volunteers.

**Adjournment at 9:48 a.m. - Walker and Auton: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried**

Konkle discussed a book about Alzheimer’s disease ‘Still Alice’ that has been recently made into a movie. She invited everyone to read this book and suggested that Senior Health Partners show the movie when it comes available.

**Next SMAC Board meeting – March 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday at 8:00 a.m. in the Garden Conference Room at the County Building, Marshall, MI**