

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
Friday November 7th, 2014 8:00 a.m.
Calhoun County Garden Level Conference Room
315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:05 a.m. and roll call

Roll Call Attending: Jill Booth, Jane Chappell, Shirley Clutter, Kathy-Sue Dunn, Jim Haadsma, Art Kale, Joanne Konkle, Ralph Moore, Jim Powers, and Willie Tabb.

Absent Excused: Rod Auton, Dianne (Willy) Kalnins, and Drew Walker

Staff: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy, and Lora Stevens

Visitors: Linda Grap, Director for Senior Health Partners; Mike Bearman, newly elected Calhoun County Commissioner, District 7; Janine - Jane Chappell's daughter

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

Minutes for October, 2014 –Moore and Chappell: Motion, Second and
Approved - *Motion Carried*

Citizens Comments:

Linda Grap: Thanked the Committee for joining the partnership of 'Senior Health Partners'.

This is a community partnership led by Bronson Battle Creek, Comprehensive Senior Care Corporation, Region 3B Area Agency on Aging, Summit Point and now Calhoun County Office of Senior Services. The services of the partnership will focus on disease prevention and management, health education and caregiver services to meet the needs of older adults and their families. This includes but not limited to: health screenings, educational programs, clinics, exercise and fitness, support groups, health promotions, fairs and other special events. Services will target the minority and economically disadvantaged seniors. With the growing number of people with Dementia and Alzheimer's disease we need to change the care for them. Statically one out of two older adults will be affected by Alzheimer's. We need to prepare the community for people with these problems.

Art Kale:

Elections were held on Tuesday. He said we have new Commissioners coming onto the board for Calhoun County. Mike Bearman is replacing Art Kale for District 7. The core group will be coming back and will keep the county moving forward.

Mike Bearman, of Albion, introduced himself and discussed his achievements and goals for the Calhoun County as a new board member

Carl Gibson: update on Committee member, Rod Auton. Rod is doing much, better back to work part-time after his bike accident in Oregon. Hopefully back to full time December 1st or soon after.

Report: Contract Spending

❖ Discussion

- This report is through September 2014
- Note: Gibson reviewed shortages and under-spending categories. These are inline with expectations at this time of year.

Contract Spending –Konkle and Kale: Motion, Second and Approved- ***Motion Carried***

Old Business:

- 2015 Meeting Schedule discussion about changing day of the week or time, decided to stay with what was approved last month.
2015 SMAC Meeting Schedule
Discussion – No meeting in January, and July's moved to second week due to the 4th of July: February 6 March 6 April 3 May 1 June 5 July 10
 August 7 September 4 October 2 November 6 December 4
 - Forks Senior Center: December 1st is the move in date and all on schedule.
 - ✓ County maintenance employees are doing most of the reconstruction work; Held up two weeks because of plumbing inspection. Exercise equipment will be moved in December 1st
 - ✓ Art Kale said the Forks received an extra \$7,500 for moving cost from a Firekeeper's Casino grant. Firekeepers is also granting \$35,000 for Holland Park renovation across the street from the new center. The project will introduce activity stations for older adults and will include complete access for disabled people to participate.
 - Senior Dental Grant request to United Way: Linda Grap helped with a proposal for a 3 year grant for senior through United Way for the Battle Creek area. It is up to \$50,000 per year for 3 years. This grant period started July 2013 and if we receive the grant, initial payment will retro to July 2013. Services will be managed through the Fountain Clinic with assistance of the Family Health Clinic. Family Health Clinic doesn't have enough dentists to manage more dental patients, until they can recruit additional staff dentists. United Way will be content if the dentist or patient is from the UW Battle Regional area. Should hear back very soon.
 - Benefits Counseling: Rodna Stealy reports open enrollment period has begun for seniors and continues to December 7. Lora Stevens and Rodna are seeing about 8 to 10 people a day, four days a week. Eaton Corp. retirees have been informed that their plans are doubling in premiums with less coverage so they have been seeking help from us and comparing plans. Ralph Moore stated that Rodna has been a great help with his plans of retiring.
 - Carl Gibson – Report on visit to Otsego County Commission on Aging, while in Gaylord, MI for Medicare training. This agency has 3 full time people working for 700 people during Open Enrollment. (It is an 8 week period, but very hard and
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stressful, just as Lora and Rodna know as certified MMAP Councilors.) More people turning 65 and they are looking for more help with insurance coverage and how they can save money. Calhoun County provides insurance coverage for their retirees based on years of service, and it went up 7 ½%. County is self-insured with its employees; retirees in many cases do save money by picking up Medicare when reaching 65. Note: In 2011 the County stopped using the Senior Discount cards as they were not used much compared to when started 10 years ago. Most County older adults save more money on Medicare Part D without our Rx card.

- Community Action (CA) – Minor home repair program is needing more money to cover requests. Recently a lady in Albion had to be a new furnace in her mobile home and Gibson approved \$5,000 emergency funds to CA to get this fixed and provide a buffer. Now the grant is nearly out of money for this year and CA requests an additional \$10,000. Gibson is recommending this mini grant.

Approval of additional funds to Community Action – Booth and Clutter: Motion, Second and Approved- *Motion Carried*

- 2015 PERS funding – Reviewing additional request from AAA that the PERS for residents at Westbrook Living Center with 65 residents be paid for from the \$50,000 PERS grant allocated to AAA. At \$8.00 for each person at the site (compared to off-site at \$12.00 per person) it is an affordable way to provide a site specific service. Otherwise the grant would be underspent this year.

Approval of additional funds – Moore and Kale: Motion, Second and Approved- *Motion Carried*

New Business:

- New Calhoun County Board of Commissioners in 2015, which means possible new Commissioners on the SMAC committee.
- Need to review By-Laws for SMAC. Update for use of teleconferencing and /or Skyping. Konkle and Booth volunteered to be on this committee and will bring their results back after the first of the year.
- Pending Kalamazoo Ombudsman Program- grant not submitted yet, but soon. This is for partial support of a long term care Ombudsman that serves Calhoun as well as Kalamazoo county region. that is having their funding cut from the state and they need help through a mini grant to cover their program.
- Presentation: “Talons of Honor Flights” for Vets from any war, presented by Meryl Shaver, President. Talons Honor Flight is sending WWII Vets from the Calhoun area to Washington DC to see many historic sites about the wars, including the WWII, Korean and Viet Nam Memorials. It costs approximately \$550.00 to send a vet to DC, with a guardian/mentor for each paying their own way. April 2015 is the next trip. Gibson is recommending a \$5,000 mini grant to go to this program.

Approval of Talons Mini grant – Konkle and Chappell: Motion, Second and Approved- *Motion Carried*

- Gibson has not widely advertised the mini grant programs, primarily to existing program services and those aiding seniors in new categories, such as Vets. CA health assistance program and 211 I&R services have been changed to mini grants for FY 2015
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- Education Presentation on Community Health Care Connections – ReAnn, director of outreach/Mobile Clinic services. She stated that the reconstruction of their new building will be finished by the end of November and will be moving in and open for business in December. They are moving out of the Toeller Building and into site at 62-64 E Michigan Ave, BC. Pat of intent is to brand themselves to the public as Not Governmental agency service. They have a capital campaign to raise money for \$450,000 for the new renovations and have almost reached their goal.
- Presentation Linnea Mobley, Manager for mobile services, Health Assistance Fund and the Rx Vouchers contract. The mobile clinic will go to homes and apartment complexes to help people that do not have insurance coverage, i.e. Bedford Manor, Mill Creek Senior Center. With winter coming, seniors don't like to get out. They currently have two RN that volunteer part-time. The Clinic went to Albion recently and parks in the TSC parking lot. They are looking for more nurses and Navigator specialist (social workers) to volunteer. They are setting up a call back plan starting December 1st. The person that worked with the client then another person will call back and check on them. This will give them data to see how the services are working with the client's needs. It is designed as a Community-Give back program, all the services are free but, they are asked to give back to the community 8 hours of community services. Foster Grandparents is another program that we promote and have 15 seniors that we work with at a time.

Adjournment at 9:30am. –Moore and Power: Motion, Second and Approved - Motion Carried
