

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
2:00 p.m.

The Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting and that all deliberations of the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel, which resulted in formal action, were taken in a meeting open to the general public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Dreher, opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Present-

Members: Tom Dreher, Ellen Cantor, and Spence Kline

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Donna Tyson, and Kathy Russo

From the Public: Mr. Joel Guthleben Fairport Senior Center and Ms. Lois Orosz, Fairport Senior Center, Mr. Joey Tomsick, Ms. Adrienne Greene, and Ms. Bernie Brooks from Council on Aging, Ms. Cristen Kane, of RSVP Lake County, Ms. Silvia Orsulic-Jeras from the Benjamin Rose Institute and Ms. Erin Turner from Beacon Health.

Absent: Mr. Frank Doberdruk, Mr. Ken Gauntner, and Mr. Jason Boyd

Public Comments -none.

Mr. Dreher expressed his appreciation to Panel member, Ms. Ellen Cantor and thanked her for all of her hardwork on the Panel since its inception. Ms. Cantor has decided not to seek reappointment at the end of her term. Mr. Kline also thanked Ms. Cantor for her insights and hardwork. Ms. Cantor thanked everyone and stated that she appreciates the kind words.

Approval of May 1, 2018 minutes:

Ms. Cantor moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2018, Mr. Kline seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: Ayes: Ms. Cantor, Mr. Dreher, and Mr. Kline,
Motion carried.

Correspondence –none.

-Collaborative Grant Presentations

RSVP & Benjamin Rose Institute:

Ms. Silvia Orsulic-Jeras, from the Benjamin Rose Institute, provided the Panel with a report on the progress the Music and Memory collaborative effort. Ms. Orsulic-Jeras provided a detailed PowerPoint to the Panel members. She explained that the Music and Memory Program is in response to the Senior Study findings of Physical and Mental Health Well-Being and Social and Civic Engagement. Ms. Orsulic-Jeras reviewed the report and gave a background of the development of the Music and Memory Program, data analysis, the number of participants and their locations. She stated that they have trained 21 RSVP volunteers. She reviewed the funding that the program has received, the expansion of the

program to other Counties throughout Ohio, and the program recruitment efforts and challenges they have experienced.

Ms. Kane (RSVP) thanked the Council on Aging and stated that they have been a great partner to work with and reviewed the details of the program and family/caregiver participation. She briefly discussed hurdles they have experienced with several national organizations and future sessions of the program. Ms. Kane stated that she looks forward to future sessions and they will continue to look into more methods to attract participants for this program.

Mrs. Tyson asked if participant recruitment in Cuyahoga County was comparable to Lake County. Ms. Orsulic-Jeras responded that Cuyahoga County is challenged with the opposite issues of Lake County in that they have many interested participants but a lack of volunteer recruitment. She added that the RSVP Lake County volunteers are an outstanding group of people.

Council on Aging & Beacon Health:

Mr. Tomsick thanked the Panel for the great opportunity to work with Beacon Health to address mental health issues among the senior population.

Ms. Greene, Director of Care Management at Lake County Council on Aging, thanked the Panel for the opportunity to bring a new and innovative program to Lake County. She reviewed the new program, which provides in home mental health and substance abuse treatment for seniors. Ms. Greene gave several statistics for mental health issues among senior citizens, the challenges that they face, and getting them assistance. This new program will allow for initial home visits to ease them into further services.

Ms. Bernie Brooks, Lake County Council on Aging, spoke of several out of County programs she has been involved with and the success that they experienced. She explained the ongoing issues they face attempting to explain to senior citizens that there is no stigma with getting help and also the current plan they follow to help these seniors. Ms. Brooks stated that they are actively working with their social work staff to identify appropriate clients, obtain consent, and make referrals.

Ms. Erin Turner introduced herself and stated that she is a crisis clinician at Beacon Health and explained her experience with the senior citizens in the community. Ms. Turner gave several examples of why there may be a delay in services for the seniors and an overview of their program. She gave a breakdown of services that the 26 individuals that were referred for assessments are receiving and the diversity of those individuals.

Mr. Dreher complimented Ms. Greene, Ms. Brooks, and Ms. Turner for their courage in assisting those people in need of mental services.

Conference on Aging

Mrs. Barajas stated that she has secured a speaker for the 2nd Annual Aging in Lake County Conference. He is Dr. Jean Accius, Vice President of the Long-Term Services and Supports and Livable Communities Group within the AARP Public Policy Institute and is a nationally recognized expert on aging policy, livable communities, and long-term services and supports. Dr. Accius will be traveling from Washington D.C. for the presentation. Mr. Spence Kline has agreed to moderate this event. She explained that following the keynote speaker there will be a panel discussion on the “village model concept” of aging in place. The panel currently consists of Ms. Rachel Kabb-Effron, owner of Kabb Law Firm, Ms. Kristen

Schweitzer, Executive Director of Village Connections in Columbus, and Mr. Paul Sobel, Executive Director of Village in the Heights in Cleveland. To date she has received approximately \$6,000 in sponsorships, nearly doubling last year's amount.

2019 Funding Applications

Mrs. Barajas stated that the 2019 funding applications have been sent out and are due back Friday, September 21st. The applications will be reviewed at the October Panel meeting.

Levy Collation

Mrs. Barajas stated that the Senior Services Levy Collation is currently in the process of reviewing their by-laws and reevaluating their purpose. Recently there has been discussion of taking a different direction for funding the levy campaign. In the past each entity contributed \$ 3,000 every five years toward the campaign fund. Mrs. Barajas explained that beginning this year, they are looking to hold two fundraisers annually as a group rather than each entity doing their own fundraising. September will be second annual grandparents' day pancake breakfast at the Mentor Senior Center and there are plans to host a murder mystery event in April or May of 2019. As more partners are joining the coalition, we hope to hold these types of events each year to replace the \$3,000 that each entity must raise.

Adult Protective Services

Mrs. Barajas updated the Panel on APS. She explained that they have begun to do much more outreach and awareness and have met with Council on Aging to discuss ways that they can better communicate and collaborate.

Home Repair Program:

Mrs. Barajas stated that the program launched on April 1st and to date they have been able to assist over 100 households. Repairs have included such things as hot water tanks, snaking toilets and plumbing leaks, ramps, railings, and grab bars. To date, over \$35,000 has been expensed for those repairs.

Old Business –

Volunteer Guardianship Program Update

Mrs. Barajas stated that there is an agreement with Lifeline to launch the Volunteer Guardianship Program. The agreement has been reviewed by Lifeline, the Probate Court and the Prosecutors Office. She explained that Lifeline will oversee the Program in collaboration with the Probate Court. The position of Program Director has been posted by Lifeline.

New Business –

Potential Initiatives

Mrs. Barajas explained that she has been contacted by Mr. Steve Pelton from hChoices regarding funding of a social isolation initiative that he has been working on. This initiative aims to engage people remotely through a web based platform and guide them into services that already exist in the community. Mr. Boyd has requested that he submit a formal proposal and budget.

Mr. Tomsick from Council on Aging has submitted a formal proposal and budget for a "Social Worker on the Go". She explained that this was a program that was identified as a need early on. The Social Worker on the Go Program would be primarily out in the community to educate the seniors about services available as well as assist seniors with accessing programs and services.

Mrs. Barajas has been working with The Lake County General Health District and Fairhill Partners for the “Matter of Balance Program”. The Program deals with fall prevention and self-management classes. They would like to see more of these classes brought to Lake County. The Lake County General Health District has submitted a formal proposal. She explained that Fairhill Partners has been receiving their funding through Cuyahoga County and are very limited to the number of classes that could be offered in Lake County. Partnering with the Health District will allow for training, materials and classes in Lake County.

General Discussion:-

Mr. Tomsick stated that Council on Aging was the recipient of CDBG funding for their roof replacement and they utilized the contingency fund for the parking lot repair. The roof replacement has been completed and the parking lot project will be completed by September.

Mrs. Cantor asked how much the new levy will generate. Mrs. Barajas replied that it would be \$4.4 million.

Ms. Lois Orosz of Fairport Harbor Senior Center, asked if there has been any progress with their request for an expansion of their Senior Center. She explained that they have 200 new members so far. Mr. Dreher suggested that they submit a written request to the Panel for an evaluation of their request and where their request may fit with the funding streams available.

Adjournment: Mr. Kline moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 p.m. and Ms. Cantor seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: “All Ayes”

*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.