

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, October 27, 2015
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.

The Chair, Mr. Ken Gauntner, opened the meeting at 2:09 p.m. and acknowledged the Lake County Commissioners Troy, Moran and Malecek and representatives from the levy recipients.

Present

Members: Ellen Cantor, Ken Gauntner, Spence Kline and Frank Doberdruk.

Staff: Jason Boyd and Donna Tyson

Absent: Tom Dreher, Joel DiMare, Jr. and Jennifer Bell

Minutes

Mr. Kline moved to approve the August 18, 2015, minutes as submitted and Ms. Cantor seconded the motion with the amendment to the minutes regarding the motion to approve the second half levy distribution for all the levy recipients except Madison, which was accidentally duplicated.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Correspondence

Ms. Tyson reported that there are no correspondences at this time.

Senior Study - Update

Mr. Gaunter reported that this report is a culmination of work that began last October when an RFP was sent out to conduct a study regarding Lake County senior citizen's needs. In the past three years he has been on the panel he can see that times are changing. By the year 2030, one of three residents of Lake County will be 60 years and older, with most of the growth after 2020 in the 75 years and older age range, according to the survey. The senior environment is changing and funding needs to be adjusted to meet these changing needs.

Mr. Boyd thanked the Commissioners for their support of the survey. The Senior Citizens Advisory Panel was created in 2012 to advise the Commissioners on are we serving the senior citizens in an efficient and sustainable manner. The senior levy is property-based, county-wide ballot issue that generates approximately \$2.5 million a year. The demand far outstrips the revenue source. The 12 recipients of the levy do a tremendous job of serving the seniors of the County. This will help develop a blueprint for the next 5-10 years. He hopes the document will help guide the decisions as far as filling gaps and eliminating duplication efforts. Invaluable input was given by the existing levy fund recipients as well as information from other agencies that offer services to seniors.

Mr. Boyd stated that an RFP was issued last October and selected MCS Consultants out of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. The study is available on the County website.

Dr. Marlene Stoiber, MCS Consultants, welcomed everyone to the presentation and stated that there will be some interesting findings in the report. She will speak to the research findings and out of this is where the recommendations emerged for an operational plan. Many people in attendance are contributors of the research.

The focus areas are; learning about the County's seniors, the senior-based delivery system as opposed to a nursing home, the County as an elder friendly community, senior levy resources and promising practices and innovative models. Dr. Stoiber explained the secondary and primary sources used; Census Bureau information, sending out a survey to senior residents, interviews with levy fund recipient groups and site visits to senior centers and focus groups. Also included in the study is a recommended operational plan for Lake County.

Dr. Stoiber stated that by 2030, one of three residents of Lake County will be 60 years or older, with most of the growth after 2020 in the 75 years and older age range. **(Major Research Finding 1)** According to the 2010 Census, 76% reside in 8 communities (Mentor, Willoughby, Concord Township, Eastlake, Painesville Township, Wickliffe, Willowick and Madison Township) in Lake County. There are 51,488 persons 60 years and older in the County. Dr. Stoiber then reported on persons 85 years of age and older and those living at or below the poverty, and African Americans level along with the demographics. Hispanics were not included in the study because they are not a dominant group in the senior population in Lake County. The majority are younger families.

Dr. Stoiber explained that the projections in the study are based on past trends and assumptions about the future. From 2010-2030 the largest increases occur in Mentor and Concord Township for those ages 60 and older and those person ages 85 and older. Growth in the seniors, especially the oldest and those with disabilities, will affect the quality of services to be provided by Lake County providers as well as how the service delivery system should be organized.

Under and Elder Friendly Community, the study looked at basic needs, independence for frail and dependent, social and civic engagement and physical and mental health well-being. According to the seniors in Lake County in the study they consider Lake County elder friendly with most of the needs met in the Basic needs domain and the needs met least in the social and civic engagement domain. **(Major Research Finding 2)** For Basic Needs the highest unmet need is home repairs. Under Physical and Mental Health Well-being it is predicted that one in three people over the age of 85 will have some form of dementia. An unmet need is engaging in exercise and wellness activities. In the Social and Civic Engagement Domains and unmet need is socialization and recreational activities. Under Independence for Frail & Disabled domain showed the highest rate of unmet needs for home maintenance, transportation, assistance with home chores and legal aid. She stated that 18% of the seniors surveyed stated that they would not have children, family or friends nearby who could care for them if needed.

Dr. Stoiber stated that Lake County has a strong community-based senior service delivery system that can be positioned to accommodate larger numbers of older seniors by 2030. This is opposed to nursing homes. **(Major Research Finding 3)**

There are upcoming challenges for Lake County. Services need to be available for those in all phases of the aging process. Organizations long term services need to be available for those based on their ability to pay. Those between being eligible for government services and being independently wealthy will need the most attention. The trend has been to keep people in their homes as long as possible and the more services that can be consolidated the better and less expensive. Qualified caregivers must be found and on-going maintenance of homes must continue.

Dr. Stoiber described funding for community-based services and identified about \$5.6 million. The levy represents almost half of the funding in Lake County. Passport accounts for 20% and Lake County communities give 15% of the funding.

Issues that were identified were that 87% of survey respondents stated that they knew how to call about services; 26.5% said they would call family, friends or neighbor, 18% would contact a senior center, and 15% would contact the Council on Aging. Strategic marketing of senior services, formal links to assist seniors to move seamlessly through the system, a spectrum of housing and service options in place, affordable and accessible transportation and redefining the role of the senior centers perhaps adding a social service component with an increase in frail seniors.

Dr. Stoiber stated that Lake County's senior levy funding is a tremendous asset that can be used to strengthen the county as an elder friendly community and position the community-based senior service delivery system for the future. **(Major Research Finding 4)** In Ohio, the local levies are a dominant form of funding for those who fall between the cracks. The levy allocations in 2014 was approximately \$2.7 million; Council on Aging 53%, Senior Centers 42% and RSVP 5% for 2014. Other collective funding sources in 2014 was cities, villages and townships at 16.9% with fees and donations coming in at 14.8%. Senior Levy money, 58% is going toward personnel and 22% is going toward programs. Services provided with levy funds is a rough estimate as far as senior centers are concerned. The average levy funds per Senior Center and Council on Aging participant is \$151 and 96% of participants reside in Lake County and about 95% are going to only one center. The senior center markets for 17,000 participants include four geographically distinct markets; Kirtland, Madison, Mentor and Perry. The overlapping geographical markets are Fairport Harbor and Painesville and the Hybrids with both distinct and overlapping geographical markets are Eastlake, Wickliffe, Willoughby and Willowick. Some of the centers are only a few miles away from each other.

People are very happy that there is a levy in Lake County but three issues were identified. The first is that the levy fund allocation process is based on history rather than changing needs. The lack of directives on how funds can be spent. The question is who will set the new priorities. Lastly, there is a lack of accountability. The Lake County Senior levy requires the least reporting of any government and private funding sources that she has worked with. The priorities of the levy funds are to ensure basic needs are met, to support independent living for frail seniors, to promote physical and mental health and to promote social and civic engagement, which were taken from the senior survey.

Dr. Stoiber stated that research and interviews were done to determine the promising practices and innovative models. The areas that were looked at include naturally occurring retirement communities, adult protective services, senior centers, housing options, service

integration models, technology, senior levy funding in other counties and multiple municipality senior center collaboration. There is a model to consider called the Community Partnership on Aging, and it is formal collaboration across five communities in Cuyahoga County for the delivery of senior services.

Dr. Stoiber explained the recommended operational plan for 2015-2020 for Lake County. It takes all the information gathered from the study for an ideal system. The vision they put forward is that Lake County will be prepared for the increase in the oldest cohort of seniors by 2030 with increased capacity to serve older persons at each stage of the aging process; the healthy active phase, the slowing down phase, and the service need phase, as inexpensively as possible. There are five goals. 1.) Implement the current funding system with additional reporting requirements 2.) Initiate a service-based, rather than provider-based funding system with more accountable processes for administration of senior levy funds 3.) Redefine the role of senior centers based on changing demographics and funding patterns 4.) Enhance the capacity of Lake County to improve protective services for persons over 60 years of age through the use of senior levy funds 5.) Develop options for and Elders Program to enable seniors who meet a protective level of care and have income/assets above Medicaid eligibility to age in place in their homes and communities.

In order to complete Goals 1, 2 and 3 no new funds are needed from 2015-2017. However from 2018-2020 more funding may be needed to implement goals 4 and 5.

Mr. Jason Boyd stated that the meeting is now open for questions.

An audience member asked if the Panel has had time to digest or discuss the study?

Mr. Gauntner replied that the Panel has all read the study. There is a meeting scheduled for November 17, 2015 to discuss the report. Mr. Gauntner is very impressed with the detail of the report. The County's changing needs have been discussed for quite a while at Panel meetings, which is what brought the study about.

A Lake County Senior Citizen thanked the Senior Levy Advisory Panel members for their public service on the panel and asked which of the senior centers and service centers the Panel has visited more than twice?

Mr. Doberdruk stated that he was a senior center director and coordinator for 20 years in Eastlake and he has visited all the Lake County Senior Centers many times.

Ms. Cantor replied that she has been to Perry, Painesville, Fairport, Willoughby, Wickliffe, Mentor, Madison, Eastlake and Kirtland. She is a senior herself and also contributes to those centers with nutrition sites.

Mr. Spence Kline replied that he has mostly been to Mentor and Painesville because the Council on Aging partners closely with them.

Mr. Ken Gauntner stated that he is a Madison Township elected official so he has been to the Madison Township Senior Center. Prior to that he was the County Administrator and he has been to the Painesville Center.

The Lake County Senior Citizen asked the Panel to look at the *Ohio Department of Aging from Choice to Voice: The State of Ohio Plan on Aging from 2015-2018*, where the Director stated that they have shifted away from measuring success by the number of services provided and consumers served through statistic evaluation.

A member of the audience asked Mr. Boyd when copies of the study will be supplied.

Mr. Boyd replied that all the information can be found online at <http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/MyCommunity/SeniorSerices.aspx>.

A woman asked Dr. Stoiber to clarify what she meant about service based funding and performance based reimbursement?

Dr. Stoiber replied when she was running senior centers they were funded by six different sources. Meals on Wheels was one of them. A budget was done on each service such as for transportation; the mileage, repairs, gas, etc. and average how many units we would provide that year and every month we would bill that unit rate.

Dr. Stoiber stated that regarding Choice to Voice, it is true that just quantifying services is not the end result of what we are trying to do. We try to do outcome measurement analysis to find out what happens with the service provided. We still need to know how many services are provided. This is something that is a goal that would be further out in terms of data collection and analysis.

Commissioner Troy asked about the data presented that 50% of state funding is going into nursing home care and 50% for Passport and Home-based care. If that is the case Ohio has been heavily weighted toward the nursing home industry because they are well lobbied. It is more expensive to be in a nursing home rather than home-based or Passport care. He asked is there has been that big of a change?

Dr. Stoiber stated that this is the data she has received. It is 50/50. The centers for Medicare and Medicaid has made many recent initiatives to push the States to get more ballots between institutional and home care. The latest data that she read was 50/50.

Old Business - none

New Business - none

Adjournment

Mr. Kline moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

The next meeting will be held November 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.