

Minutes of the  
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023  
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.

Chairperson, Mr. Shull, opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Present:

Members: Ellen Foley Kessler, Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Lisa Manning, and Lyle Shull

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane

Absent: None

Public: Joseph Tomsick

Public Comments: None.

Approval of the November 15, 2022 minutes:

Ms. Foley Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022; Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: Ms. Barajas received two separate public information requests from Jan Orosz, one in January and the second in February 2023, for information related to the 2023 senior levy allocations. A response was made to these requests by Ms. Barajas.

Election of 2023 Officers:

Ms. Foley Kessler moved to elect Mr. Lyle Shull as Chairperson and Ms. Manning as Vice-Chair, Mr. Gauntner seconded the nomination.

Vote: "Ayes"

Motion carried.

Senior Services Manager Updates:

Ms. Barajas informed the Panel on the requirements of the AmeriCorps Seniors grant to have an Advisory Council. Ms. Barajas proposed that the Senior Levy Advisory Panel members also serve as the LCVN Advisory Council as their functions are similar. The Panel's by-laws are currently being updated to incorporate this requirement. Ms. Barajas indicated she would have revisions ready at the next meeting for the Panel's approval.

Ms. Barajas informed the Panel on the following new programs that were recently released or are currently being developed.

*Phone Pal*

Phone Pal is a telephone reassurance program for isolated or lonely adults 60+ that will link them with a volunteer who will call twice a week. The program uses software that allows clients and volunteer to connect through one phone number. This program was recently launched and there has been a lot of

volunteer interest. Ms. Barajas indicated they are working to recruit new participants and mentioned the various methods being utilized to try to reach participants that could benefit from the program.

#### *Helping Hands for Seniors*

The Helping Hands for Seniors program, in partnership with Lifeline, links volunteers with adults 60+ who are in need of chore/errand services. This pilot has been funded for one year by the Cleveland Foundation. Lifeline will be screening all clients for the program. The Lake County Volunteer Network will work on recruiting and onboarding volunteers. Ms. Kane is currently hosting two information sessions in March and has had a lot of interest. Lifeline has also been receiving referrals. Ms. Barajas indicated that over the upcoming weeks the two agencies will work on matching the requests to the volunteers. Ms. Foley Kessler asked if there was an income requirement for the program. Ms. Barajas indicated that there was but that this is something that the program would evaluate as it developed.

#### *Are you OK?*

Recently, Senior Services was approached by the Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute Class of 2023 on starting a new project for seniors in Lake County. After meeting with the group and some discussion, it was decided to research an Are You OK? program for Lake County. This is not something that currently exists in Lake County and is a great compliment to the Phone Pal program. Ms. Barajas indicated the project was currently pending approval by the Board of Commissioners. The program utilizes a software that will call registered individuals each day. If a call is unanswered after three attempts a call will be made to the individual's emergency contact, and then the police department for a well-check if needed. Lifeline has agreed to partner on the program which would involve onboarding new clients and monitoring the software. Mr. Shull asked how the new programs would be advertised. Ms. Barajas indicated they were utilizing several avenues, depending on the program, including bus ads, the Bridge, press releases, social media and an email blast to all the community partners.

#### *Caregiver Learning Collaboration*

Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center extended an invite to Senior Services to be part of their National Caregiving Learning Collaborative. This includes a series of learning workshops with the goal to have a program idea related to caregivers that can be implemented for Lake County.

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the MySeniorCenter software. Willowick, Willoughby, Kirtland, and Wickliffe Senior Centers have all agreed to use the software. They will begin training at the end of the month. Mentor Senior Center is the only remaining center without the software. Ms. Barajas noted that the centers who are currently utilizing the software have all given positive feedback regarding its use and benefits to the center, and the directors.

Ms. Barajas updated the Panel on the many scheduled events that are as follows:

- Senior Day at the Great Lakes Mall on May 17, 2023.
- Support Our Seniors Pancake Breakfast at Kirtland Senior Center on September 16, 2023
- LCVN and COA Volunteer Recognition at Painesville Twp. Park on September 27, 2023
- Lake County Caregiver Forum at UH TriPoint on October 5, 2023

#### Volunteers Services Coordinator Updates:

Ms. Kane provided more information related to the requirements of the AmeriCorps Senior Demonstration Grant to establish an advisory council. She explained the entity has to be operated separate from the grantee and not a part of the sponsor organization. AmeriCorps allows grantees to

have flexibility concerning the specific structure and operation of the advisory council. Ms. Kane reiterated that more information will be presented at the next meeting and that future minutes will also reflect time spent on advisory council business.

Ms. Kane mentioned the upcoming volunteer trainings on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and LGBTQ+ Safe Space training. Ms. Kane distributed flyer with dates and locations. Mr. Dreher expressed that trainings should be required. Ms. Kane responded that the trainings are strongly encouraged, but are not required. Ms. Kane further indicated that all trainings have been paid for through the AmeriCorps Seniors grant and that this was a great opportunity to spread the importance of these topics to the volunteers and volunteer stations.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

General Discussion: Mr. Joseph Tomsick discussed Council on Aging's March for Meals event planned for March 18 at the Great Lakes Mall. He also informed the Panel of the annual meeting scheduled for October 12. Mr. Tomsick provided an update with the Mentor Meals on Wheels location, which experienced some water damage in December 2022. Mr. Tomsick indicated a new location has been identified that Council on Aging will be able to utilize at no charge. However, he indicated they will need to purchase four new electric ovens for the site. Mr. Dreher asked if Mr. Tomsick had intended to request senior levy funds to help with the purchase. Mr. Tomsick indicated he had reached out to Mr. Boyd and would direct any formal requests regarding the purchase of the ovens to Ms. Barajas.

Adjournment:

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. and Ms. Foley Kessler seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"  
Motion carried.

\*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.\*