

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
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 2:01 p.m.

Present:

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

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane, Commissioner John Plecnik

Absent: None

Public: None

Public Comments: Commissioner Plecnik thanked the Advisory Panel for their service and their efforts to meet the needs of Lake County seniors and gave each Panel member a Lake County pin.

Approval of the November 16, 2021 minutes:

Ms. Foley Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021, Mr. Dreher seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: Ms. Barajas provided copy of written request from Lois Orosz dated December 13, 2021, requesting information related to 2022 senior levy allocations. Response and requested information was sent by Ms. Barajas on December 17.

Senior Services Coordinator Updates:

Mrs. Kane provided an update on the Lake County Volunteer Network (LCVN) operations. In February the LCVN applied for AmeriCorps American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Project grant. This is a federal grant that assists communities with COVID-19 recovery. Award notification will occur in June 2022. Ms. Foley Kessler asked when the RSVP grant will be up for re-application. Ms. Kane indicated it would likely be in 2024 to start 2025.

Ms. Kane shared that April 17-23 is National Volunteer Month. To honor our volunteers, Ms. Kane has created a coupon flier that provides discounts to seven local attractions in Lake County. This has been created in collaboration with the Visitor's Bureau. Additionally, planning for the Annual Volunteer Recognition Event is well underway. The event will be held July 13 at the Mentor Amphitheater with entertainment provided by the Pop Tarts and ice cream by the East Coast Custard. Both of these volunteer recognition efforts are in partnership with the Council on Aging and will be offered to volunteers of both the LCVN and the Council on Aging. Ms. Foley Kessler asked how many volunteers in total would receive the coupon flier and asked if any businesses had turned down the opportunity to be included. Ms. Kane indicated about a total of 600 volunteers would receive and that there were a couple organizations that did decline to be included either because they already offer a significant

senior discount or because they are offering a discount through Forum for Volunteer Administrations as part of National Volunteer Week. Mr. Shull asked if any additional organizations could be added. Ms. Kane replied that 2022 has already been finalized but that she hopes to grow it in subsequent years.

Ms. Kane provided stats from 2021 on the COVID-19 hotline and the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry. 45 volunteers contributed 3,147 hours of service to the hotline and 42 volunteer contributed 533 hours and served 7,068 duplicated seniors at the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry. 25 new volunteers were enrolled in the LCVN April-December 2021. Ms. Foley Kessler commented that Health Commissioner, Ron Graham, always gave credit publicly to the efforts of the COVID hotline volunteers for their work.

Ms. Barajas distributed the final copy of the Panel Operating Procedures and indicated the Prosecutor's Office had also reviewed as a final approval.

Ms. Barajas shared that the Board of Commissioners has been moving forward with procuring software from MySeniorCenter. A demo was held in January with Eastlake, Perry, Fairport, and Madison and was very well received by the center directors. The Commissioners have approved to pilot the software with these centers initially, with the intention to add centers in the future. The software will track who is coming into the center and what they are doing while they are there. Ms. Barajas will have the ability to log into an URL and view each center's data which will eliminate the need for monthly reports from the center. The software also offers a lot of other great features that will be useful to the center and the center directors. The prosecutor's office is currently in the process of reviewing the contract and drafting a MOU that will need to be signed by each center's leadership. This will include the center's responsibility, as well as the county's obligations to the center regarding the software. Ms. Barajas anticipates having the centers officially on board by June. Ms. Foley Kessler asked why only four centers were moving forward with the software. Ms. Barajas indicated that all the senior center directors were invited to attend the demo which was offered virtually and in-person but only Eastlake, Perry, Fairport, and Madison chose to do so. For this reason it was decided to start with these centers and test how it goes. Mr. Gauntner asked who will have access to the data. Ms. Barajas explained that she would be able to access each center's data but that each center would not be able to access another center's data.

MS. Barajas indicated the Commissioners have approved funding for Catholic Charities to create a "Hispanic Senior Hub" which will cater to the unique needs of Hispanic seniors. This would include coordination of services, interpretation and translation services for senior providers lacking Spanish-speaking staff, monthly clinics offering a range of senior services information, transportation, healthy lunch, socialization activities, and more. Additionally, Catholic Charities would work with the BOC Volunteer Services Coordinator to recruit and onboard senior volunteers to help operate monthly clinics. Funding will be provided to pilot this project and provide a PT coordinator, interpretation and translation services, and food for the monthly clinics. Discussion amongst the Panel continued including opportunities for outreach and additional potential offerings by the Hub.

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the Aging in Lake County Conference for 2022. After some discussion with the Council on Aging, it has been decided to hold off on the conference one additional year. In lieu of this event, a Caregiver Recourse Fair that will include a wide-range of organizations that provide services to older adults and/or caregivers will be held in October. Details are still being discussed and further update will be provided at the May meeting. Mr. Gauntner commented that awareness of caregiver services was much needed and was glad to hear this would be happening in Lake County.

Ms. Barajas updated the Panel that all 2022 agreements have been sent and returned, with the expectation of Madison Senior Center. Madison Senior Center is aware and will be submitting the signed agreement soon.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Dreher discussed concerns with the increase in membership and activity fees at the Willoughby Senior Center. Mr. Dreher questioned how this might impact funding allocations in 2023. The Panel continued with further discussion on the topic, including adding an additional question to the 2023 funding application to find out if other centers are also increasing fees.

General Discussion: The Panel discussed potentially adding a July meeting and decided to make a decision in May as to whether or not a July meeting was needed. Panel also discussed having each levy recipient in to meet with the Panel members following their application for 2023 funds, but prior to making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for 2023 allocations. Ms. Barajas indicated the November 29 meeting would need to be moved up in order to have enough time for interviews. The Panel decided to have the meeting begin at 11:00 a.m. on November 15 to accommodate. Ms. Barajas will inform recipients of new process with a save the date for November 15.

Mr. Dreher thanked Commissioner Plecnik for the Lake County pin and voiced his appreciation that the Commissioner was able to sit in the on meeting and contribute to the discussion.

Adjournment:

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:12p.m. and Ms. Foley Kessler seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24 at 2:00 p.m.