

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
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, Ms. Foley Kessler, opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Members: Ellen Foley Kessler, Lyle Shull, Tom Dreher, Emily Koenig, Jenna Bing, Greg Giegerich, Larry Sterk
Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane, Commissioner John Hamercheck
Public: Linda Schaffer, Executive Assistant to the CEO of Lake County Council on Aging

Public Comments: Following introductions, Ms. Barajas announced that chairperson, Mr. Gauntner, has withdrawn his position on the Advisory Panel and noted Mr. Giegerich has been appointed as his replacement. The Panel is currently at full capacity with seven members. Ms. Foley Kessler, vice-chairperson, will serve as chair in the absence of a chair. Nominations for 2025 officers will occur the last meeting of 2024 per the Panel's operating procedures.

Approval of the May 14, 2024 minutes:

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024; Mr. Sterk seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"
Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

2025 Senior Levy Applications:

Ms. Barajas presented the 2025 application for senior levy funds. The application drafts were sent to the Panel two-weeks prior to the meeting for review. Ms. Barajas informed the Panel there were two different application for 2025, one for senior centers, and one for county-wide agencies, but that the budget worksheet was the same for all programs. Ms. Barajas noted some changes to the budget to include 2023 actual and 2024 projected revenues and expenses, along with the 2025 request. Additionally, all applications would need to be signed off by a Chief Executive Officer, which was mostly a change for the senior center applicants. Ms. Foley Kessler requested that the fiscal agent name be added to the county-wide agency application, similar to the senior center application. There were no other requested changes to the application.

Ms. Barajas shared a list of potential applicants for 2025 funding. Mr. Shull inquired if there would be a list of the 2024 applicants as well. Ms. Barajas explained that information will be provided to the Panel when reviewing the 2025 recommendations. Panel members will be able to see each agency that was awarded funds in 2024 along with how much was allocated and how much has been expensed year to date.

Mr. Dreher requested that any complaints regarding the application process be shared with the Panel at the next meeting.

Ms. Barajas finished by sharing the timeline for 2025 applications. Levy requests are due back Friday, October 11, 2024, by 4PM. Copies will be distributed to all Panel members on Friday, November 1. Ms. Foley Kessler requested that staff recommendations are also shared prior to the next Panel meeting on November 19.

Some additional discussion continued amongst the Panel regarding the distribution and review of the 2025 senior levy applications.

Volunteer Services Coordinator – Lake County Volunteer Network (LCVN)/AmeriCorps SDP Update:

Ms. Kane shared that the AmeriCorps Senior Demonstration Grant ended on June 30, 2024, and that the final report has been submitted. Ms. Kane expressed that the most successful activity in the grant was the Meals on Wheels (MOW) volunteer recruitment of 30 new MOW drivers in 18 months. The grant allowed for a \$50 gift card to all new MOW drivers who delivered for a minimum of 3 months. Ms. Kane shared that all 30 volunteers are still delivering meals.

Ms. Kane provided information on the upcoming AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant due September 25, 2024. The Lake County Volunteer Network will be submitting an application for this three-year grant that begins April 1, 2025. Approved applicants will be notified in January 2025. Workplan activities for the RSVP application will include MOW, Phone Pal, and Helping Hands for Seniors. The primary goal of the grant will be keeping seniors living independently and improving social connections.

Ms. Kane provided an update on Volunteer Recognition scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at Painesville Township Park. The theme is “Volunteers Spread the Magic”. A lunch and entertainment will be provided; 186 volunteers have registered to attend.

Ms. Kane also shared information on two upcoming events. Ms. Kane will be participating in the Lake Metroparks Senior Day at Lake Farmpark on Thursday, September 12, 2024, and will have a table set up to share information. Ms. Kane will be managing the Public Inquiry desk with three volunteers as part of the Lake County Citizen Corps Council at the PNPP-EMA Drill on September 24, 2024.

Senior Services Manager Updates:

Ms. Barajas provided a re-cap of the drive through food distribution on August 13 at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Healthy Aging Grant funds were used to distribute food bags to 475 older adults. The bags included chicken, bacon, ground beef, pork, eggs, cheese, milk, bread, and produce. Support for this project was provided by the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, the Lake County Volunteer Network, Laketrans, Avery Dennison, Lake County Department of Utilities, Board of Lake County Commissioners, Lake County Buildings and Grounds, Lake County Fairgrounds, United Way of Lake County, Adult Protective Services, Lifeline Inc., Lake County Council on Aging, and New Hope Baptist Church.

Ms. Barajas informed the Panel that the final draft of the study from the Center for Community Solutions has been received and staff will be reviewing this week for final input. Ms. Barajas indicated this information should be available to the Panel at the November meeting and discussion regarding the results can occur the first meeting in 2025.

Ms. Barajas reminded the panel of the upcoming Lake County Caregiver Forum on October 29, 2024, and the Support Our Seniors Pancake Breakfast on September 15, 2024, at the Willowick Senior Center.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ms. Bing asked, after her review the 2015 MSC study, if the work with redefining senior centers was something that had been executed. Ms. Barajas explained that this is still something the Board of Commissioners is working toward and the theme will be repeated in the recent study done by the Center for Community Solutions. Ms. Barajas also explained that the addition of the MySeniorCenter software in the last year or two has enabled the Board to begin to get their arms around senior center usage.

Mr. Sterk provided an overview of the technology expo he attended that was offered by the Geauga Department on Aging and noted that the Lake County Council on Aging has discussed collaborating with Geauga for 2025.

General Discussion: Ms. Shaffer provided a brief update on the Council on Aging operations. Ms. Shaffer extended an invite to the Panel to attend Council on Aging's annual meeting on October 24, 2024.

Ms. Barajas presented a gavel to the Panel gifted by Commissioner John Plecnik to commemorate the Panel increasing from five to seven members.

Adjournment:

Mr. Shull moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m. and Mr. Giegerich seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.