

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, November 14, 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 2:07 p.m.

Present:

Members: Lisa Manning, Lyle Shull, and Ken Gauntner; Ellen Foley Kessler joined by video conference

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane, Commissioner Richard Regovich, Commissioner John Hamercheck

Absent: Tom Dreher

Public: Kenn Kaminski, Kenneth Filipiak, David Malinowski, and Ray Kirchner

Public Comments: Mr. Filipiak, city manager for the City of Mentor, addressed the Panel regarding the allocation of senior levy funds. Mr. Filipiak referenced the 2015 MSC Study which indicated 22% of participants in senior levy funded agencies were served by the Mentor Senior Center, 34% by the Council on Aging. Mr. Filipiak expressed that, based on this, Mentor Senior Center should receive 22% of the senior levy funding. He continued by stating the Mentor Senior Center is receiving a disproportionate share of the senior levy, when, for example, compared to the Council on Aging which receives ~44% of the senior levy funds. Mr. Filipiak indicated that the Mentor Senior Center has services just as comprehensive as those offered by the Council on Aging and should not be viewed solely as a community based activity center. Additional discussion continued regarding the services provided by the levy, as well as the Mentor Senior Center.

Approval of the September 12, 2023 minutes:

Mr. Gauntner moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023; Ms. Manning seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Nomination of 2024 Officers:

Lyle Shull indicated he would accept nominations from the Board for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Gauntner nominated Ms. Manning as Chairperson, Mr. Shull seconded the nomination.

Vote: "Ayes"

Motion carried.

Ms. Manning nominated Ms. Foley Kessler as Vice-Chair, Mr. Shull seconded the nomination.

Vote "Ayes"
Motion carried.

Volunteer Services Coordinator – LCVN/AmeriCorps SDP Update:

Ms. Kane provided an update on the Meals on Wheels (MOW) incentive program. She indicated 26 volunteers have been referred to the Council on Aging since April 2023. The goal is to reach 75 by the end of the grant period. Ms. Kane noted that the gift card incentive for MOW drivers will continue through the end of March 2024.

Ms. Kane provided an update on the Phone Pal program. Twenty-one clients and 20 volunteers are currently actively participating in the program; one volunteer has two clients. There have been 704 completed calls completed since the program began. The average call time is 29 minutes for a total of 348 hours of calls.

Ms. Kane indicated round two of the outcome client surveys for the Mobile Pantry is currently underway. She stated the participants are commenting more about how much they are relying on the produce distribution with food prices continuing to rise. Additionally, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank has been providing milk, eggs, chicken and other meat when they have surplus. The Lake County General Health District has expressed interest in creating recipe cards that include cooking tips for seniors/single/double households. The plan is to start distributing these cards to participants beginning January 2024. The cards will also include tips such as freezing produce, how to freeze in small portions, how to store produce to last longer, etc.

Ms. Kane provided an update on the Volunteer Recognition, which was held at Painesville Township Park on September 27. One hundred and eighty-three volunteers made reservations to attend; 156 showed. Invites were mailed with the LCVN newsletter.

According to Ms. Kane, the AmeriCorps SDP Grant monitoring report continues with a corrective action plan. The Lake County Volunteer Network (LCVN) received a verbal compliment related to the thoroughness of the policies and procedure, including having one of the fewest findings of any new AmeriCorps grantee. A plan to implement corrections will need to be completed and submitted by November 30, 2023. Following that submission, the LCVN has one year to complete the necessary corrections.

Senior Services Manager Updates:

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the second annual caregiver forum which was held on October 5 at UH TriPoint. Seventy-five people registered for the event with about 40 people attending. Survey feedback was very good and will be thoroughly reviewed when planning for next year. Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging also attended and indicated how much they love the forum concept and that no one in the 5-county area is doing anything like this. They want to continue to support the event.

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the pancake breakfast which was held at the Kirtland Senior Center on Saturday, September 16. Turnout was excellent and \$6783 was raised for the senior levy campaign. Next year's event is scheduled for Sunday, September 15 at the Willowick Senior Center.

Ms. Barajas informed the Panel that Lake County was awarded \$447,954 by the Ohio Department of Aging for Healthy Aging Grants. Fifty percent of the funds must be obligated by 03/31/24 and 100% by 06/30/24. All funds must be spent by 09/30/24. The county is able to keep 10% for administrative purposes. A request for application will be released on Friday, November 17, 2023 and will be published in the News Herald on 11/17 and 11/24, with applications due back 12/08/23. Awards will be issued by

01/04/24. Twenty percent of the funds must be spent on food assistance programs, 20% on housing assistance, and 10% on internet access and digital literacy services. The remaining can be used to provide evidence-based/evidence informed services in alignment with Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging.

Ms. Barajas provided the Panel with a spreadsheet outlining the 2024 senior levy requests and staff recommendations. Ms. Barajas indicated there was a new request from Willoughby Hills and potentially the Free Clinic. Ms. Foley Kessler requested a copy of each organizations application in order to take a more thorough look at the requests. The remaining Panel members concurred that they would also like to review the applications. Ms. Barajas indicated she would get printed copies to each Panel member and requested comments related to the 2024 recommendations by Wednesday, November 22, 2023.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

General Discussion: None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Shull moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m. and Ms. Manning seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.