

Minutes of the  
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
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. Ken Gauntner, opened the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Present

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

Staff: Jason Boyd, Donna Tyson, Alyea Barajas and Kathy Russo

Public Comments -none.

Approval of May 17, 2016, July 13, 2016 & August 16, 2016 minutes:

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the May 17, 2016 minutes as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: All Ayes"  
Motion carried.

Ms. Cantor moved to approve the Special Meeting minutes of July 13, 2016 as submitted and Mr. Dreher seconded the motion.

Discussion: none.

Vote: "All Ayes"  
Motion carried.

Ms. Cantor moved to approve the August 16, 2016 minutes as submitted and Mr. Dreher seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: "Ayes": Gauntner, Doberdruk, Kline  
Abstain: Dreher  
Motion carried.

Correspondence –none.

2017 Funding Requests

Mrs. Tyson provided a copy of the 2017 Funding Requests to the Panel.

Mr. Boyd reported the 2017 funding request proposals have been received and reviewed by the staff members. Mr. Boyd stated they had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Dreher to discuss several items. Mr. Boyd referred the panel to a power point and reviewed the January to December, 2016 summary of funds awarded. He explained that the recommendations reflect several centers would have a decrease in their funding, some would remain as requested and a few may have increases.

Mrs. Tyson explained while reviewing the requests, she looked in detail at their spending, what they have provided to their members and their projected spending. She stated that the staff worked independently on the submittals, submitted their thoughts on funding and averaged their recommendations. Discussion was had on the projected levy amount and that the levy will be on the ballot next year. Mr. Dreher discussed the previous possibility of reducing the contingency fund and that the Senior Study had brought many additional issues to the forefront that had not been previously considered.

Mrs. Barajas stated that the staff recommendations for 2017 funding reflects an average of what each staff member recommended individually.

Mrs. Cantor questioned the funding cuts to several of the centers. Mr. Boyd stated that in reviewing narratives and what the centers proposed to do, based on the study with the funding, he noticed that many were not utilizing some of the best management practices or priorities presented and reminded the panel that these are recommendations and subject to changes. Mr. Boyd pointed out that the funding amounts are on the conservative side and stated any suggestions that the Panel may have would be welcome. Mrs. Cantor expressed her concerns regarding cuts for the Centers such as Eastlake and Madison, adding that both are nutrition sites. Mr. Gauntner stated he agrees with Ms. Cantor regarding Eastlake and Madison. Discussion continued how each Center handles their disbursements and the manner in which they have submitted their proposals and intentions on how they intend to utilize their funds.

Mr. Dreher suggested the possibility of reducing the Contingency fund and increasing the funding available to the Centers. Mr. Boyd stated that the 2013 Contingency fund was originally established to assist the Centers with emergency capital repairs; excluding those that should be maintained regularly, gap or bridge financing, project start-up costs, and projects deemed necessary by the Panel. Mr. Dreher asked what Ms. Barajas has heard from her visits to the Centers. Mrs. Barajas reported that she has met with the 12 Seniors Centers in Lake County that receive levy dollars and they have discussed their feelings regarding the Study, the Contingency Fund, and their budgets. Ms. Barajas stated that she did receive a lot of negative feedback about the Study and her suggestion would be to have the Center Director and the Fiscal Officer for that city come in and personally discuss the sub recipient agreements and the Senior Study. Mr. Boyd explained that he has given the Centers many opportunities to ask questions or voice their concerns about the Study and has not heard much negative feedback.

Ms. Barajas reported that in her discussions with the Centers and their visions, they voiced their concerns for basic needs such as safety, cleanliness and providing enough room for their members. She heard several directors state their hesitancy to take on additional work until the basic needs could be met. She explained that in her conversations, she did receive questions about capital improvements and that some of the Centers were fearful of utilizing the Contingency Fund should

they need additional funding at a later date, that the Centers would like more interaction with the Panel, and more support from the County. Ms. Barajas stated that her feeling about the budget requests is that there are other needs in the County and she would like to see the County move forward with the Study and begin to implement some of the recommendations. She stated that she did advocate for some of the cuts and feels that the County needs to begin setting aside funding for future programs such as guardianship services and adult protective services. Mr. Boyd explained that the Centers have been asking for a “partner” and that Mrs. Barajas will work with them as their partner in assisting them with their needs.

Mr. Dreher stated one of the benefits of hiring Ms. Barajas is her ability to work in collaboration with the Centers to assist them identify their needs.

Ms. Cantor stated that having Ms. Barajas as a go between is a good opportunity to build more communication between the County and the Centers and assist them with creativity and guidance.

Mrs. Tyson stated she feels it is very important to keep the fiscal officers in the loop of the Senior Center needs.

Mr. Boyd asked if the Panel would like any other Centers re-evaluated on the proposed budget besides Madison and Eastlake.

Mr. Doberdruk asked if Ms. Barajas has had an opportunity to visit the Centers during their lunch times and how the attendance was. Ms. Barajas stated she has not had the opportunity yet but does plan on visiting the nutrition sites, she has spoken to several sites regarding their attendance, decrease in attendance, and the possibility of some type of outreach volunteer to check on those not attending.

Mr. Boyd reported that the Deputy Auditor would like to work with Ms. Barajas in coordinating a meeting for a multiple home and tax forum for seniors. He stated he feels this is an appropriate partnership idea.

Mr. Dreher asked by a poll of each Panel member if they feel there should be a modification/reduction of the \$500,000 Contingency Fund.

Panel Members: Ms. Cantor, Mr. Gauntner, Mr. Doberdruk and Mr. Kline do not want to see a modification or reduction to the Contingency Fund at this time.

Ms. Cantor stated Ms. Barajas would be able to explain to the Centers exactly how the Contingency Fund works and what it may be used for. Mrs. Tyson stated another option may be to not replenish the Fund as the Centers utilize the funds.

Mrs. Tyson explained that she met with Mr. Boyd and Ms. Barajas to discuss possible ways of funding in the future is to study the population of seniors. Mrs. Tyson referred the Panel to and explained a detailed financial analysis PowerPoint presentation that breaks down the funding by several categories. The Panel was asked to review the analysis, make their recommendations, and submit to Mrs. Tyson by November 3, 2016 and would like to submit to the Commissioners by November 10, 2016.

Mr. Kline asked if there had been any type of response with the hiring of a staff person for Senior Services. Ms. Cantor suggested arranging a conference to update the community on the Study that may be sponsored by the Commissioner's office. Mr. Boyd stated he and Ms. Barajas have been discussing long term/short term goals, arranging community conversations, countywide conferences on aging.

Mr. Boyd stated that the Coalition will be meeting on Friday, October 21, 2016. The Coalition will be receiving ALICE Training and take part in levy discussions.

#### Senior Services Coordinator's Report

Ms. Barajas stated she has had the opportunity to meet with all 12 levy recipients, has updated the County Senior Services website page to include future panel meeting dates, agendas, and approved minutes. She explained that she has added the history of the Levy, the Senior Study and a brief overview of the Senior Study. She would like to set up a Lake County Senior Services Facebook page. Ms. Barajas designed a brochure and supplied the Panel with copies for review. Ms. Barajas reviewed the meetings she has had throughout the County, those that she has scheduled, and conferences she plans to attend.

#### Approval of the 2017 Advisory Panel Meeting Dates:

Mr. Kline moved to approve the 2017 Advisory Panel Meeting Dates and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: "All Ayes"  
Motion carried.

#### Old Business –

##### Senior Citizen Collaborative Initiative:

Ms. Barajas provided the Panel with a revised Collaborative Initiative Application, which includes feedback received from the Panel. The total amount for the Collaborative Initiative will remain at \$100,000 maximum, each project will be awarded at \$50,000 or less to allow smaller projects to be considered and the project completion time will be 18 months rather than 2 years. Mr. Boyd reminded the Panel that the funding for this Collaborative Initiative will come from the Contingency Fund. The Panel approved the application as submitted and Mr. Boyd stated he would present the application to Board of Commissioners for their review and approval.

#### New Business – none.

#### General Discussion:- none.

Adjournment

Mr. Doberdruk moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: "All Ayes"

\*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.