

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, October 15, 2019
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, Mr. Dreher, opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Present-

Members: Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Spence Kline and Lyle Shull

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Jason Boyd and Donna Tyson

From the Public: Mr. Ben Fierman from Collaborative Partners, Mr. Joe Tomsick from Council on Aging

Absent: Mr. Doberdruk and Ms. Kathy Russo

Public Comments -none.

Approval of August 15, 2019 minutes:

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2019, Mr. Shull seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"
Motion carried.

Correspondence –none.

Presentation:

Mrs. Barajas introduced Mr. Ben Fierman from Collaborative Partners.

Mr. Fierman gave a presentation for strategic planning and future best use of the Senior Levy dollars. Mr. Fierman stressed that the levy funds provide a significant amount of money and resources. His goal is to create a foundation of data and bring enough objective information forward to assist the County in providing the highest and best use of those dollars. Mr. Fierman discussed his professional background and provided a detailed report on his methodology. He explained that his process is to bring as much information as is historically available and add to it through identifying where there are gaps in services and for ongoing operational planning, assessing priorities, and determining where there might be redundancy, etc.

Mr. Boyd stated that the first study has served the County very well allowing for the implementation of many of the necessary services. The County is at the point now where it is necessary to take a closer look to ensure that there is legitimate, thought-based information for the Panel to review and make the most knowledgeable recommendations possible. Mr. Fierman stated that when you look at what has been accomplished since the last study, it is remarkable. You need to look at what programs currently exist and the delivery services and programs to the seniors of Lake County that did not exist before the first study. Mr. Boyd also gave a detailed list of the information Mr. Fierman will be gathering to determine his report. Mr. Fierman continued to discuss with the Panel the past study's information along with past studies that he has done throughout the

country and emphasized that objectivity is key when making difficult funding decisions. They also discussed the frequency of future studies as Lake County's senior population continues to rise.

Senior Services Coordinator Updates-

Mrs. Barajas provided and reviewed the 2020 meeting dates with the Panel, pointing out that they will be changed from Tuesdays to Wednesdays. The Panel acknowledged the change.

2019 Aging in Lake County Conference

Mrs. Barajas stated that the 3rd Annual Aging in Lake County Conference was held on Wednesday, October 2nd, from 8:30 AM to 2:45 PM at the Four Points Sheraton Eastlake. She stated that they were able to offer CEU credits thanks to Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and approximately 30% of the attendees were able to take advantage of the credits. There were 170 professionals in attendance with several speakers, a panel discussion and breakout sessions to discuss future topics. Mrs. Barajas stated that she received some very positive feedback regarding the content but that there were issues with the venue. She will follow up with the management of the venue regarding the issues that were experienced. Mrs. Barajas stated that she received \$7,000 in sponsorships this year compared to \$6,000 in 2018. Mr. Boyd pointed out that the attendance continues to grow with 170 in attendance this year as opposed to 150 in 2018 and 130 in 2017. Mr. Dreher complimented Mrs. Barajas on a job well done and stated that he too has received a lot of positive feedback regarding the content of the conference. Mrs. Barajas and the Panel discussed several venue options for next year's conference.

Eastlake Senior Center Contingency Request:

Mrs. Barajas stated that she received a contingency funds application from the Eastlake Senior Center in the amount of \$30,000 to update five (5) window air conditioners. She provided a copy of their request and the quotes to the Panel for their review. The Panel and Mrs. Barajas reviewed the quotes and she suggested they postpone any decision on the request. She would like to ask that they resubmit their request in 2020. Mr. Boyd agreed with Mrs. Barajas suggestion.

Mr. Gauntner moved to table the contingency request of the Eastlake Senior Center, Mr. Kline seconded the motion to table.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Contingency Request tabled.

2020 Funding Request:

Mrs. Barajas provided the Panel with the 2020 funding request applications and spreadsheet. She reviewed the spreadsheet in detail. Mr. Boyd discussed other factors used to determine the proposed funding and stated that all current recipients will receive funding this year. The Panel discussed with Mrs. Barajas and Mr. Boyd some of their questions and concerns with the proposed funding and several specific senior centers. Mr. Fierman offered his opinion and stressed the use of an objective model when looking at the proposed funds. Mr. Dreher asked Mrs. Barajas and Mr. Boyd when they would like the Panel to make their recommendations for funding. Mr. Boyd stated that the Panel can email their recommendations and any questions or concerns they might have to Mrs. Barajas within the next two weeks. Mr. Fierman assured the Panel that his study will suggest some definitive guidelines for funding beginning 2021.

Old Business – none.

New Business: none.

General Discussion: Council on Aging Director, Mr. Joe Tomsick discussed with the Panel their new initiative titled the Non-Medical In-Home Care Program. He explained the request for proposals (RFP) used to award contracts for these services. They hope to have the program up and running by November, 2019. He stated that this new program will provide two hours of personal care assistance once per week for eligible Lake County seniors aged 60+ and includes supervision with bathing and light housekeeping. He estimates that they will be able to serve approximately 140 seniors per year.

Adjournment:

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. and Mr. Shull seconded the motion.

Discussion: none.

Vote: “All Ayes”

Motion carried.

*The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.