

Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board

Minutes

Meeting Monday, July 27, 2020

Chuck Marinec, Chair, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on July 27, 2020 at 9:00 am. Self-Intros made for recording purposes. Meeting held at the Historic Courthouse Room 309, 240 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri.

Board Members Present: Chuck Marinec, Monica Horton, Denny Pilant (Phoned In), Amy Montebello, Bobbie Wurst and Joyce Munden (Phoned In).

Board Members Absent: Thelma Neff (excused).

Others Present: Deborah Allen, Danielle Wise, Arc of the Ozarks, Stephanie Appleby and Addie Blankenship, NAMI.

Meeting Minutes: June 22, 2020. Approved as submitted. Motion made by Amy Montebello. Bobbie Wurst seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Horton presented the Treasurer's Report as May 31, 2020 compiled by Cindy Stein, County Auditor (see attached). She reported the total Cash Balance \$1,353,758.82. Total Revenue \$2,286,827.98. Total Expenditures \$1,091,485.57. Total Ending Balance \$2,549,101.23. Checks issued to Ash Grove Food Pantry, Connie Hayes (2), Mercy Regional Health Center, Northview Senior Center (Food Enhancement), Springfield Southside Seniors (Food Enhancement) and Mercy Regional Health Center (Driving). Total amount of checks issued was \$21,012.42. With the addition of the Shingles vaccine of \$1,012.176.00, \$764.54 for a new computer and \$150.00 for a second monitor that will leave a little over \$82,000.00 left to spend. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Bobbie Wurst. Amy Montebello seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: Chuck Marinec reached out to Denny Pilant to see where we are on the nomination for the By Laws Emeritus members position. Denny Pilant responded that he tried contacting Thelma Neff three times but received no answer. Denny will continue in his efforts to contact Thelma

New Business: Applications to consider, Arc of the Ozarks, NAMI and Strafford Senior Center.

Presentation: Arc of the Ozarks by Danielle Wise

Arc of the Ozarks submitted a report from last year requesting funding for this year for similar projects. qualify. Those are the main things they would like to focus on. They realize that funding may be a little more limited this year they do completely understand that. They are very appreciative of the support the Senior Board has provided over the years. Danielle summarized the request, as follows:

- Currently 22 people are benefiting from their organization. However, this number is on the rise due to transfers from other organizations where their organization is a better fit for the individual.
- They are looking for ways to keep the individuals entertained at home. Unfortunately, there is not a lot that can be done, they are trying to keep them working toward goals. There may be some items that the Program Supervisors can look into to help with passing the time. So many are used to a routine and once that routine is disrupted it can really affect their mental health. They are just trying to keep everyone engaged so they can move forward.
- Most of the people that benefit from this program receive a very small stipend each month that is hardly enough to get by with odds and ends and they rely on this program to help.

Monica Horton mentioned how organized their progress report was: nice, neat and well compiled. She liked the system that they used for requesting funding within their agency. Upon completion of the progress report there was money due back to the Senior Board. Monica inquired on when a check in the amount of 470.39 was to be issued. Danielle stated that she made the request; however, she would get some additional information and let us know as soon as possible on the status of the refund.

Chuck Marinec did want to take this opportunity to mention a couple of changes in the Progress Report Procedure stating that they were now due on January 31st and a tape totaling all expenditures should be attached.

Motion was made, contingent upon available funds, by Amy Montebello. Bobbie Wurst seconded. Motion carried.

Strafford Senior Center: Strafford has requested funds for an Air Conditioner replacement unit, which Chuck Marienc feels could be an urgent need. However, Amy Horton informed the board that Strafford was accepting and requesting funds for the highest bid, which is not acceptable without good cause. Chuck Marinec is proposing that the request be tabled until further information is available by either phone or by having someone from Strafford Senior Center attend the next meeting. Motion made to table requested by Bobbie Wurst. Amy Montebello seconded. Motion to table carried.

After some consideration and discussion, it was agreed that Deborah Allen would call the center and verify the urgency of the request. If the center was open for senior meals or are they doing home deliveries only. Also, justification as to why they had selected the higher bid. Chuck Marinec stated that if Strafford wished to stay with the higher bid the board could approve \$3,893 and Strafford would be liable for the difference. If the need is an emergency and the unit is needed quickly, a special meeting can be held to reconsider the request and then voted on at that time, with the understanding that the approval is based upon fund availability.

Update on Mental Health needs: Chuck Marienc asked Joyce Munden if she had made any contact with Burrell or Missouri State for any additional information. Joyce Munden mentioned that unfortunately she was unable to reach out to anyone at Burrell. Joyce had read that Burrell received a 1.3 million dollar grant for a mental health program. Joyce thought a possible collaboration or offer on the Senior Citizens Board perspective could be obtained. It would be beneficial for the Board to stay in contact

with them to support what is going on at different levels of government and to not miss any other needs in the county.

Application: NAMI – presentation. Representatives did not show up. A motion was made to table until the August meeting by Amy Montebello. Bobbi Wurst seconded. Later in the meeting NAMI arrived for their presentation. A motion was made to remove the tabled action by Bobbie Wurst. Seconded by Monica Horton. Motion carried.

Presentation: NAMI – Stephanie Appleby, Executive Director NAMI SWMO & Addie Blankenship, Director of the Hope Center.

Stephanie spoke with Teresa at the Medical Examiner’s Office and she got a brief run down on what suicides looked like for Greene County. For 2019 there was a record breaking 73 confirmed suicides in the County. Out of that 73 -- 12 were over the age of 65. We are averaging approximately one a month in the age group of 65 and above. There was a significant amount of those individuals that were using firearms as a means for suicide and those were male. So far for 2020 we are tracking over that number and just received the report which goes through June. We are already averaging above one a month for that specific age group.

- Reaching out to vulnerable populations in Springfield to support Mental Health for Older Adults, Unsheltered and Youth
- Why Older Adults and Mental Health? Depression is a serious illness affecting approximately 15 out of every 100 adults over age 65 in the United States.
- CDC-The State of Mental Health and Aging in America for Current Depression the percentage of adults age 50 or older who have or had depression for the State of Missouri is 6.67% to 8.57%.
- Frequent Mental Distress in Missouri the percentage of adult’s age 50 years or older who in the past 30-day’s experience frequent mental distress is 9.83% to 14.45%.
- We want to reach older Adults in a sustainable way. Out of 960 individuals who provided their age via self-survey, only 4% identified as over the age of 65 years or older. This tells us we have not been providing services to older adults over the age of 65 adequately.
- The large-scale need: A Staff Member
 - A staff member to develop market and oversee the program. This staff member would be responsible to marketing to agencies specifically designed for adults age 65 and older.
 - This staff member will develop mental health support groups in senior facilities, provide education workshops, facilitate support activities for seniors and oversee facilitators of these groups.
 - This staff member will be responsible for collecting data and reporting this data to the HOPE Center Director as it will then be reported to GCSCF.
 - This staff member will be responsible for being innovative and creative in a COVID-19 atmosphere. Despite the limitations, support is still needed in our community.

- Mental Health, Seniors and COVID-19.
- Older adults are more susceptible to COVID-19, increasing fear, guilt and self-neglect.
- This may increase depression, anxiety & risk of suicide (We are awaiting the date to see what consequences and trauma are caused by these current events)
- COVID-19 may lead to isolation and no support systems. Seniors are cut off from family and friends.
- We cannot do nothing: we must be pro-active!

Chuck Marinec's main concern is that this is for a staff person and would only be funded for the remaining five months left on the calendar since funding ends on the 31st of December. There is a question on the sustainability after the five-month period and we would like to see some assurances that it would be able to continue. Stephanie feels that this would give them the jump-start that the program would need. She has a person in mind that is currently working with them through the Work Force Program and her contract is up at the end of the year. She feels that this would be a perfect match since she is already on board and familiar with the workings of the program.

Monica suggested that it might be beneficial to resubmit this application at the beginning of 2021. They would need to hand in their application prior to the first meeting in January. Stephanie feels that this might be a better option for them because it will give Kate time to be out in the field to be able to identify what the needs really are. That would work for NAMI.

Joyce Munden would like to have someone from the board visit in six months to see how things are progressing and report back.

Monica Horton motioned for NAMI to come back when funds are available for the 2021 Fiscal Year with a proposal for funding to be considered at that time. Bobbie Wurst seconded. Motion carried.

Rogersville Progress Report: As of this meeting date we have not received anything from Rogersville pertaining to their completed progress report. Denny called and still no response. Chuck Marinec will contact Ron Horn for a summary of expenditures and a tape total. The application is still pending.

10:15 A.M Motion to adjourn Amy Montebello. Bobbi Wurst seconded. Motion carried

Next Meeting August 24, 2020 – Location: Historic Courthouse, Room 309. If additional people will be in attendance a waiting area with the appropriate social distancing will be available.

Minutes submitted by: Deborah Allen