

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
November 14, 2022
10:00 am -12:00 pm

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Cameron McClure (District #5) welcomed all to the SAC meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name
1	P	George Hanley	2	P	Linda Hyaduck	3	P	Jerry Sowik
4	P	Carolyn Morrison	5	P	Cameron McClure	6	E	Renata Erickson
7	P	Barbara Garbutt	8	P	Norene Yuskowatz	9	V	
10	E	Carolyn Price	11	P	Howard Adams	12	V	
13	P	Sylvia Whitmer	14	V		15		
16	P	Mark Kelly	17	P	Barbara Seldon	18	V	
19	P	Royetta Ealba	20	P	Martha Schlesinger	21	A	Cheryl Cushingberry
AL	P	Rock Abboud	AL	P	Marcus Jackson	SR	P	Pat Zawadzki

Key: **Dist** = District # (AL -Member-at-Large, SR – Staff Rep); **RC** = Attendance P – Present; E – Excused; A -Absent; V – Vacant); **Name** = District Council Member

Others Present:

Dr. Russell Faust – Oakland County Health Division, Medical Director

Ken Dobson – Oakland County American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Director

Barbara Winter – Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Senior Analyst

Ashley McBride-Braswell – Oakland County Manager, Community Engagement Manager

Lindsay TerHaar – Oakland County Health Division, Planning and Evaluation Coordinator

Robin Danto – Oakland County Health Division, Public Health Educator

Genessa Doolittle – Oakland County Health Division, Public Health Educator

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting October 17, 2022 were approved with the following changes: punctuation correction on page 5 after “of particular concern” to a semi-colon; removal of word “be” after not (be) have. Carolyn Morrison abstained from voting, as she did not attend the October meeting.

EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Ashley McBride- Braswell, Oakland County Community Engagement Manager, reported on two county-wide activities: 1) an upcoming ‘shop small’ selfie event, with first place submission winning \$1,000 and second place submission winning \$500. She will send an electronic copy of the announcement flyer to Pat Zawadzki to distribute to SAC members; 2) a reception held last week for veterans called “Light up the County”. Ms. McBride-Braswell is also working on the Senior Center Matching Grants Program with ARPA County Director Ken Dobson, and he presented the report on that program’s progress.

SENIOR CENTER MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

Ken Dobson gave a brief report to SAC members on the status of the program and informed them that he will be making a more in-depth and formal PowerPoint presentation at a special virtual briefing at noon today, which is open to all SAC members and those senior centers that may be interested in applying for a grant. He also told SAC members there will be a Q&A briefing document available for and after the presentation that directly addresses some of the most important (and misunderstood) parts of the grants process...particularly the definition/description of what qualifies as “matching funds” which are necessary for a center to apply for a grant.

Summarizing what is in the document and presentation, Dobson said: **there are 4 options that can be used to match the amount of money being sought** in the grant application:

- 1) **COVID-related improvements** – in either programs or the physical site - made to a center/program **since January 1, 2020**. Centers will need to provide invoices and receipts for all past improvement expenditures

- 2) Things that a center is **doing now** – ex: putting in door improvements for seniors – that are new or upgrades
- 3) Anything **budgeted until December 31, 2024** that will be site/program improvements
- 4) **Donations**, both in-kind and monetary. A receipt or proof of said donations will be needed.

Qualifying improvements can be:

- Capital (that is, to the facility)
- Technical (including offering telemedicine, installing WIFI, etc.)
- Infrastructure (fixing potholes, sidewalks, etc.)
- Professional development (for both center workers AND seniors – like classes, certifications, etc.)
- Equipment (getting or upgrading exercise equipment, weights, having water aerobics classes, etc.)

Mr. Dobson urged centers that are having trouble understanding or providing matching grant information to contact him or Ashley McBride-Braswell. He also stressed that if a center is having difficulty completing/providing necessary documentation they should **SUBMIT AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION BY THE DECEMBER 9 DEADLINE** and then the county will wait for the necessary documents. He said he understood that the deadlines are tight and completing the documentation may be problematic, but the County has to follow the federal ARPA guidelines and deadlines.

Ashley McBride-Braswell then reviewed a list of the centers that have not yet indicated they will be participating in either the November 14 or November 28 briefing session/presentation, and SAC members who liaise with those centers said they would contact them to urge them to participate in at least one of the sessions, and to share with them the information from this meeting.

During the Q&A part of the discussion, clarification was given on how to establish the value of an 'in-kind' donation – which is to have some kind of descriptive letter or receipt; and again, **budget items can be for program/facility improvements as long as the funds will be budgeted by December 31, 2024**. It was also pointed out that **all grant funding MUST be spent by December 31, 2026**. This is a federal requirement. SAC members also requested that both the November 14 and 28 briefing sessions be recorded and available to the public after the sessions, in addition to the PowerPoint presentation.

COUNTY UPDATE

Dr. Russell Faust, Oakland County Health Division Medical Director, reported to SAC members on a number of health-related topics.

- COVID case numbers are dwindling from a level of 200-300 daily to now 100-200 cases reported per day. He stressed that REPORTED cases are not total cases, as most testing is currently done at home and those results are mostly not reported to health officials, and many new cases are being found among persons admitted to hospital for other health reasons. But these case numbers and fatality numbers contrast favorably with those from April 2020, when the county was recording 20-30 fatalities per day – a level which is now a monthly figure. He also said that most current positive cases of COVID are not being hospitalized. The current dominant strain is BA4-BA5, and he suggested everyone get their booster. There is a 2 -3-week lag in analyzing samples taken, so there will be new dominant strains in the future. But each booster conveys an additional and slightly new strain of immunity, so he urged SAC members to stay current on vaccines/boosters.
- Monkeypox cases in the state are relatively low – less than 400 – and in the county less than 100 have been reported to date. The disease is transmitted skin-to-skin.
- Regarding RSV, he said that because of the COVID lockdown and extensive masking during that time, children younger than 4 years of age don't have an immunity that would have been passed on to them by adults. There are very few pediatric beds available in Oakland County. In adults RSV is either asymptomatic or symptoms present like those of a cold, so he urged SAC members to be especially careful if they are visiting with young children over the holidays. And he reported that seniors over 65 with other comorbidities are most of the RSV fatalities.

Q&A points included: Pfizer is working on an RSV vaccine for pregnant women, but there is no estimated date for its availability; Dr. Faust did not provide any guidance for whether or not seniors should get a RSV vaccine when it becomes available, but said that with any of the current viruses co-infections are very common and getting two together is much worse than getting only one. Asked

about the reaction to getting the flu and covid shots together, Dr. Faust said there is no way to predict how an individual will react.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Lindsay TerHaar, Oakland County Health Division Community Planning and Evaluation Coordinator, gave a brief slide presentation to SAC members on the community assessment survey. The purpose of the survey supports community broadly based/defined health planning and improvements (including looking at mental health, healthy food, exercise, etc.) and is done every 5 years. The last one was done in 2015-2016. When the survey is completed, the results are used to see what the top 2-3 issues are and then create a plan based on that information. The plan will include improving services in those top areas, complete with an action cycle (which is data driven), and goals and strategies for achieving them.

The data collection process includes several parts that allow for individuals to directly respond indicating what they think are county health-related strengths, barriers, and challenges: a community survey (in several different languages, available both electronically and on paper - electronic formats include both social media and their website); survey distribution to coalitions and organizations (like SAC); and may include a phone survey. When asked for feedback, SAC members made the following suggestions:

- Since many senior centers have their own website, the survey should be sent to the centers directly. SAC can help give them a heads-up to make sure they see and respond to it when it is sent out.
- If there is going to be a phone call component, a large phone bank will be needed.
- It was suggested that the survey be 'taken on the road' – that is, have survey team representatives go to senior centers and make presentations there
- Send Pat Zawadzki, Senior Advisory Council Coordinator, a pre-distribution copy of the proposed survey, so SAC members will be able to give feedback before it is used, and should include where SAC members should send their comments
- There is a wide range of ages used to define the onset of what qualifies as 'seniors and/or older adults' (from 50 to 75+). Since it is a survey done only every 5 years, it was felt that conscious effort should be made to identify

and include those who are at the younger end of the age spectrum, and responses should be tracked by age bracket as well. SAC members were told the survey is for anyone 18 years and older, and respondents will be asked to indicate their age, and zip code. No names are used on the survey.

- It was urged that both mental and physical health issues would be included in the survey. Specially in this post-COVID era, mental health challenges (like isolation) are often hidden and/or under-addressed and should have a prominent place in the survey and the programming it creates.

In response to a question about what program is being used for the electronic survey, Ms. TerHaar informed SAC members that it is Qualtrics.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT PROCEDURES

Pat Zawadzki, SAC Coordinator, reminded SAC members since the 2022 election of commissioners is completed it is time to approach their specific commissioner if they are interested in continuing to serve on SAC. The respective commissioner will then submit their recommendation to the Board of Commissioner's liaison who will then forward them to Pat Zawadzki the SAC Coordinator for processing. The recommendations will then be submitted to the County Executive for appointment. Hopefully, by the end of January appointments will be made of all district-based SAC members. The current term of all SAC members ends officially on December 31, 2022.

Ms. Zawadzki asked that SAC members be mindful that there have been new commissioners elected, AND there are new districts and district boundaries, so it is possible that some SAC members may live in a new district and/or have a new commissioner. Commissioner/district/senior center overlap or realignment, SAC membership, and senior center district new locations will be discussed at the December and then the January meeting.

If current SAC members no longer wish to serve – or wish to apply to become an AT LARGE member – there are other procedures that will apply. Current SAC members should each, individually, decide if they wish to continue to serve and then contact their current/new County Commissioner and notify them – and Pat – of that decision.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Barb Garbutt (District #7) reported that the Richardson Center has added 4 new pickleball courts.

Cam McClure (District #5) reported that West Bloomfield is looking for a new center facility and wants it to have space inside for pickleball courts.

Rock Abboud (At-Large) said that in Birmingham there is concern that the pickleball courts are too close to homes.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL**

DECEMBER 12, 2022

10:00am – 12:00PM

**** A LINK WILL BE EMAILED TO SAC MEMBERS SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING DAY**