

**SENIOR SERVICES GRANT COMMISSION (SSGC)  
McHenry County Administration Building  
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A  
Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2006

Chairman Salgado called the meeting to order at 9:40a.m. The following Commission Members were present: Sandra Salgado, Chairman; Virginia Peschke; Lyn Orphal; Rick Klasen; Anna May Miller; Don Larson; Barbara Wheeler; Mary Reid and Tamara Valentine-Garza. Also present: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Sandy Lewis, McHenry County Mental Health Director; interested public and the press.

Sandra Salgado, Chairman	
Frank Greenwald	David Harper
Suzanne Hoban	Richard Klasen
Don Kopsell	Don Larson
William Markison	Anna May Miller
Catherine Nash	Lyn Orphal
Virginia Peschke	Mary Reid
Mark Shepherd	Barbara Wheeler
Tamara Valentine-Garza	

MINUTES

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klasen to recommend approval of the Senior Services Grant Commission minutes of November 4, 2005 as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Chairman Salgado apologized for the small attendance as for some reason there was some miscommunication and some of the Commissioners did not receive the agenda for the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sandy Lewis, Executive Director for the Mental Health Board joined committee members to introduce herself and get clarification regarding future funding for Family Alliance. She stated that they had heard that this committee, in the future, intends to use ½ of its grant funding to provide transportation grants for seniors. Family Alliance had previously received grants for operational costs for their agency. They also are concerned because they receive quarterly payments for their grant, which is creating cash flow problems for the agency. She stated that the Mental Health Board has a strategic plan, which includes a priority that would allow seniors to remain in their homes. Family Alliances' mission is to keep seniors out of Mental Homes. Commission members stated that there is never a guarantee that funding will be renewed every year. Family Alliance will have to prepare a grant package every year for application. They also noted that a big part of Family Alliance is transportation, which could be part of their grant application as well. They noted that each agency cannot expect the same funding every year and there is no favoritism to grant recipients. They noted they try to give every applicant a little of the grant funds.

OLD BUSINESS

*Review of 2005 Senior Services Program Year Accomplishments (not in packet):* Committee members reviewed a chart that listed the 2005 Senior Service Program Accomplishments. \$211,000 of the grant funds were not utilized and were rolled into the 2006 program funding. The number of seniors served was impressive. Commission members stated that a press release should be sent to the papers to get the word out of the accomplishments of the tax levy. Commission members stated that Senior Services is trying to get on the McCog schedule. It was noted that there are still people out in the community who are not aware of the availability of these funds. One grant recipient is still not in compliance and has requested an additional extension in order to close out their funding for FY2005. Mr. Labaj stated that Uhlich Children's Advantage/Home based services will not be continuing these services and needs extra time to refer these clients elsewhere. Commission members gave permission to allow three extra months for continuance of this program.

*Consideration of additional funding for the Township of Richmond – Richmond Senior Transportation Program:* Committee members received a proposal from Richmond Township for salary and purchase funds for either a bus or van for its newly operational Senior Transportation Program. During its deliberation for '06 programs, the Committee had partially funded Richmond Township's request and instructed that an additional proposal be submitted after the program became operational. The Committee could not vote on the request due to lack of a quorum because of an abstention by the Commissioner Valentine-Garza. The procurement of the bus/van

portion of the request would necessitate further consideration during the '07 funding round. Consideration of the salary request will be taken up during an anticipated April meeting of the Commission.

*Review of Senior Services Associates Survey Results (not in packet):* Mr. Labaj reported that the survey results are being tabulated and should be available for the next meeting at the end of April or early May.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

*Review of Pioneer Center Request for Funding:* Ms. Lorraine Kopszynski from Pioneer Center joined commission members to request funding for soil testing and drawings completed in order to build an assisted living facility on the Valley Hi property. She noted that the former Chairman, Mike Tryon, had a vision to create a campus setting for different levels of care all on the same site. Congressman Manzullo has requested \$500,000 of Federal Funding to build 2 assisted living homes on the Valley Hi Site. They need to know if the soil is even suitable for this purpose. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klasen, to recommend soil borings and plan drawings completed to build an assisted living site on Valley Hi property. Commission members stated concern that there has not been a formal decision regarding plans for the Valley Hi site and it is premature as a committee to make a decision. Commission members stated that a grant could be given to Pioneer Center and the Housing Authority to pay for soil borings for the whole site. Commission members questioned what "load" the sewage and water systems could handle as well. Ms. Peschke amended the motion and second amended by Mr. Klasen to direct the County to complete soil borings on the Valley Hi property for the possibility of building an assisted living facility and senior housing on Valley Hi property. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. It was noted that the County already knows what the capacity is for the sewer and well and information should be available through SAS Architects. Commission members noted that after it is determined what is planned for the area and if the site is buildable, Pioneer Center and the Housing Authority could request funds for design plans. Commission members stated that the whole area needs to look similar so the area "fits" together.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 11:05a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION