



## Executive Board

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### *Meeting Minutes*

Thursday, February 28, 2020, 10am

**Present** | Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Karl Wilson, Cynthia Crim, Skip Batchelor, Ann Bannes

**Other Attendees** | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Bill Kuehling

#### **Welcome and Review of Minutes** (*Cynthia Crim*)

*Ann Bannes made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded, Board unanimously approved.*

#### **Fiscal Committee Report – Budget Review** (*Skip Batchelor*)

Presented the proposed budget for the Senior Fund's FY2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Increases in program investments are proposed to spend down some of the funding reserves that remain from the first fiscal year of the Fund and to respond to a short-term emerging need for a key partner, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging. There is also an increase in program support expenses with a proposed addition of a part-time staff member and other minor increases in operation-related costs. Once approved by the Senior Fund Board, the budget will be submitted to the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen for final approval.

*Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve the FY2021 budget as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded, Board unanimously approved.*

#### **Program and Grants Committee** (*Karl Wilson*)

Presented list of recommended awards for FY2020 Applicant Defined grants. This is a new funding category for the Senior Fund; the opportunity allowed organizations to seek support for resources that they needed to serve St. Louis City older residents even if it was outside of the current priority issue areas for the Fund. The Fund budgeted \$400,000 for FY2020 and received \$1.48M in requests.

Eleven out of 32 applications were accepted for awards at a total expense of \$400,051. Approved awards included support for expansion of current programs, pilot projects, and capacity-building expenses. All awards are limited to one year of support.

*Karl Wilson made a motion to approve the recommended awards as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded, Board unanimously approved.*

*Notetaker: Stephanie Herbers*

**St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (Jamie Opsal)**

At the end of January, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA) received notice that the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services decided to adjust how General Revenue funds were distributed to Area Agency on Aging regions. They will now utilize the Intrastate Funding Formula that is used for allocating federal Older Americans Act funding. This resulted in a significant funding cut to SLAAA's FY2021 budget. At this time, SLAAA does not have a solution for absorbing the funding cut without affecting services.

SLAAA submitted a memo to the Senior Fund requesting an allocation of emergency support in FY2021 up to \$100,000. This amount will eliminate the need for cutting the number of home-delivered meals served for City residents. The request will only be used if alternative options are not found.

In addition, SLAAA requested potential access to up to \$78,000 in match funding should there be an opportunity for additional funds through the Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program (MEHTAP) in FY2021. In FY2020, SLAAA received match funding from the Senior Fund, which resulted in an increase in funding from MEHTAP. This was used to increase much needed funding for transportation contracts and reduce the cost of subsidized bus passes SLAAA offers by an additional \$10/month.

Currently, there are no clear alternative funding sources. The United Way recently released their Safety Net RFP, which includes food insecurity as a priority issue. Unfortunately, they will only accept applications from 501c3 organizations. SLAAA is the only AAA in the state that is not a non-profit. Bill Siedhoff, Jamie Opsal, Dave Sykora, and Anneliese Stoeber discussed this with Regina Greer and Trisha Gordon at United Way. We had hoped there would be an opportunity for a waiver to allow SLAAA to apply since they are the primary safety net provider for services to older residents in St. Louis City. Unfortunately, the United Way team did not feel like they could adjust their eligibility criteria at this time.

The \$100,000 would come from the Senior Fund's Emergency Needs line item and the \$78,000 would come from the Matching Grants line item under Program Investments. Should SLAAA need these funds, they will submit a memo with the requested amount, along with a budget narrative, for approval to disperse by the Senior Fund Board. Senior Fund staff will also work to support SLAAA in seeking other funding opportunities and any advocacy support they may need at the state and local level.

*Karl Motion made a motion to budget up to \$178,000 in FY2021 for St. Louis Area Agency on Aging for emergency home-delivered meal funding and matching funds for transportation resources, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded, Board unanimously approved.*

**Executive Director's Report (Jamie Opsal)**

Request for Endorsement, Healthcare for Missouri – As discussed at a previous Board meeting, Jamie received a request for the Senior Fund to become an endorsing organization for Healthcare Missouri, the coalition that is seeking Medicaid expansion in Missouri. For the population the Senior Fund seeks to serve, Medicaid Expansion would open eligibility to City residents 60-64 years who have incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$17,609 for an individual and \$23,791 for a couple). Currently, only adults 60-64 who have a qualifying

disability AND incomes that do not exceed 85% FPL (\$10,846 for an individual) or 100% FPL if they are blind, qualify for Medicaid. This would be a significant improvement for all City residents, including those served by the Senior Fund.

*Karl Wilson made a motion to support and approve the Senior Fund submitting their endorsement of Healthcare for Missouri's constitutional amendment, Ann Bannes seconded, Board unanimously approved.*

Board Calendar Change – Jamie proposed making some adjustments to the Board meeting calendar to better align with the schedule for program investment decisions planned in the remainder of the year. This included changing the April meeting to March and cancelling the August meeting.

Moving the April 23 meeting to March 26 did not work for several of the Board members in attendance, so April 2 was settled on as the date change. An updated Board calendar will be sent out.

*Having no other items for discussion, Ann Bannes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:27am.*