



# **OLDER ADULT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD SYNOPSIS**

**CITY OF NOVI**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – 6 P.M.**

**248.347.0400**

**1. Welcome – Introductions:**

Dr. Joslen Letscher, Michael Longo, Mary Storch, Neha Kiru, Janet Censoni (ab ex) and Cecilia Gallagher

Sandy Fisher (OAS Social Services Coordinator,) Jessica Mistak (Recreation Supervisor), Jeff Muck (PRCS Director)

**2. Food Assistance Programs update (Fisher)**

Older Adult Services facilitates two food commodities programs for low-income households. Focus: HOPE - Food for Seniors Program provides a free monthly commodity food supplement for older adults who are 60 years of age or older and meet income eligibility requirements. Novi averages 28 recipients.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. TEFAP provides quarterly food distributions for households which are income eligible. Novi averages 36 recipients.

Information is distributed via social media, Engage, and through local resource network and providers.

**3. SOAR - Society of Active Retirees (Fisher)**

SOAR - Society of Active Retirees. Based in Farmington Hills, Michigan, "SOAR is a community-based, lifelong learning initiative affiliated with Wayne State University and the Road Scholar Institute Network. A member-run and member-driven organization, the Society offers a broad range of non-credit courses and related activities that provide multiple opportunities for social and cultural enrichment as well as personal growth. The volunteer faculty, drawn largely from WSU and other area colleges and universities, is supplemented by a wide range of qualified professionals and passionate hobbyists." Currently, they are presenting all programming virtually through their website: [www.soarexplore.com](http://www.soarexplore.com). Participants automatically become a member when they enroll in a six-week term. SOAR's next session begins in February 2021. Our first opportunity to promote it is the Feb-Mar 2021 Engage. In addition, we will also promote the program via the E-Engage, Novi.org, Facebook, flyers and other marketing methods as needed. The Advisory Board was familiar with the program and in favor of OAS proceeding to partner with SOAR.

**4. Meals on Wheels update (Mistak)**

Provided overview of the program and its operations out of Meadowbrook Activity Center. Requests have increased by 5% since March. Delivered Michigan State Fair gift bags and OLHSA Quarantine kits to recipients. Contract with MOW

was revised to incorporate Covid procedures and practices. Discussed new coordinators and need for additional volunteers and how to volunteer.

**5. OAS Transportation update (Mistak)**

An update was provided on hours, service routes, COVID impact and other items. Operating at ½ capacity (individual riders/not multi-loading in most cases) due to social distancing concerns. Drivers and schedulers who worked during the shut down and continue to work were given recognition. Had been limiting rides to medical only during stay at home order but have re-opened to shopping, social appointments but majority of requests remain medical based. One vehicle has been wrapped with new graphics and more to follow.

**6. Parks Projects update (Muck)**

Provided update on Lakeshore Park, Pickleball courts at Wildlife Woods, budgets and staffing. Oakland County Commissioner Markham is looking for a candidate to serve on Oakland County Senior Commission. KMG staff has been working with CVS on vaccinations to be held at Meadowbrook Commons when available.

**7. OAS Winter Prioritization Discussion**

Discussion centered around age in place initiatives and potential programs if gathering and/or stay at home orders remain in place for an extended period in 2021. Members were asked to recommend 2-3 programs for staff to consider. They included: friendly re-assurance phone calls, pen pal program, easy home exercise flier to MOW, more parks and trails promotion, social media posts on resources provided by other agencies, buy a meal for seniors program with local restaurants, virtual volunteering, assembling care packages for vets/military members and/or first responders, a flashlight wave/parade, and more advertising of library resources.

**8. Roundtable:**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**2021 Meeting Dates:**

February 16

April 20

June 15

August 17

October 19

December 21