



## **Senior Center Committee February 2, 2024**

Senior Center Committee members convened in person on Friday, February 2, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting in person at the Washington Park Senior Center.

### **Members Present:**

Eugene Guskowski, *Commission on Aging, Chair*  
Howard Snyder, *Commission on Aging*  
Kent Mayfield  
Terrence Regan Moore Sr.

### **Members Excused:**

Cherie Swenson  
Alice Steuck Konkel  
Amber Miller, *AARP, Commission on Aging*

### **Staff Present:**

Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS, AAA*  
Domonique Klett, *DHHS*  
Cathy Wood, *SOA*  
Mark Behar, *COA*  
Jill Knight, *DHHS, ADS*  
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public:**

Ted Rehl  
Kyra Orvis, *AG Architecture*  
Andrew Auden, *AG Architecture*

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Gene Guskowski called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Domonique Klett took attendance, quorum was present.

### **II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Kent Mayfield **SECOND:** Howard Snyder  
Meeting Minutes approve unanimously.

### **III. STRATEGIC GUIDANCE**

#### **A. Senior Provider RFP**

Daniel Idzikowski reported that the RFP is completed and will be out in 2-3 weeks, it will be 10 weeks for a response.

#### **B. AAA Senior Center Programming**

This item will be revisited at a later time.

### **IV. SENIOR CENTER METRICS REVIEW**

Daniel Idzikowski explained how the Senior Center Metrics are created. Every month a report is required from the senior centers, not just the county one. For each station there are specific targets and 4 metrics that need to be met. There are general production and outcome goals in place, as well as quality improvements (how is the agency changing the process or procedure or the way it's delivering things to ensure the quality is improving), the last set of metrics is client satisfaction. These metrics are reviewed monthly by Jill Knight who will try and reply to any problems seen in the reports. The metrics then get combined and reported out to the service delivery committee. Carrie Vallejo then uses the reports to create an annual report that is distributed to the state. Carrie spoke on the dimensions of wellness and how reporting track this through outreach events. She also spoke on how metrics are counted within different aspects such as growth, nutrition, isolation, etc.

## **V. ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISOLATION, LONELINESS AND MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH SENIOR CENTERS**

Kent Mayfield shared The Advisory Council's identification of cardiac/heart health issues that lead to social isolation and loneliness. The Advisory Council is focusing on this for their next Area on Aging plan. Kent would like the Senior Center Committee in on this issue as it is a shared concern amongst the senior community. He suggested classes on heart health and the importance of it. Daniel reports that last year the surgeon general declared social isolation as an epidemic in the U.S. One of the ways this has manifested itself in growing suicide rates amongst older adults.

## **VI. GIVING FORM TO THE VISION**

### **A. Marketing Package Update**

Barriers the committee is facing to create new Senior Centers:

1. Lack of sustainable long term and short-term funding
2. Outdated buildings
3. Call to action/finding the right leaders

Mark Behar feels that the HUB booklet focuses too much on pre-existing senior centers instead of trying to find new locations or other centers that might replace or be less expensive than trying to remodel or rebuild pre-existing senior centers. Why can't other community centers be incorporated? Limited resources restricts other community centers being incorporated.

Terrence Regan Moore Sr. asks Mark Behar if merging places would take away from the space, would the sacrifice be greater than the accomplishment?

What is standing in the way of achieving the vision of MKE Hubs?

A PowerPoint presentation was shown with different bullet points and visual illustrations of what the modern senior center/MKE Hub would encompass. It is a draft that will be used as a marketing tool.

### **B. Identifying the Path to Long Term Political Support for Senior Centers**

A specific call of action is needed to achieve this. Without enough support from private and community partnerships, the interest of the people and our government, the vision of a modern senior center cannot be achieved. The big question is, how can we appeal to potential investors into supporting this vision as a worth while venture.

### **C. Developing Partnerships/Securing Funding**

No one entity can make the new senior centers happen, it's going to take a lot of community partnership to achieve this and a substantial change in the model of how business is conducted both virtually and communally.

### **VII. Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

The next Senior Center Committee meeting will be held Friday, March 1, 2024, at West Allis Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Domonique Klett  
Clerical Specialist I