



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2025

The Senior Center Committee members convened in person at Wilson Park Senior Center, RM 501. 2601 W Howard Avenue. Milwaukee, WI 53221. With Hybrid Options.

Members Present

*Commissioner Eugene Guszkowski,
Chair*
*Commissioner
Crocker Stephenson,
Commissioner Mark
Behar*
*Alice Steuck Konkol
Commissioner, Amber Miller*
Ted Rehl
Ramona Dicks Williams
Howard Snyder

Members Excused

Kent Mayfield
Commissioner Terrence R. Moore Sr.
Cheri Swenson

Staff Present

Carrie Koss Vallejo, DHHS
Daniel Idzikowski DHHS
Jill Knight, DHHS
Ortrialla Paris DHHS
Michelle Allison, DHHS
Emily Kenney, DHHS
Claire Enders DHHS
Migdalia Pacheco DHHS
Vonda Nyang DHHS

Attendees from the Public

Shannon Downie, SOA
Michael Vanblaricum SOA
Vera Ford

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Eugene Guszkowski called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Ortrialla Paris, Administrative Assistant took roll; a quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28, 2025, SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the August 28, 2025, Center Committee meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Rehl Second)

III. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SENIOR CENTERS

Daniel Idzikowski, Director of Aging Services, provided an update on the status of senior centers. He reported that the McGovern Senior Center will remain closed due to significant flood damage and the presence of mold. Although some community members protested the closure, alleging it was retaliatory, county officials emphasized that the decision was made solely to protect health and safety. Mr. Idzikowski also shared that the Bucyrus Erie Heritage Building is intended to serve as the replacement for the Kelly Senior Center. The new facility is larger, more modern, fully accessible, and better connected to transportation and community resources. Many participants from the Kelly Senior Center toured the Bucyrus Erie site to gauge their interest in transitioning to the new location. He concluded by acknowledging the hard work of staff and community partners in making the open house event a success.

IV. UPDATE ON SENIOR CENTERS PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

Mike Vanblaricum and Shannon Downie from Serving Older Adults (SOA) announced the launch of extended evening hours at Wilson Park (Mon/Wed) and Washington Park (Tues/Thurs) Senior Centers, now open until 8:00 PM. This pilot will continue into 2026, alongside two new initiatives: *Wellness Without Walls* and *Step into Fitness*. SOA is partnering with U.S. Bank and other organizations to enhance programming with financial literacy, nutrition education, and health services, including evening vaccinations. New arts and hobby classes will expand evening engagement opportunities. While membership is not required, increasing awareness and participation in Milwaukee County Senior Centers remains a key goal.

V. STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Emily Kenney, Director Strategic Initiatives and Transformation Milwaukee County DHHS, presented a strategic planning proposal for the senior center. She recommended the formation of four work groups to focus on programming, communication, building improvements (innovative spaces), and funding/sustainability. Emily Kenney emphasized that all decisions must be made by the full committee and that the work groups must operate in compliance with open meetings requirements. Each group will provide monthly updates, and members were encouraged to maintain regular communication and collaboration. The committee also discussed the importance of a clear long-term vision, expert consultation, and building strong community partnerships. Strategic partnerships are expanding with organization such as the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Aris, and Marquette University. Mr. Guskowski and Ms. Kenney also

introduced the idea of forming a 501c3 to support the center's future sustainability.

VI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Continue meeting first Friday of each month at 1:00 P.M.at various senior centers.
- November & December meetings scheduled at Kelly Senior Center
- Clinton Rose may be unavailable due to upcoming construction.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Eugene Guskowski, Chair Adjourn the meeting

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar moved, Steuck Second)

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50p.m.

Sincerely,

Ortrialla Paris
AAA Administrative Assistant