



SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 4, 2025

The Senior Center Committee members convened in person at the new Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, 1230 W. Cherry St., Conference Rm 104, Milwaukee, WI 53205, with a hybrid option on April 4, 2025.

Members Present

Commissioner Eugene Guskowski,
Chair
Commissioner Mark Behar
Ted Rehl
Crocker Stephenson,
Vice-Chair
Alice Steuck Konkel
Howard Snyder

Members Excused

Ramona Dicks Williams
Kent Mayfield
Amber Miller

Members Excused Continued...

Commissioner Terrence R. Moore Sr.
Cheri Swenson

Staff Present

Carrie Koss Vallejo
Daniel Idzikowski *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Shannon Downie, *SOA*
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Eugene Guskowski called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Jill Knight, AAA Coordinator took roll; a quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2025, AND MARCH 7, 2025, SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the February 7, 2025, Senior Center Committee meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Stephenson Moved, Snyder Second)

MOTION: To accept the March 7, 2025, Senior Center Committee meeting minutes

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

III. ELECTION OF SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

Chair Eugene Guskowski nominated Crocker Stephenson to serve as Vice-Chair. No additional nominations were accepted; therefore, by acclamation, the nomination was affirmed by the Senior Center Committee.

IV. UPDATE ON DATA REPORTING WITH SOA

The Director of Senior Centers, Shannon Downie, and the Program and Planning Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Carrie Koss Vallejo, discussed the 2024 attendance trends of members at Milwaukee County's five senior centers. The report includes a chart that shows the monthly check-ins of clients participating in senior center activities.

Ms. Downie highlighted the months with the highest attendance volumes, which were August and October, as well as the months with the lowest numbers. She noted that the strongest attendance occurred at Wilson Park Senior Center and Washington Park Senior Center from August through October. This increase in attendance was attributed to the resource fairs held during those months, which invited all senior center participants to attend.

In November, the touchscreen at the Clinton Rose Senior Center was damaged, necessitating the use of a sign-in sheet for check-ins. As a result, attendance numbers for that month were low and inaccurate because not all clients signed in. Additionally, many members participated in multiple activities, further complicating the accuracy of the numbers for November.

Ms. Carrie Koss Vallejo informed the Senior Center Committee that the AAA report did not include non-evidence-based programming, which encompasses activities such as dance classes, walks, gym visits, and meal counts. In contrast, the evidence-based programming highlight consists of the Tech Connect and meal programs.

The Senior Center Committee engaged in a detailed discussion about alternative forms of data collection, including surveys. Every six months, the Service Delivery Committee receives survey results from the County's five senior centers it owns. Members emphasized the importance of the types of data collected to justify funding requests, noting that funders often look for both quantitative data and qualitative information. The AAA will provide the committee with details on the total number of meals served at the senior centers, as requested. The committee is interested in reviewing both the total meal counts and each center's capacity.

V. SPECIAL SESSION DISCUSSION

During a recent meeting, one committee member emphasized that the two most critical needs for seniors are social and physical health. Another member pointed out that the committee has not established a mission, goals, objectives, or outcomes for the past five years.

The discussion then moved to the Special Session, where Chair Eugene Guskowski called for a strategic planning session with the Senior Center Committee members. The committee needs to have a mission statement in place before proceeding further.

To start the process, we should develop a clear and concise mission statement. The proposed meeting dates for this strategic planning session are April 15, 16, 23, or 24, 2025, in the afternoon. AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski will ensure that a poll is distributed to determine attendees' availability for a Zoom meeting.

VI. PROGRAMMIG AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Director Daniel Idzikowski reminded committee members to take the handouts provided at the meeting, as they contain important updates, including the opening of a new senior center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Sincerely,

Vonda Nyang
AAA Executive Assistant