



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
Department on Aging

**Senior Center Select Committee  
Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2021**

**Members Present**

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas  
Sharron Fitak  
Gene Guskowski  
Victoria Jensen  
Sally Lindner  
Dain Maddox  
Kent Mayfield  
Alice Steuck-Konkel  
Howard Synder  
Cathy Wood

**Members Excused**

Ruth Bevenue  
Leon Davis  
Patricia Delmenhorst  
Commissioner John Griffith  
County Supervisor Jason Haas  
Debra Jupka  
Deborah Lewis

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*  
Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*  
Tim Christian, *MCDAS*  
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Carrie Ross Vallejo, *DHHS*

**Guests**

Sue Bronson  
Ana Castenada, UCC Senior Center  
Maureen Conrad  
Ann Cook  
Pat Dunn  
Cassey Gott  
Elizabeth Hipp  
Laz Jackson, Serving Older Adults  
Jim Piontek, AARP  
Sharon Roy, West Allis Senior Center  
James Sheridan

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 30 present**

Chairwoman Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas called the Select Committee on Senior Centers to order on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 1:01 p.m. DHHS Division on Aging Program and Policy Coordinator Daniel Idzikowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

**II. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF CHARGE**

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas reviewed the charge listed below with the Senior Center Select Committee before the start of discussion.

1. Evaluate suggestions presented in the "Envisioning report
2. Categorize suggestions as long or short term
3. Review programming and infrastructure needs at each Milwaukee County Senior Center
4. Develop and monitor short and long-term plans for senior centers and senior center programming.
5. Ascertain resources necessary to carry out these plans.
6. Report findings and recommendations to the Advisory Council.

### **III. FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER VISION STATEMENT (DISCUSSION)**

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas informed the Committee members that the subcommittee chairs and vice-chairs met twice last week to discuss the Senior Centers Select Committee's Vision Statement for future senior centers. The Committee needs to develop the groundwork for their report to present to the Advisory Council on their findings and recommendations on the Senior Centers. Members Guskowski and Snyder reviewed the "2021 Proposed Visioning statement for the Future of Senior Centers in Milwaukee County" with the Senior Center Select Committee. They reviewed each section and discussed how they considered a series of attributes that seniors want within future Senior Centers and their thought process behind these ideas.

The Committee discussed whether a few members could take a tour/inventory of the existing five County-owned senior centers to see how the buildings are being utilized now and discuss possible building solutions. The members also compared the vision statement to the critical questions from the Wisconsin Policy Forum listed in the WPF Report regarding senior centers: "*Young at Heart*."

The Committee pointed out that financing and development of programs play an essential part in the future of senior centers. A member suggested that they need to evaluate suggestions in the visioning statement and categorize them. The MKE Hubs should serve new and existing mature generations, not just for current seniors, to bridge the gap in generations. To do this, they would need to modernize programming and policies so everyone would benefit. Also, they mentioned the need to find ways to connect people with other services and determine how they would determine what is considered urgent.

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas reminded the Committee that a goal for today's meeting is to determine the time frame of short-term and long-term goals. A member mentioned that they need to provide clarity in problem solving, documents, and organization. The Chair asked the subcommittee groups how they felt about utilizing the envisioning statement as their foundational piece to respond to the five questions from the Advisory Council.

The Senior Centers Select Committee will utilize the visioning statement as the document they will use as their foundational piece. The Chair informed the Committee that their role as a committee is not to provide oversight of the senior centers. Today, the Committee is tasked with defining the length of terms in the report, what is considered short term and which long term? The Chair called for a poll on the definition of short-term and long-term. The consensus of the committee was that short-term was one year or less. The Chair asked that the vision statement be given to the subcommittee groups to review and utilize with their subcommittee work. Also, the Chair asked everyone to review the spreadsheet that the Programming and Promotion subcommittee designed to determine if other subcommittees can use it as a template.

#### **IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- At the next Senior Center Select Committee on October 19, 2021, the Committee will break into sub-committees for further discussion on the visioning statement.
- Virtual hearings on the 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals: Saturday, October 2 from 9 – 10 a.m. and Wednesday, October 6 from 6 – 7 p.m.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:10 P.M.**

The next Senior Center Select Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Note:** All reference Materials and Reports are Located on the Milwaukee County Division on Aging Webpage: “Envisioning Our Senior Centers”:  
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/Senior-Centers-Dining/Envisioning-Our-Senior-Centers>