



**Commission on Aging  
Senior Centers Select Committee Meeting  
May 24, 2022**

The **Senior Center Select Committee** convened virtually on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and or conference call options (computer or telephone).

**Members Present:**

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas  
Vice Chair Gene Guskowski  
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor  
Commissioner John Griffith  
Deborah Lewis  
Kent Mayfield  
Howard Snyder  
Alice Steuck Konkel  
Cathy Wood

**Members Excused:**

Leon Davis  
Patricia Delmenhorst  
Sharron Fitak  
Sally Lindner  
Kelsie Lyons  
Commissioner Cherie Swenson

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Michelle Allison, DHHS  
Andy Bethke, DHHS  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Pam Matthews, DAS  
Peter Nilles, DAS  
Darryl White, DAS

**Attendees from the Public:**

Shannon Byrne, West Allis SC  
Sheila Carter, SOA  
Laz Jackson, SOA  
Miriam Kaja, SOA  
Vevette Hill-Nwagbaraocha, SOA  
Elizabeth Price, Shorewood SRC  
Sandy Quinlan, Grobschmidt SC  
Sharon Roy, West Allis SC

## **MINUTES**

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

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas called the Senior Center Select Committee to order at 1:07 p.m. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Program and Policy Coordinator Daniel Idzikowski took roll. A quorum was present.

### **II. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MEETING PURPOSE**

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas reviewed the charge listed below with the Senior Center Select Committee before the discussion. The Chair provided a summary of the purpose of each agenda item to discuss at today's meeting.

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. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8 AND MARCH 22, 2022, SENIOR CENTER SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Review of the minutes was held over until the next Committee meeting.

### **IV. MODEL SENIOR CENTER VISITS (Charlottesville, VA)**

Member Steuck-Konkel shares her impressions and pictures of the Center at Belvedere, Charlottesville, Virginia. Steuck-Konkel noted that she felt very welcome at the Center. The space was very open, inviting, and easy to navigate. A coffee shop was part of the first floor and a primary health center was attached to the Center with a separate external entrance. An exercise space was modern with a full set of machines, free weights, mirror & bar and soft floor. The Center also included a travel agent office and offered many trips for participants. Art was prominent in a hallway gallery. The Center did not have a meal program, but did have many offerings such as arts and crafts, support groups, lifelong learning programs, performing arts – with a theatre space – financial wellness, and recreation programs. There were ample spaces for meeting and hanging out. The Center was available for rental and they charged a substantial monthly membership fee. Although they claimed the center was accessible to public transit, it seemed set off from the city and was surrounded by green space.

### **V. SUBURBAN SENIOR CENTERS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

#### West Allis Senior Center

Shannon Byrne (Coordinator) and Sharon Roy (Support Specialist) presented on the West Allis Senior Center located at 7001 W National Avenue. West Allis Senior Center programs include over 30 classes offered each week along with many special other events and guest speakers. The center welcomes guests 55 and over and serves as a congregate meal site for the Milwaukee County senior dining program. At this time, the center is still providing take-out meals and this has affected attendance. The center also supports the Stockbox commodity food program. The center hosts exercise and wellness classes, card and board

games, dancing and karaoke, arts and crafts, movies and entertainment. There is a fitness center, pool and darts room, gathering space, and Wii games along with a technology center with computers available for use.

#### Grobschmidt (South Milwaukee) Senior Center

Sandy Quinlan (Coordinator) presented on Grobschmidt Senior Center at 2424 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee. The senior is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm and serves seniors throughout southeast Milwaukee County. The center offers recreational opportunities, arts and crafts, health screenings, classes, and also serves as a congregate meal site for the Milwaukee County Senior Dining program. At this time dining is still take-out, but remains popular. The center also serves as a stockbox distribution site. The center has exercise and fitness equipment as well as gathering space. Membership fees are limited to \$10 at the present time. The center has a good relationship with Milwaukee County and social worker Andy Bethke visits regularly.

#### Shorewood Senior Resource Center

Elizabeth Price, Coordinator for the Senior Resource Center in Shorewood, Wisconsin, discussed the Senior Resource Center's services and programs it provides for its Village seniors. There are about 3,000 villagers who are 60 or over. The Center provides a Memory Café, an intergenerational group meeting for loved ones with dementia. Their staff has gone above and beyond by assisting with other needs such as paperwork, and they have sponsored a few residents for citizenship. The Center has created partnerships with UWM students to volunteer with a one-on-one Friday technology support lab, and they have partnered with Atwater's 6th grad students in the English Language Learning class as reading mentors. They also have a pen pal program for homebound seniors, as well as Zoom fitness classes. They have grab-and-go lunches for seniors and the Center is public transportation and pedestrian friendly. Funding is around \$190,000 doesn't pay for staffing or overhead.

Idzikowski asked the coordinators what is the most popular program or activity besides senior dining? What one area of improvement would you focus on?

- Elizabeth: The most popular program outside of their dining program is mentoring and tech support programming. One area of improvement they would like to see is a volunteer coordinator position.
- Sandy: Most popular program is Bingo. Improvement for the Center would be to hire another staff member.
- Shannon: More popular program is the arthritis program. They would like to increase evidence-based programming.

**VI. SENIOR CENTER ATTRIBUTES MATRIX APPLICATION – ISSUES SPECIFIC TO INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES:**

Idzikowski asked the Committee members if they had any new attributes or issues with the County's five owned senior centers to be addressed that were not previously listed on the general capital needs list. He wants to incorporate both general requests and specific capital needs for each senior center in the County Board Capital Budget and ARPA funding requests.

A Committee member discussed changes they would like to see completed with Wilson's Senior Center, mainly electrical improvements. Vice-Chair Gene Guskowski informed the Committee that there would be a need for overall systematic improvements and significant improvements with the existing centers, or there would be new buildings needed.

Vice Chair Guskowski suggested that Dan work with the Director of SOA and each Senior Center manager and their representatives to discuss the current attributes/initiatives for each building to see if they have any additions. Cathy Wood, President/CEO of Serving Older Adults (SOA), and Laz Jackson, Director of Senior Centers, will work with the Senior Centers to see the Deadline to turn in information to Dan **by Friday, June 3, 2022.**

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, MEETING TIMES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Griffith is looking into scheduling a tour of the Milwaukee Athletic Club for the Senior Center Select Committee to attend.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The Select Committee on Senior Centers will convene next virtually on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant