



**Commission on Aging
Select Committee on Senior Centers Meeting
June 14, 2022**

Members Present:

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas
Vice Chair Gene Guskowski
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
Commissioner Cherie Swenson
Sandra Dotson
Sharron Fitak
Deborah Lewis
Sally Lindner
Kent Mayfield
Alice Steuck Konkel
Howard Snyder
Cathy Wood

Members Excused:

Leon Davis
Patricia Delmenhorst
Commissioner John Griffith
Kelsie Lyons

Milwaukee County Staff

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Peter Bratt, *Parks*
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Peter Nilles, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*
Darryl Whyte, *DAS*

Attendees from the Public:

Peter Bratt
Diane Chilinski, *SOA*
Laz Jackson, *SOA*
Miriam Kaja, *SOA*
Commissioner Gloria Miller
Sister Judith Smith
Betty Thompson
Sandy Quinlin, *Grobschmidt*

MINUTES

I. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF MEETING PURPOSE

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas called the meeting to order at 1 p.m., and reviewed the charge listed below with the Senior Center Select Committee before role and 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.

II. ROLL CALL

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Program and Policy Coordinator Dan Idzikowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2022, AND APRIL 18, 2022, SENIOR CENTERS SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.

The meeting minutes for April 12, 2022, and April 18, 2022, were tabled until the next Senior Centers Select Committee meeting.

IV. REPORT ON MARINA COUNTY SAN FRANCISCO, CA SENIOR CENTER

Senior Centers Committee member Howard Snyder provided a report on two senior centers he visited while vacationing in San Francisco, California. He discussed the similarities and differences that these California senior centers have with Milwaukee County's senior centers. The two senior centers he visited were Curry Senior Center, and the San Francisco Senior Center/aquatic center. The SFSC opened in 1947 as the first non-profit senior center in the United States; its downtown branch was the first in California to receive OAA funding.

The Curry Senior center primarily serves ethnic Asian and Chinese residents, and most of the residents who attend do not speak English. The Center has at least one staff member who can speak eight different Chinese dialects. There is multigenerational access at the Senior Center as the seniors rely on the younger generation to assist with translation. This Center provides affordable housing and helps low-income and homeless seniors, and transportation is their biggest issue as there is no parking at the Center, and they have limited transportation services. The Center's dining programs suffered due to COVID. Seniors could not have congregate dining and missed the socialization, creating loneliness. This Center is high-tech and owns quite a bit of real estate.

The SFSC in the tenderloin district is an urban, middle-class senior, art-driven Center. Their funding is non-profit/government. There was much art in the Center and it has a story-core facility with a radio lab on its walls. The Center does have some security issues. But it is a beautiful place with many windows focusing on San Francisco Bay. Collaboration with local art galleries and the government. And they rely on volunteers.

V. SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION

Alena DeGrado, the Transportation Coordinator for DHHS Aging and Disability Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the transportation barriers/gaps in access to the Milwaukee County senior centers. The presentation was based

upon discussions she has had with the Milwaukee County Transit System, First Transit, the five Milwaukee County senior centers and an analysis of transportation routes and utilization data. Ms. DeGrado discussed transportation barriers, bus route redesigns, and possible access improvements for each of the five County-owned senior centers. Ms. DeGrado also conducted a transportation needs survey in spring and will share the results at a future meeting.

Ms. Grado also informed the Committee about the County's transportation programs available for older adults: MCTS Transit Plus, MCTS Go Pass, and Older Adult Transportation Service (OATS). Committee members discussed how they could access bus transportation to the centers. She discussed the distances of the bus routes to the senior center's entrances. A discussion followed about how to get seniors to utilize transportation services more often.

VI. REVIEW OF CRITICAL QUESTIONS

The Senior Centers Select Committee reviewed the seven critical questions compiled from the Senior Center *Envisioning* report and the Wisconsin Policy Forum's *Young at Heart* report. Idzikowski stated that he will record the Committee's answers to these questions in open discussion. The Committee only provided responses to questions one and two with a recommendation that question three be revised or combined with another question. Wood suggested that the committee members visit all of the senior centers before deciding whether to keep all five County-owned senior centers. The Chair stopped with question 3 due to time restraints and because the Committee was not at a point where they could answer more questions. They will review the attributes at the next meeting and revisit the questions, along with ARPA considerations.

VII. FUNDING, NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair added the Critical Questions document to June 28, 2022 agenda; Ms. Delgado will provide answers to the questions asked at today's meeting at the June meeting; and the Committee will discuss ARPA Funding.

VIII. NEXT MEETING TIME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day; walk at Clinton Rose Senior Center, 3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Milwaukee, WI 53212, at 9 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The Committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vonda Nyang, Executive Assistant