



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CENTERS  
Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, May 28, 2020 | 3:00 – 4:00 P.M**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Call to order by Interim Select Committee on Senior Centers chair Sharon Abston-Coleman at 3:02 p.m. and roll call:

Sharon Abston-Coleman, PhD, Interim Committee Chair  
Richmond Izard, Chair, Commission on Aging  
George Pumphrey, PhD, Commissioner  
Amber Miller, Commissioner

Bettie Rodgers, JD, Commissioner and Chair, Aging  
Advisory Council  
Pat Dunn, Aging Advisory Council  
Gene Guskowski, Aging Advisory Council  
John Griffith, Commissioner, was excused.

**II. Review Minutes of the May 21, 2020 Minutes of the Select Committee on senior centers Planning Meeting**

Abston-Coleman referred members to the Minutes of the May 21, 2020 Select Committee draft minutes. everyone on the Select Committee for reading and consideration.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of the May 21, 2020 Minutes of the Select Committee on Senior Centers Planning meeting.

ACTION: Unanimous. (Dunn, Pumphrey)

**III. Discuss scope, goals, timing, and membership composition of the Select Committee on Senior Centers**

Abston-Coleman directed the members attention to the minutes from the last meeting regarding composition of the committee. Voted on the establishment of 19 members of the Select Committee.

Pumphrey – will Select Committee once constituted be able to add members as necessary? Coleman responds that the Committee members can consult with others outside the committee as expertise is needed.

Dunn – attended several meetings of the Advisory Council Envisioning meetings at Milwaukee County senior centers. Was asked to be on the Clinton Rose SOA Advisory Committee.

Pumphrey – Will there be a chair of the Select Committee.

Izard – Chair will appoint one of the Commissioner members as chair. Members can elect a vice chair.

Abston-Coleman turns to discussion of scope of the committee's work. References Recommendation #6:

*6) Establish a working Program Committee or Senior Center Committee of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging that would include membership from the Commission on Aging, Advisory Council, representatives from each of the five Milwaukee County senior center SOA advisory councils, a representative from the Milwaukee County senior center programming vendor, representatives from other senior centers in Milwaukee County, and other interested members of the public to:*

*1) Evaluate the suggestions provided by the public in this report;*

- 2) Characterize these suggestions as long or short term;*
- 3) Review and prioritize the infrastructure needs at each of the Milwaukee County senior centers;*
- 4) Develop and monitor both short and long-term strategic plans for senior centers in Milwaukee County; and*
- 5) Determine what resources will be necessary to carry out the plan.*

Guszkowski: Infrastructure needs – really focus on function. Important to separate from basic maintenance needs.

Abston-Coleman: Not solely talking about the building themselves, talking about the programming and how to reach seniors

Idzikowski: COVID-19 crisis reality: Senior Centers not likely to reopen in 2020. County levy available to support senior centers likely to be reduced sooner than anticipated.

Rodgers: Because it costs so much to maintain the senior centers, and the pandemic limited funding even more. Looking at other ways to accommodate our seniors because the new reality is going to be different. Seniors are not likely to want to go into a closed environment. Miller concurs.

Dunn: What is our task? Setting up committee?

Abston-Coleman: Task is to set up the Select Committee, following the recommendations in the Envisioning Report. Identifying group membership and priorities for discussion.

Rodgers: Scope #6 1-5, Select Committee should report back to the Advisory Council. Pumphrey, Dunn & Coleman agree.

Izard: First time commission has instituted a Select Committee. Bylaws recently amended. Borrowed process from Milwaukee County Supervisors.

Pumphrey: Throwing out ideas to come up with a template, so that the Select Committee can address the issues. Our job is to fill out the composition.

Abston-Coleman: Wanted to review scope of recommendations and goals. Select Committee to monitor implementation.

Izard: It is a Select Committee of the Commission, not of the Advisory Council.

Rodgers: Thought that the Select Committee would report back to the Advisory Council, since recommendations grew out of the work of the Advisory Council. Everything that the Advisory Council does is advisory, and recommendations are taken to the full Commission.

Pumphrey: How do we solicit? Use usual process. Advisory Committees: Should be easy to connect with the SOA Committees.

Guszkowski: Look at the list of 25 non-Milwaukee senior centers and identify subgroups. Then identify representatives from these subgroups. Offered to work with Idzikowski to identify these groups if helpful.

Abston-Coleman: Perhaps two public members could be former commissioners?

Rodgers: Put out an e-mail to the Commissioners and Council members to solicit names for the members at large.

Miller: Happy to help frame out the e-mail

Izard: When e-mail goes out, we should have some criteria of what we are looking for.

Idzikowski: What about SOA?

Izard: Dialogue with SOA. Will reach out to SOA President Wood, but want to have inclusiveness in terms of equity on the Committee.

Rodgers: SOA is a vendor. We have to be careful about how much influence they have. Five representatives from the SOA committees should be participants, not SOA staff members.

#### **IV. Next steps and Meeting**

Abston-Coleman and Miller will work with Idzikowski to formulate e-mail to solicit names for at large members and non-Milwaukee County Senior center members. Izard will send ideas for criteria. Solicit names for 2 public at large members for the Select Committee from the Commission on Aging and the Advisory Council.

Idzikowski will work with Guskowski to identify subgroups of the non-Milwaukee County senior centers.

Guskowski: Identify similar criteria for both the Milwaukee County senior center representatives and the non-Milwaukee County senior centers representatives and ensure that there is diversity.

Izard will work with Coleman to appoint Commission members and non-Commission Advisory council members.

Next meeting: **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. 2:00pm – 3:00pm.**

#### **V. Adjournment**

**MOTION** Approved Unanimously at 4:30 p.m. (Miller, Rodgers).

Respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Idzikowski  
Program and Policy Coordinator