



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

Thursday, June 11, 2020 | 2:00 – 3:00 P.M

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Call to order by Interim Select Committee on Senior Centers chair Sharon Abston-Coleman at 2:01 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

Dan Idzikowski, MCDA staff

II. Review Minutes of the May 28, 2020 Minutes of the Select Committee on senior centers Planning Meeting

Abston-Coleman referred members to the draft minutes of the May 28, 2020 Select Committee on Senior Centers Planning Group meeting for reading and consideration.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of the May 28, 2020 Select Committee on Senior Centers Planning Group meeting.

ACTION: Unanimous (Pumphrey, Miller).

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

Abston-Coleman briefly referred to Governor's letter on the budget and noted the lack of funding faced by the State and the County that might inhibit our ability to move forward. States that in last meetings we identified numbers and type of representatives. Need to flesh out criteria for the senior center representatives from both the Milwaukee County senior centers and non-Milwaukee County senior centers.

Guskowski: At last meeting, the group identified 3 criteria for senior center representatives: 1) Not be staff members, but participants. 2) Hopefully participated in a listening session, and 3) a good representative of what makes the particular senior center a great place to be.

Miller: E-mail was going to be developed by Abston-Coleman, Izard (parameters), and Idzikowski.

Rodgers: One letter is sufficient, with criteria to for all senior center representatives. Add "active participant" as a criterion.

Griffith: Need to winnow group down so that the group is manageable. Also notes that these discussions have been going on for many years, so we are not in an embryonic stage.

Guskowski: Refers to list of different senior centers in Milwaukee County. Notes that he tried to group the centers into various categories: suburban, ethnic, faith-based, MPS, diversity.

Pumphrey: Can we just send an invitation out and ask them to pick the representatives from amongst themselves?

Griffith: Is there a way to have geographic divisions/representation?

Izard: Doesn't like the idea of having the groups determining representative for themselves. Believes we should solicit representatives and then the Committee would review applications and select the individuals we believe would best qualified to serve on the Select Committee.

Rodgers: Believes that the senior centers would be in the best position to identify individuals that would best represent themselves.

Abston-Coleman: Would we be sending the invitation to all the site managers?

Guszkowski: Yes, we would send the invitation out to the site managers to help identify participants from their sites to serve on the Committee.

Abston-Coleman: Add criteria that the participant would be "interested and willing to serve on the Select Committee."

Guszkowski: We can trust the site managers to communicate the criteria and determine interest. We don't know, however, how well the various senior centers get along with each other. It might be tricky to pick representatives that can effectively communicate with the others.

Dunn: Use criteria as to what we want. You get more buy-in if you have bottom-up rather than top down representation. Asks about timeframe – the more people involved, the more time it takes.

IV. Next steps and Meeting

Rodgers: Would like to see the Select Committee up and running by September.

Izard: Agrees with September timeline. Would the Select Committee meet on a monthly basis, quarterly basis?

Abston-Coleman: Take into account what is happening now during COVID-19. We have to consider how to communicate on the Select Committee. Include expectation that members have technology available to participate remotely.

Rodgers: Given that the Advisory Council only meets quarterly, the Select Committee should probably meet monthly.

Pumphrey: Solicit membership in July & August, Choose members in September. Begin by October with first meeting.

Abston-Coleman: Get e-mail out by end of June, give until August 15th to respond. When does the Advisory Council meet again?

Idzikowski: Advisory Council is next scheduled to meet on Wednesday, August 12th.

Rodgers: Does not feel that the Advisory Council needs to be involved in the selection process. That is the work of this planning group.

Izard: Final appointments will be made by Chair and Co-chair of the Commission. Concerned that communication reach all potential participants and not just staff of senior centers.

Idzikowski: We can broadcast the solicitation for membership on the Select Committee generally.

Izard: Use same process as when we appoint individuals to Commission committees. Include Department input.

Idzikowski: This is a Select Committee of the Commission. Not sure that MCDA staff could make helpful suggestions in terms of composition.

Abston-Coleman: E-mails out by June 30th. Response due by August 15th. Others concur.

Abston-Coleman, Miller, and Guskowski will work with Idzikowski to formulate e-mail to solicit at-large members, Milwaukee County Senior Center, and non- Milwaukee County Senior center participant members. Izard will assist by sending addition ideas for criteria. In addition, solicit names for 2 public at-large members for the Select Committee from the Commission on Aging and the Advisory Council.

Utilize list prepared by Guskowski to divide up non-Milwaukee County owned senior centers:

- 2 from suburban municipal centers (one north side, one south side)
- 1 from ethnic community centers
- 1 from faith-based centers
- 1 from Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Department sites

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

Next meeting: **Thursday, June 25th. 3:00pm – 4:00pm.**

V. Adjournment

MOTION Approved unanimously at 3:18 p.m. (Pumphrey, Dunn).

Respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Idzikowski
Program and Policy Coordinator