



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
Department on Aging

**Senior Center Select Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 25, 2021**

**Members Present**

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas  
Vice Chair, Dain Maddox  
County Supervisor Jason Haas  
Pat Delmenhorst  
Sharron Fitak  
John Griffith  
Gene Guskowski  
Victoria Jensen  
Sally Lindner  
M. Kent Mayfield  
Jim Piontek  
Alice Steuck Konkel  
Howard Synder  
Cathy Wood

**Members Excused**

Ruth Bevenue  
Leon Davis  
Debra Jupka  
Deborah Lewis

There were 33 participants in attendance.

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Daniel Idzikowski  
Jill Knight  
Vonda Nyang

**Guests**

Mindy Anderson  
Anna Castenda  
Maureen Conrad  
Ann Cook  
Amy Dedow  
Patricia Dunn  
Laz Jackson  
James Kimble  
Jeanne Langenberg  
Zach Lueck  
Jim Piontek  
Lois Redic  
Tom Rowe  
Sharon Roy  
James Sheridan  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley  
Sam McGovern

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas called the Senior Center Select Committee to order on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Program and Policy Coordinator Dan Idzikowski took roll call. A quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

**II. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF CHARGE**

Chairwoman Pitchford-Nicholas provided a summary of the Select Committee on Senior Centers' purpose. Each of the three subcommittees gave a report: The Post-Pandemic Promotion and Programming, New Models for Senior Centers, and Community Partnerships.

### **III. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT OUT AND DISCUSSIONS**

Each subcommittee provided a report on the May 18, 2021, Senior Center Select Subcommittees meeting.

- a) Post-Pandemic Promotion and Programing: Laz Jackson and Pat Delmenhorst are the Co-chairs of the subcommittee. Dain Maddox provided a report for this group in Mr. Jackson's absence. The group reviewed the charge and discussed short-term time frames for promoting senior programing and the restrictions on the senior centers' re-opening. They also discussed the need to increase awareness and inform seniors of the benefits they would receive from the senior centers and attract new participants. Their primary focus is on increasing participation.
- b) New Models for Senior Centers: Gene Guskowski reported that the group discussed what a 21 century/modern senior center would be. They utilized the eight dimensions of wellness to gauge what type of programming the centers should offer. Highlights from the design discussions were about the importance of healthcare accessibility and including intergenerational programming. They also discussed the lessons learned from COVID-19 with trying to offer services during a pandemic and how they would implement that for future senior center designing.
- c) Building Community Partnerships:  
Cathy Wood reported that the group discussed potential community partners and how to connect with these partners. They noted that they would need to collaborate with the other subcommittees to build a list of partners. The subcommittee came up with a critical partners list (Milwaukee Public Libraries, the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Department, healthcare systems, YMCA's, etc.).

### **IV. UPDATE ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING AND COUNTY DECISION PROCESS**

The County received a significant allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided through the US Treasury. Idzikowski asked the committee to think creatively about ways to use the funding to enhance the senior centers.

### **V. SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Senior Center Committee members disbursed into their subcommittee breakout rooms (post-pandemic Promotion and Programing, New Models for Senior Centers, and Building Community Partnerships) to have a mini-meeting.

## **VI. RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the next Senior Center Select subcommittee meeting next week, Tuesday at 1 p.m., the Chair, Dan Idzikowski, and the subcommittee chairs will meet to set up the subcommittee meetings for the rest of the year.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at **3:01 p.m.**

The next Senior Center Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

**Note:** Anyone interested in obtaining the Senior Center Select Committee's reference Materials and Reports can find them 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>