



McHenry County
Senior Services Grant Commission - Public
Meeting
MINUTES

March 7, 2025, 10:30 AM
County Board Conference Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Pamela Althoff (County Board), Carolyn Campbell (County Board), Andrew Duffin (MCDOT), Peggy Hart (Member at Large), Tina Hill (Member at Large), Carrie Holtz (Family Health Partnership Clinic), Deena Krieger (County Board), Sue Miller (McHenry County Housing Authority), Paul Thomas (County Board)

Members Absent: Ronda Goldman (MCCOG), Abbey Nicholas (NAMI), John Pletz (Member at Large), Eric Ruth (Grafton Township)

Full comments on all agenda items are included in the video recording of this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Commissioner Hill seconded by Commissioner Thomas to allow Commissioner Holtz to virtually participate in the meeting.

Voting Aye (8): Althoff, Campbell, Krieger, Thomas, Duffin, Miller, Hart, Hill

Abstain (1): Holtz

Absent (4): Ruth, Pletz, Nicholas, Goldman

Chair Althoff noted she is going to change the agenda order to ensure a quorum is present for the action items.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Hart seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve meeting minutes from September 19, 2024 meeting.

Mover: Hart

Second: Hill

To approve minutes

Aye (8): Althoff, Campbell, Duffin, Hart, Hill, Holtz, Krieger, and Thomas

Abstain (1): Miller

Absent (4): Goldman, Nicholas, Pletz, and Ruth

Recommended (8 to 0)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Elderwerks Presentation

At the written request of Elderwerks Executive Director Deana Liss, Elderwerks was invited to make a presentation before the newly constituted Senior Services Grant Commission regarding the Senior Services Elderwerks generally provide. Chair Althoff reminded the commission members that at the last meeting of the 2024 grant cycle a motion was amended to add Elderwerks to those organizations that were prohibited from applying for all future Senior Services Grants.

Elderwerks Executive Director then provided a comprehensive overview of the services provided to seniors by the organization. Some question and answer period followed. Chair Althoff reminded the commission members that all grant dollars must be used to provide services to McHenry County residents only and that this requirement was audited by McHenry County staff as part of the grant payment process. Further discussion followed regarding the possibility of service duplication.

Motion by Commissioner Hart seconded by Commissioner Miller to repeal previous Senior Services Grant Commission motion that prevented Elderwerks from applying for Senior Services Grant Commission funding.

Mover: Hart

Seconded: Miller

To repeal previous Senior Services Grant Commission motion that prevented Elderwerks from applying for Senior Services Grant Commission funding.

Aye (9): Althoff, Campbell, Duffin, Hart, Hill, Holtz, Krieger, Miller, and Thomas

Absent (4): Goldman, Nicholas, Pletz, and Ruth

Recommended (9 to 0)

4.2 Age Determination

Chair Althoff reported that past Commission discussion had resulted in the decision to seek recommendations from both the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office as well as the Community Development Division as to what age constitutes a Senior as it would apply to the Grant Commissions award and use of McHenry County Senior Services Grant funds.

Discussion with the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office resulted in the conclusion there is no clear guidance as to what "age" constitutes a Senior as both Federal and State statute Senior Citizen definitions vary depending on what program is being referenced. Chair Althoff suggested the age of 60 be designated a Senior Citizen for the purposes of the McHenry County Senior Services Grant program. In addition, exemptions can be requested under special circumstances, i.e. developmental or physical limitations when applications are submitted for the Commission's full consideration. Further discussion followed with input from CD Administrator Sarah Ponitz.

Commissioner Krieger asked if there has been a capture of total demographics tracking the age groups served with the projects?

Chair Althoff said this has not been tracked internally but it could be beneficial and something we can work on when we have more time.

Commissioner Duffin added another way to obtain that demographic data is by creating a reporting requirement for the agencies to show the ages and number of people who did not meet the age threshold. As time goes on, the Commission can consider revising the age requirement depending on the data that is reported.

Mover: Hill

Second: Miller

To adopt age 60 as the definition of a Senior Citizen for the Senior Services Grant Commission.

Aye (9): Althoff, Campbell, Duffin, Hart, Hill, Holtz, Krieger, Miller, and Thomas

Absent (4): Goldman, Nicholas, Pletz, and Ruth

Recommended (9 to 0)

4.3 Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Althoff informed the new Commission that at the beginning of every new election cycle (two years) a Vice Chair is selected by the Commission Board. As this meeting was the first in 2025 a Vice Chair needed to be elected. Typically the Vice Chair has been a non-elected member, however that is not a requirement. Chair Althoff then requested nominations. Commissioner Hill agreed to serve in this capacity.

Mover: Campbell

Second: Thomas

To appoint Commissioner Hill as Vice Chair of the Senior Services Grant Commission.

Aye (8): Althoff, Campbell, Duffin, Hart, Holtz, Krieger, Miller, and Thomas

Abstain (1): Hill

Absent (4): Goldman, Nicholas, Pletz, and Ruth

Recommended (8 to 0)

4.4 2025 SSGC Meeting Dates

Chair Althoff noted that the Friday, September 12, 2025 meeting has been moved to September 19, 2025 to accommodate potential non-profit applicants who have an already scheduled annual event.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 PY2024 Expenditures

CD Specialist Erik Cichon provided a brief overview of the end of FY 2024 Senior Services Grant cycle, noting that there is \$29,534.70 in unspent funds to be carried over mainly due to difficulties experienced by two programs. The McHenry County Housing Authority Senior Dental Program had an issue with clients submitting required documents as well as the fact there were three seniors with planned dental work who ended up facing medical issues and were not able to get well enough to see the dentist. The

Harvard Community Senior Center PEARLS Program experienced a transition of executive directors as well as their bilingual coordinator being away from work for multiple months.

Chair Althoff reported the applicant who applied for funding last year for senior dental care was actually a scammer and two nearby counties ended up giving them funds. This Commission did well in questioning them and deciding their project was not a good use of County funds.

Commissioner Miller left the meeting at 11:07 AM.

5.2 Q1 Updates

Mr. Cichon went over FY 2025 spending to date, noting that the majority of the projects submit quarterly reimbursements and the first quarterly reports aren't due until the end of March. To date, only Independence Health and Therapy has submitted reimbursements for both of their projects.

Chair Althoff added the individuals that are responsible for this program reach out to our partners and work with them, they have great relationships and don't let any agencies fall on their faces.

6. MEMBERS' COMMENT, MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ponitz accepted a plaque on behalf of Commissioner Goldman. It was her last day on the Commission as she is not running for re-election.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Campbell

Second: Duffin

To adjourn the meeting

Aye (8): Althoff, Campbell, Duffin, Hart, Hill, Holtz, Krieger, and Thomas

Absent (5): Goldman, Miller, Nicholas, Pletz, and Ruth

Recommended (8 to 0)