

# Senior Outreach Services Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

8:30 AM

McFarland Municipal Center

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Members Present: Lowell Prill, Jerry Adrian, Colleen McCormick, Barb Vanderwerff, Diane Mikelbank, Kathy Lyons

Members Not Present: Ken Boyd

Staff Present: Katie Gletty-Syoen, Matt Schuencke

### 2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- a. There is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Senior Outreach Services Committee. Members of the public who wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn in into the meeting chairperson. Members of the public may speak during public appearances or during their selected agenda items as they designate on the public comment form. Please adhere to the 3 minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to [senior.outreach@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:senior.outreach@mcfarland.wi.us) to be included as part of the meeting. There were no public appearances

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of October 29,2025 Meeting

Motion to approve by Barb Vanderwerff and motion seconded by Colleen McCormick. Diane Mikelbank abstained due to not being present last meeting. Approved 5-0.

### 4. BUSINESS

- a. Review of Dane County Budget and Senior Focal Points

Committee discussed the \$30 million deficit going into the Dane County budget this season and how all county departments, including the Department of Health and Human Services were instructed cut 4% from their budgets. This included a proposed 4% cut to all Purchase of Service agencies, which included the 12 different Senior focal point case management budgets. An additional 4% cut was suggested to come from the meal programs for seniors. Katie was able to appear at a Dane County Board public hearing and speak on the importance of the senior nutrition program. Through the amendment process, the County Board decreased the cut towards senior nutrition programs to a 1% decrease and that went to County Executive Melissa Agard's desk where she did sign it. Funding

calculations were made for each municipality that McFarland Senior Outreach services and contract letters have gone out to each of those municipalities. Katie had the opportunity to speak with the Cambridge Village Board to talk about the McFarland Senior Outreach focal point services provided to the Village of Cambridge. Committee members brought up concern regarding the increase in case management services needed with a limited budget. The challenges brought up regarding this included a possible waitlist process for case management services, limitations for certain case management services, and a needed increase in staffing.

b. Discuss National Family Caregiver Awareness Month & Initiatives Senior Outreach is Doing

In order for many older adults to remain in their homes, caregivers are heavily relied upon. During the month of November, Governor Tony Evers declared a state of Wisconsin Proclamation for Family Caregiver Awareness Month. Topics of discussion included challenges with the national shortage of caregivers and limited respite services. McFarland Senior Outreach provided an Aging with Wisdom series presentation, Preventing Caregiver Burnout presented by Dr. Kristin Litzelman of UW Madison Extension to help address caregiver concerns and educate caregivers on what resources/strategies are available. McFarland Senior Outreach created caregiver appreciation gifts for 20 caregivers. Dan Chin Homes Foundation donated \$400, which was used to purchase gift cards to a local coffee shop, McFarland House Cafe. Kwik Trip of McFarland donated carwash gift cards. These items, along with candies and handcrafted heart ornaments were nestled into reusable insulated travel coffee cups and were delivered to recipients by staff. Also discussed other upcoming events for caregivers. In 2026, Dane County Dementia Specialists will also host monthly caregiver support groups for those caring for someone with dementia. Discussed the Cambridge Caregiver support group model where caregivers and the care recipient both receive support. This model happens after the meal program. In January, MHRT of Dane County will host a 4-session series on flower felting that will also structure in processing grief. This series will be promoted to caregivers.

c. Discuss Fitchburg Senior Center

Katie Gletty-Syoen had an opportunity to assess how the Fitchburg Senior Center tracks and shares data with the municipality. They have shifted from an annual report to monthly reports that share information and tracking data for engagement in programs and services. Katie requested feedback from Committee on whether this would be helpful for McFarland Senior Outreach. Discussion was held around workload of completing this report, frequency (monthly versus quarterly), and

public availability. Katie will consider the audience reading it when creating a template for this.

d. *Discuss Village Visions, Senior Voices program.*

Discussed the Village Visions, Senior Voices program as an opportunity to give seniors updates regarding projects going on within the Village of McFarland and how having these in the mornings can help include the voices of seniors who may not be able to go out in the evenings and increase accessibility. Reviewed the attendance from October's Well 5 presentation, which was attended by 9 seniors. Discussed the upcoming December meeting topic of reviewing this past year and looking forward to 2026. Discussed the idea of bringing Village of McFarland Department heads to these meeting to share how they help out seniors in the community and give department heads an opportunity to hear from senior voices.

5. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting will be scheduled Wednesday, December 17 at 8:30am.

6. **Adjournment**

Barb Vanderwoof motioned to adjourn the meeting and Colleen McCormick seconded motion. Approved 6-0.