



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 10 am

Present | Cynthia Crim, Karl Wilson, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Ann Bannes, Skip Batchelor, Mary Wheeler

Absent | Bill Siedhoff

Senior Fund Staff | Nicole Brueggeman, Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski

Other Attendees | Matthew McBride (Lashly Baer, External Counsel)

Review and Approval of Minutes (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented, Skip Batchelor seconded; All were in favor of approving minutes.

Operations Updates (*Katie Ratkowski*)

Employee Handbook Update | Staff reviewed the employee handbook over the summer and presented an updated version that updated the format, created alignment with current policies and procedures, and ensured legal compliance. One major change is clarifying the PTO policy around carrying over from year to year and PTO payout when leaving Senior Fund.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve the updated employee handbook as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; All were in favor.

Brand Refresh Contract Update | The Fiscal Committee approved a budget re-allocation last month to use funding designated for a website redesign to a branding refresh for the Senior Fund. Three proposals were submitted, and staff met with the applicants. Staff recommend moving forward with HelloAnd, who has experience in the aging field and is based in St. Louis.

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve contracting HelloAnd Design Studio for Senior Fund branding, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; All were in favor.

Program and Grants Updates (*Ann Bannes*)

Regional Response Polled Fund | Regional Response Team has convened public agencies, nonprofit partners, food providers, neighborhood organizations and funders over the past few

weeks to provide an infrastructure for food response and distribution needs after the disruption to SNAP benefits. Senior Fund has \$45,000 remaining in the FY26 pooled funding budget line item designated for community crises and response. Staff requested a \$30,000 investment to the pooled fund.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve up to \$30,000 to Regional Response Team's Rapid Response Community Fund for food security, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; All were in favor.

Winter Outreach Funding | House Everyone STL is working with the City to coordinate winter outreach supplies and convene providers around housing needs. The May 2025 tornado caused damage to a significant number of homes, and there is a rising number of residents who are housing insecure or unhoused. There is \$75,000 unallocated in the multi-year grant budget, that was initially allocated to EnergyCare to provide hot and cold weather support. With the grant ending and the organization's closure, staff requested contributing \$72,150 to the Winter Outreach Pooled Fund. Senior Fund contributed \$10,000 to the pooled fund in FY25.

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve up to \$72,150 to House Everyone STL's Winter Outreach Pooled Fund, Karl Wilson seconded; All were in favor.

Strategic Communications Contract | Three organizations submitted proposals for the aging field strategic communications project. The applications were competitive, but staff recommended contracting with Novella, which has a strong understanding of both the region and political environment.

Karl Wilson made a motion to contracting with Novella to support strategic communications for the St. Louis Aging Services Network, with expenses not exceeding \$55,000, Cynthia Crim seconded; All were in favor.

Community Care Hub Planning Grant | Bill Winfrey from Integrated Health Network (IHN) presented information about community care hubs at the October meeting and received approval to submit a request for a sole source planning grant to establish a community care hub in St. Louis. The budget for the grant is \$99,893 and includes a readiness assessment, establishing interested payers and service providers, and education to the field. The grant would start in December and last through June 30, 2026. There are already two interested payers and two interested service providers, with initial interest in food services and behavioral health.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve \$100,000 to IHN for a community care hub planning grant, Mary Wheeler seconded; All were in favor.

Executive Director Updates *(Nicole Brueggeman)*

The board reviewed the meeting schedule provided last month. There are multiple conflicts with the September meeting schedule, so the meeting will be rescheduled for earlier in the month. A new calendar will be sent out with updated information.

With no further public business to discuss, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to adjourn at 10:32 am, Skip Batchelor seconded; All were in favor.

*Next full board meeting is currently scheduled for **January 22, 2026 at 10am.***