

Kansas City Senior Advisory Council Minutes
Gregg/Klice Community Center
May 4, 2026

Members present: Berry, Bradshaw, Gomez, Forrest, Kaiser, Turner, Wilson; Bertha Ross, City Clerk Office

Guests: Callie Knust, United Way 211 Greater Kansas City Resource Center Manager; Meghan O'Connor, United Way 211 Meghan O'Connor, Resource Specialist; LaDonna McCullough, Kansas City Chief Equity Officer; Eric Goodman, Assistant to the Chief Equity Officer

Chair Forrest opened the meeting with a greeting and a moment of silence.

Callie Knust, United Way 211 Greater Kansas City Resource Center Manager, introduced herself and presented an overview of the services of 211 Greater Kansas City, a department of United Way. Nationwide in 2025, United Way 211 provided 19,000,000 referrals to community resources. United Way 211 operations cover 99% of the United States population. Megan O'Conner introduced herself and explained that United Way 211 of Greater Kansas City, open since 2006, serves 23 counties in Missouri and Kansas. Callers to 211 receive information and referrals for needs such as: housing and shelter, food and household goods, utility assistance, legal aid, employment, mental health resources, transportation, veterans services, healthcare, disaster relief and recovery, and any other health and human services resources. The 211 website is open 24-7.

Ms. Knust said that Greater Kansas City 211 has 1000 agencies in its continually updated database. Trained community resource specialists provide information to callers about how to access agencies to meet a variety of needs. Kansas City 211 has 40 full and part-time employees. Seasonal resources such as tax preparation (5000 calls), air conditioning, and school supplies are also available. All partner agencies are vetted for legitimacy. Seniors comprise 28% of callers, with senior needs including utilities assistance, tax assistance housing, transportation, legal, consumer and public safety, food/meals, healthcare, employment, etc. United Way 211 of Greater Kansas City partners with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for senior services.

Jackson County is the largest receiver of services in the top ten counties in the area of Greater Kansas City 211, followed by Wyandotte, Clay, and Johnson County, Kansas. In 2025, United Way 211 Greater Kansas City provided 19,292 referrals to area resources, with top referrals to Bishop Sullivan Center, Reconciliation Services, Salvation Army, Metro Lutheran Ministry, Mid-America Assistance Coalition, and Catholic Charities, among many others.

United Way is funded largely by donations from corporations as well as individuals. The agency has not been affected by federal cuts, but some local agencies providing services have lost funding.

LaDonna McCollough, Chief Equity Officer for Kansas City, discussed the summary review of the Senior Listening Sessions conducted by her office. Top needs indicated by the session include transportation, mental health, entertainment, rental financing, safety and security, desire for community connections, concern about devaluation of seniors. She stated that the department was aware of the need to reframe initiatives for seniors and the disabled. Officer McCullough will inform us of the next round of listening session meetings.

Discussions followed about senior accessibility (Member Wilson) and concern about recognition of senior and disabled needs. New developments such as the Royals Stadium which will be built downtown must recognize opportunities for senior access. Will transportation be available for those needing to get to the facility from parking lots? Member Kabiser stated that seniors comprise the largest voting bloc in Kansas City as well as in the nation, and therefore must not be forgotten in allocation of .

Member Kabiser voiced a concern about new data centers increasing utility costs, and requested a meeting with a representative from electrical service providers.

Ms. Ross informed the membership that council member identification badges will be available next month. She reminded the membership that information for meetings including agenda is on the Kansas City website 24 hours before meeting time. Meeting minutes are also posted on the site.

Our June 1 meeting will be a tour of the new Rock Island Bridge facilities (1799 American Royal Drive, Kansas City, MO, 64106; ADA accessible), with no business meeting. Members wishing to attend will meet at Gregg/Klise Community Center parking lot at 10:00 a.m. for carpooling. The city will provide lunch for council members only; other guests are welcome to attend the tour. The July meeting is canceled because of possible World Cup congestion interference; our next official meeting will be on August 3.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Bradshaw

Note from Member Turner: MARC "Age of Celebration"; June 5, Mohart Center, 3200 Wayne
<https://www.marc.org/aging/older-americans-month-events/age-celebration>

