



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

EMERGING YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ALD. JOSE PEREZ, CHAIR

Vacant, Vice-Chair

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Amber Danyus, Michael Totoraitis, Ugo Nwagbaraocha, Dr. Brad Kroupa, Dr. Lindsey Harness, Dr. Anthony Cruz, Steven Mahan, and Ald Russell Stamper

Staff Assistant: Joanna Urtiz, (414) 286-2366

Fax: 286-3456, jpolan@milwaukee.gov

Thursday, October 16, 2025

9:00 AM

City Hall, Room 301-A

1. Call To Order at 9:05 AM

2. Roll Call

Present 8 - Mahan, Perez, Stamper, Danyus, Harness, Cruz, Nwagbaraocha and Cassellius

Excused 2 - Totoraitis and Kroupa

3. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (7/17/25)

Motion by Ald. Stamper to approve meeting minutes. There were no objections.

4. United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM)

Executive Director, Renee Logee shared the presentation -

Making Milwaukee NEIGHBORHOODS STRONGER through a UNITED COLLABORATION of member organizations who work to ACHIEVE the greatest COMMUNITY IMPACT.

UNCOM is comprised of 8 Member Organizations:

*City on a Hill COA Youth & Family Centers
Journey House Milwaukee Community Crossroads
Neighborhood House of Mke
Neu-Life Community Development
Northcott Neighborhood House
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center*

The UNCOM home office, which is where the workforce team works, leads the collaborative.

The UNCOM home office and member organizations serve individuals in every zip code in the City of Milwaukee.

Most of the families we serve live in 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, 53209, 53212, 53215, 53225 and 53233

*Together we have a broader reach than any single UNCOM member.
Our reach is wide and our collective strength is unmatched.*

Strategically positioned throughout the city to serve individuals in every zip code in Milwaukee from the North side to the South side and everywhere in between.

Coordinate a United Front for a larger voice to advocate for change locally and at the state level.

*Working together to be Flexible and Nimble in order to meet the community's need.
Our organizations work to build strong and healthy families.*

Members of UNCOM work to improve the lives of those that are living in Milwaukee's historically most under resourced neighborhoods

The work of UNCOM members naturally fits into 5 Social Determinants of Health Areas:

ECONOMIC STABILITY-employment opportunities, stable housing, access to food.

EDUCATION – improve enrollment, resources and outcomes

SOCIAL and COMMUNITY CONTEXT – promote cohesive community

HEALTH and HEALTHCARE- improve access for primary and emergency healthcare

NEIGHBORHOOD and BUILT ENVIRONMENT– improving access to healthy food, transportation, good schools, accessibility for all.

4 of the 8 UNCOM centers run food pantries at their centers collectively serving over 20,000 people, annually.

7 of the 8 centers collectively report that they served over 15,000 youth and 23,100 families in 2024.

UNCOM Centers and the Home Office collaborate with over 50 MPS and charter schools in the City of Milwaukee.

The leadership of UNCOM is diverse.

The UNCOM home office is female led. 73% of the staff are people of color.

63 % of UNCOM members organizations are led by females

38 % of UNCOM members organizations are led by a person of color

100% of the workforce development career planner / specialist team utilized

Milwaukee's workforce development programs in HS and post-secondary.

UNCOM staff is fluent in Hmong, Spanish and English.

This level of diversity positions us to better understand the needs of the community we are serving.

The UNCOM Home Office workforce leadership staff collectively has 46 years of experience in workforce development.

Every UNCOM organization excels in Youth Development. This is done through age-appropriate, youth-driven programs and services that are focused on prevention, mind and body wellness, skill building and mentorship. Our success is contingent on our ability to remain flexible and nimble to meet the youth on their terms while listening to their needs.

We are proud of our strong relationship with the City of Milwaukee and the Office of Community Wellness and Safety which has allowed us to deepen and widen our violence prevention work with Milwaukee's Youth.

All UNCOM locations distribute free gun locks and harm reduction materials including condoms, locked medicine bags, Narcan, and fentanyl testing strips. Having these

items available in our neighborhoods helps reduce barriers.

Our partnership with OCWS has allowed UNCOM organizations to strengthen core programming in the following areas:

*Healthy Choices
Drugs & Alcohol Prevention
Violence Prevention
Sex Trafficking
Trauma Resilience*

*Our teens gather for safe, drug free evenings of recreation with MPD PALS officers.
364 Youth Participated in 2024*

The UNCOM Home Office recruits 250 NEW youth every year to participate in the WIOA In-School Youth (ISY) and Out-of-School Youth (OSY) WFD programs, including the follow-up services needed, our team works with over 400 youth each year on this program.

UNCOM home office facilitates the YouthBuild Construction Plus program, which includes 40 youth that are working to get their CAN credentials and employment placement.

5. Milwaukee Youth Sports Alliance Presentation

Executive Director Quentin Prince shared a presentation - Building Champions beyond the Game. Developing Emotional, Social, and Relational Skills for Athletes and Teams. Athletic performance is about more than physical ability, it's also shaped by how athletes understand themselves, connect with others, and navigate relationships on and off the field.

Milwaukee Youth Sports Alliance (MYSA) is a citywide alliance collaboratively formed in 2019 with critical support from the Milwaukee Bucks, Bader Philanthropies, Milwaukee Kickers and America SCORES Milwaukee to ensure that Milwaukee youth have access to high-quality sports programs that support their physical and mental health. The mission of MYSA is to unite and strengthen the youth sports community and empower leaders to use sports for development to advance youth sports for all.

*Unite the youth sports community in advocacy for sports as a tool for social change
Improve coordination between youth sports stakeholders
Gather best practices, share research, and evaluate impact
Offer training and technical assistance
Increase the amount of funding and resources*

Micro: Elevating Individuals, Coaches, and Programs

At the micro level, MYSA is building impactful changes in the lives of individuals, coaches, and sports programs. The alliance recognizes that the foundation of a thriving sports community lies in the development of each young athlete. Through targeted initiatives, MYSA empowers individuals, helping them not only hone their athletic skills but also fostering personal growth. The impact ripples through the coaching community, as MYSA provides the tools and support necessary for coaches to become mentors, guiding our youth towards success. The result is sports programs that go beyond the field, instilling values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

Meso: Strengthening the Backbone of Youth Sports

On the meso level, MYSA serves as the backbone organization that nurtures the functioning and growth of youth sports initiatives throughout Milwaukee. By providing strategic leadership and essential resources, MYSA ensures the coordination and effectiveness of various youth sports programs. This organizational support is critical for creating a robust and interconnected sports ecosystem, where each program contributes to the overall well-being of our community. As MYSA facilitates collaboration and resource-sharing, the youth sports landscape in Milwaukee becomes more resilient and capable of providing lasting benefits to our young athletes.

Macro: Influencing Systems for Lasting Change

At the macro level, MYSA is a driving force behind systems-level changes that extend far beyond the playing field. The alliance actively works to secure funding for youth sports, advocating for policies that promote inclusivity and accessibility. MYSA is at the forefront of raising awareness about the broader societal benefits of investing in our youth through sports. By influencing funding mechanisms and policy frameworks, MYSA contributes to a positive shift in the overall landscape of youth sports in Milwaukee. The alliance is not just teaching our youth how to play; it's shaping the future leaders of our community.

SEL and Relational Intelligence are essential in sports because they shape the way athletes think, feel, and interact within highpressure environments. These skills foster self-awareness, empathy, communication, and conflict resolution, which directly impact team cohesion, performance, and resilience. By integrating SEL and RI into athletic development, we prepare athletes not only to excel in competition but also to thrive as leaders, teammates, and individuals beyond the game.

*Increased athlete resilience and mental well-being
Improved team cohesion and communication
Reduced conflict, burnout, and negative behaviors
Greater coach-athlete trust*

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which individuals develop the skills to recognize and manage emotions, build healthy relationships, make responsible decisions, and navigate social complexities. In the context of sports, SEL equips athletes with tools for self-regulation, empathy, communication, and resilience, all of which contribute to stronger team dynamics and personal growth both on and off the field.

- 1. The process of learning to understand and manage emotions*
- 2. Build positive relationships*
- 3. Make responsible decisions*

Relational Intelligence (RI) is the ability to recognize, understand, and navigate the complexities of human relationships. In sports, RI is about more than communication, it is about building trust, showing empathy, resolving conflict, and strengthening the bonds that make teams thrive. Athletes with high relational intelligence are better equipped to lead, collaborate, and maintain strong, healthy relationships both on and off the field.

*Key RI components:
Emotional attunement
Perspective-taking*

*Conflict navigation
Communication effectiveness*

Integrating Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) with Relational Intelligence (RI) equips teams with the skills to communicate effectively, manage conflicts, and collaborate with empathy. When individuals understand themselves and others, teams don't just work together they thrive, turning shared goals into collective success.

Applying Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Relational Intelligence (RI) in coaching empowers coaches to connect with athletes on a deeper level, foster trust, and create environments where growth and resilience flourish. By integrating these skills, coaches guide not just performance, but character development, shaping athletes who succeed.

Measuring the impact - By tracking team cohesion, athlete self-assessments, conflict reduction, and personal growth, we see that SEL and RI do more than improve performance, they develop lifelong skills for eve

6. Report Pivot Consulting

- **Intergenerational dialogues**
- **Your Move MKE Data Collection & Report**
- **Convening of female serving organizations (serving ages 14-24)**

*Pivot Consulting LLC Report April - Sept 2025
Data and Evaluation
Your Move MKE: Hip Hop Hangouts 2025
demonstrated measurable growth in identity, belonging, and emotional regulation.*

*Inclusion and Collaboration
Convening of female-serving organizations
identified key challenges and collective strategies for girls and young women ages 14–24.*

*Voice and Connection
Intergenerational dialogues at PEAK and Escuela Verde amplified youth perspectives and built understanding across generations.*

*Data Snapshot: Your Move MKE (Hip Hop Hangouts 2025)
Key Points:
Over the course of 8 weeks, youth demonstrated stronger emotional awareness and belonging.
Clear growth in conflict resolution and safety awareness.
Seven youth (ages 15–22) were employed, gaining hands-on leadership and workforce experience.*

*Youth Voice and Intergenerational Dialogues
Listening to youth deepens empathy, builds trust, and reminds us that solutions must be shaped and implemented together.*

*Convening of Female-Serving Organizations
Organizations emphasized that mentorship and maternal support are both essential to breaking cycles of disconnection and ensuring the next generation of young women can thrive.*

7. Proposed Data Committee Members

8. Finalized versions of the EYAAC & committee overviews

9. Announcements

10. Next Meeting - November 13, 2025 9:00 AM -11:00 AM

11. Adjournment at 10:56 AM

**Joanna Urtiz
Staff Assistant**

Announcements

Next Meeting - November

Adjournment at 10:56 AM

**Joanna Urtiz
Staff Assistant**

In the event that Common Council members who are not members of this committee attend this meeting, this meeting may also simultaneously constitute a meeting of the Common Council or any of the following committees: Community and Economic Development, Finance and Personnel, Judiciary and Legislation, Licenses, Public Safety and Health, Public Works, Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development, and/or Steering and Rules. Whether a simultaneous meeting is occurring depends on whether the presence of one or more of the Common Council member results in a quorum of the Common Council or any of the above committees, and, if there is a quorum of another committee, whether any agenda items listed above involve matters within that committee's realm of authority. In the event that a simultaneous meeting is occurring, no action other than information gathering will be taken at the simultaneous meeting.

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