



## Advisory Council Meeting February 08, 2023

The **Aging Advisory Council** members convened virtually on Wednesday, February 08, 2023. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*  
Gene Guskowski, *Vice Chair*  
Commissioner Paula Penebaker  
Kent Mayfield  
Patricia Dunn  
James Kimble  
Cherie Rumler  
Suzie Ryer

### **Members Excused:**

Commissioner John Griffith  
Commissioner Cherie Swenson  
Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede  
Ann Laatsch  
Sally Lindner  
Amanda Weiler  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### **Staff Present:**

Andy Bethke, ADS  
Daniel Idzikowski, ADS  
Jill Knight, ADS  
Vonda Nyang, ADS  
Bekki Schmitt, ADS  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, ADS  
Kayla Steinke, ADS

### **Attendees from the Public**

Lorraine Jacobs  
Gail Morgan, WAI  
Trudy Zauner  
Cathy Wood, SOA

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS Aging Services Director took roll call. A quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR September 14, 2022, AND November 9, 2022.

**MOTION:** To approve the September 14 and November 9, 2022 minutes.

**ACTION:** Approved unanimously (Mayfield, Dunn).

### III. UPDATE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS

Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator for DHHS Aging Services presented information on the implementation of the tracking process of diversity metrics across RFP decision making panels. The Service Delivery Committee will hold three meetings this month to discuss vendor accountability and obtaining more diversity through vendor contracts.

### IV. 2023 OAA ARPA IIID FUNDING PROPOSAL

Bekki Schmitt, DHHS ADS Community Programs Coordinator, proposed three requests to utilize Older Americans Act ARPA Title IIID (Evidence Based Disease Prevention and Health Promotion) funding. This year the focus is working with a local minority-owned marketing firm to promote disease prevention among aging populations of color. The current year's funding is projected to be used by September 30, 2023, and a new block of funding will begin for 2024. The requests included the following:

1. \$20,000 for Workshop Supplies
2. \$20,000 for Training and staff support will also be used as stipend for Non-professional Volunteers.
3. \$65,000 for Promotion of workshops.

**MOTION:** To approve the OAA ARPA IIID funding proposal as presented.

**ACTION:** Approved unanimously (Rumler, Ryer).

### V. ADVISORY COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS FOR 2023

Chair Wilberg presented two focal areas that require systematic improvements.

- Loneliness, Isolation and Mental Health
- Chronic Heart Disease

Chair Wilberg pointed out that a better system needs to be in place so that those suffering from any form of mental illness can get help however they enter the system. The commitment from DHHS is based on its no wrong door principle which ensures that help is obtained from any point of the process.

Idzikowski provided information regarding incidence of chronic disease in communities of color from lack of community resources and health awareness. For example, the percentage of black adults with cardiovascular disease is much higher than white adults. 1000 more black than white adults will die before age 60 in Milwaukee County due to racial health inequities.

A discussion ensued by members on communication strategies and marketing to better serve these specific populations. Suggestions on working with Milwaukee Health Partners to gain an outlook on the significance of

cardiovascular issues in people of color in Milwaukee County. Improved participation shall focus on strategies that will promote prevention that overall will lower risk of Chronic Heart Disease.

**MOTION:** To approve the two 2023 focus areas of addressing loneliness and mental health and cardiovascular disease among older adults in Milwaukee County by the Advisory Council.

**ACTION:** Approved unanimously (Rumler, Dunn).

## VI. AGING NETWORK SUMMIT

Kayla Steinke, DHHS ADS Caregiver Support Coordinator, informed the Advisory Council about the upcoming Aging Network Summit, scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2023 at Wilson Senior Center. A Save the Date invitation is being distributed this month. The summit goals are:

1. Identify the Gaps in Services for older adults
2. Increase Communication & Collaboration among Aging Network partners
3. Networking among participant partners, vendors & local communities

Bekki Schmitt presented the need for volunteers to speak and facilitate at the summit. The summit will be focused on participant engagement. There have been surveys sent out to gauge how information will be presented during the summit. This topic will be updated during the next advisory council meeting.

## VII. 2023 AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bekki Schmitt informed the council of two upcoming workshops by our Dementia Care Specialists.
- Save the date May 12, 2023, for Aging Network Summit.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

**MOTION:** To Adjourn.

**ACTION:** Approved unanimously (Dunn, Kimble).

The next Advisory Council meeting will be March 08, 2023, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Scherita Beets  
Office Assistant II