



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 10, 2024

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video and teleconference.

Members Present:

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Commissioner Paula Pennebaker, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner Mark P. Behar
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski
Sandra Janzer
James Kimble
Anne Laatsch
Kent Mayfield
Gail Morgan
Suzanne Ryer
George Schneider
Nancy Simuel

Members Excused:

Patricia Dunn
John Griffith
Debrah Lewis
Jim McLaughlin

Members Excused Continued...

Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

Milwaukee County Staff

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Claire Enders, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*
Candice LeGros, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Michelle Drouillard
Gail Morgan
Vanessa Harris
Anthony Myers
Migdalia Pacheco
Zachary Wilks-Metrou

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Vonda Nyang, AAA Executive Assistant took the roll call; A quorum of members was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 12, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the June 12, 2024, Advisory Council meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Lindner Moved, Kimble Second).

III. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN SURVEY UPDATE

➤ **Update on Survey Distribution:** Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, updated the survey distribution. There were 306 online and 101 paper surveys (31 Spanish) completed. Staff had distributed paper surveys to vendors, Milwaukee County's five-owned senior centers, the Meals on Wheels program participants, particularly those in underrepresented ZIP codes, mailing surveys to 2,000 AAA clients, and in partnership with Empower Solutions LLC, who is conducting a door-to-door distribution door-knocking campaign. Lastly, additions to this year's survey questions were:

- Home repair and modifications question
- Awareness of Senior Centers
- Expanded memory questions
- Heart health
- Expanded demographics questions, including LGBTQ and Disability status

➤ **Preliminary Data Update:** Mrs. Koss Vallejo provided a preliminary data update on early feedback from a few questions of interest to the Committee. When asked, "What do you like best about living in Milwaukee County?" Frequent responses were that the best things about aging in Milwaukee County included easy access and transportation. So far only 20% of the online surveys are of those who didn't know about AAA services. Also discussed was the importance of autonomy to older adults as over 95% responded that it was Extremely or Very important when asked, "How important is it for you to continue to be able to live on your own or where you live." Lastly, feedback was provided from one of the focus groups and discussed changes in family dynamics, especially those shared by the LGBTQ community. Older adults of the LGBTQ community who attended public feedback sessions shared that living through a time where they were not allowed to adopt, and many lost their original families that their experience is different than the experience of younger generations that can make it challenging to connect.

Commented [VC1]: I think you covered MoW well enough above.

Commented [VC2]: This section was tricky- but I tried to make it really clear I'm not speaking for older adult LGBTQ folk.

IV. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH

➤ **Focus Groups/Religious Congregations:** Chair Denise Callaway provided feedback on the focus groups that have met so far and the communities they represent. The goal is to finish by mid-August, August 14, 2024. The Advocacy Committee will use the focus groups' data and move forward with its goal work. A few focus group meetings in the next two weeks may need support. Commissioner Callaway and Ms. Petersen will be out for two weeks; however, Claire Enders can provide any assistance. Chair Callaway asked the Advisory Council to email her, Emily, and Claire if they plan on attending a focus group and giving support. Upcoming groups are focused on Latino, Nutrition, and faith groups.

V. CURRENT 2022-2024 AGING PLAN PROGRESS

The various committees and workgroups aim to examine the three overarching goals. The Advisory Council, a trusted entity, assists these efforts, providing reassurance and confidence in the process. There are three Major Goal Area Topics—Health Equity, Coordination and Communication, and Dimensions of Wellness—and the three goals within each goal topic area. The Advisory Council Chair discussed a PowerPoint presentation that has the Older American's Act Goals 2025-2027 Topics (State mandated goals, AAA goals), the Commission on Aging Vision for Milwaukee County, the Major Goal Area Topics for current Area Aging Plan (Health Equity, Coordination and Communication and Dimensions of Wellness).

VI. AREA AGING PLAN GOALS

Today's discussion is to review Primary Goal Area Topics from the most recent Area Plan. The Chair asked the Council: Are these goals efficient? Do they need to be modified? Do they already capture the goals the community needs?

A few suggestions by Council members were to include the LGBTQ community in the goals' preamble and to make the goals more targeted. The Advisory Council changed the Major Goal Area Topics preamble from the most recent Area Plan preamble to include the LGBTQIA community and racial equity.

Commented [VC3]: Should the version drafted be included here in the notes?

Milwaukee County is committed to achieving racial equity and driving change to becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Given that Milwaukee County is experiencing rapidly changing demographics within the aging community, the following goals have been identified by the Advisory Council to the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging.

A. Health Equity

Create and promote health programs, informational materials and educational opportunities that eliminate barriers.

B. Wellness

Address key wellness issues facing older adults including mental health, social isolation, and loneliness as well as other areas that promote the well-being of older adults.

C. Coordination, Communication and Education

Develop and implement effective communication mechanisms and outreach strategies to engage all older adults through collaboration with Milwaukee County's older adult services and other community partners.

*In transmitting this to the Executive Committee, we ask that the Executive Committee note that the 2022-2024 goals do not specifically address the needs of the LGBTQIA+

community. We request that the goal groups consider the needs of this community when developing our measurable goals.

At this point, the Advisory Council lost its quorum because a few members had to leave. The Chair recommended voting to approve the work on the Goal parameters and sending it to the Executive Committee. Denise Callaway, Mark Behar. And Eugene Guskowski. The motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Commented [NV4R3]: I don't understand the question

Commented [VC5R3]: I cut and pasted their revised goals from this meeting here.

Commented [VC6]: Just want to confirm if this happened before quorum was lost.

Commented [NV7R6]: No, it did not. They had already lost the quorum.

Commented [VC8R6]: OK- then I think this should get changed back.

VII. NEXT STEPS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Review AAA Plan Timeline

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

RFP Release and Review Process

IX. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:24 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Guskowski Moved, Behar Second)

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant