



**Aging and Disability Resource Center
(ADRC) Governing Board Meeting
June 18, 2024**

The **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board** members convened on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Members and attendees attended virtually via video conference and conference call options.

Board Members Present

Kent Mayfield, Chair
Rachael Bush, Vice-Chair
David Lillich, MD
Colleen Galambos, Ph.D., DSW
Barbara Jones
Levi Stein
Amanda Laurila
Tiffany Barta
Ramona Dicks-Williams
Kiran Sagar
Tracie Horton
Harvey Ross

Milwaukee County Staff:

Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS
Tina Anderson, DHHS
Davia Fenton, DHHS
Cleopatra Casteneda, DHHS
Bekki Schmitt, DHHS

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Chair, Kent Mayfield called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Davia Fenton, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Administrative Assistant took roll call.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2024, AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER'S MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve May 21, 2024, Aging and Disability Resource Center's meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Galambos Moved, Horton Second.)

III. ADRC County Executive Informational Report, Deputy Chief of Staff, Timothy Schabo

Schabo was unable to attend in person but provided the report via email as follows:

Good Morning Aging & Disability Resource Center Governing Board, The County Executive really enjoyed his time speaking with you last month. You all share such a passion for your work and we continue to be inspired by your dedication to public service. This week, the County Executive signed the following legislation into law. This is great news for the ADRC and for the people of Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley Signs Bill Adding 27 New Positions to ADRC to Better Serve Older Adults and People with Disabilities

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley signed File #24-426, legislation adding 27 new positions to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to expand services focusing on youth-to-adult transition, options counseling, veterans' benefits specialists, and community outreach.

The ADRC serves a critical role in responding to older adults and people with disabilities, two populations that were particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While in the field with local health departments, ADRC staff ensure residents' basic needs are met, including meals, transportation, mental health resources, caregiver support, and a range of other services.

"By creating these new jobs, Milwaukee County is working to better support our growing population of older adults and individuals with disabilities to ensure these folks have access to the services and resources they need," said County Executive Crowley. "I am proud we are allocating resources for new staff to focus on key areas, including options counseling to help people enroll in long-term care, mental health needs to address the increase in isolation since the pandemic, and benefits specialists to assist people in getting connected to healthcare. Together, let's continue supporting older adults and individuals with disabilities in Milwaukee County."

Statewide, ADRCs are short of staff to meet the demands of serving older adults and Wisconsinites with disabilities. This shortfall has been greater in Milwaukee County, where staffing levels have declined over the past decade while caseloads have increased. Milwaukee County leads the state in publicly funded long-term care enrollments. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recognized this deficit and recommended a \$4.4 million increase in core ADRC funding across the state, including specific redistribution and reinvestment in Milwaukee County. The expansion of funding for Milwaukee County includes \$1.6 million in new state funding for CY2024, with an anticipated additional \$1.3 million in federal match funds. These funds are supporting the creation of the 27 new full-time positions within ADRC and DHHS Aging & Disabilities Services (ADS).

"If you have aging parents, are part of the sandwich generation, are a caregiver or know a caregiver, you know caregiving can be incredibly stressful," said Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director. "With this expansion, we're poised to

better serve our community and ensure that every resident has access to the resources and support they need."

If you have any questions or any follow up you would like, please feel free to reach out to me at (414)335-0228 or at Tim.Schabo@MilwaukeeCountyWI.Gov

This ends the report.

View the full report on County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).
See ADRC June 18, 2024 Meeting Details.

IV. ADRC Board Inservice, Climate Control Presentation, Office of Sustainability, Grant Helle, Interim Director

Grant Haley opened the meeting by introducing himself as the interim director of the Office of Sustainability with Milwaukee County. He expressed his pleasure in presenting an updated overview of the Climate Action 2050 plan.

Haley provided background on the policy driving their climate action planning work, including Resolution 21-389 adopted on Earth Day 2021, committing Milwaukee County to achieving carbon-neutral operations by 2050. He also referenced File #21-770, which provided a framework for the Climate Action 2050 plan.
Key Deliverables and Strategies

Haley outlined the development process of the Climate Action 2050 plan under the guidance of the Sustainability Task Force, established by County Executive David Crowley. He highlighted the development of guiding principles and subcategories within the plan.

He discussed various engagement efforts, including formal and informal engagements with community groups, surveys, and workshops held to gather input from county residents, businesses, and municipalities.

During the Q&A session, board members raised questions and provided suggestions related to specific themes and strategies within the Climate Action 2050 plan. Discussions included topics on vulnerable populations, youth apprenticeships, and community access to information. Haley intends to follow up on suggestions related to vulnerable populations' needs during heatwaves and to explore opportunities for expanding youth apprenticeship programs within Milwaukee County. He will also provide resources and access points for public inquiries about the Climate Action 2050 plan.

Haley concluded his presentation by emphasizing ongoing efforts to refine climate action strategies in alignment with Milwaukee County's goals. He encouraged further engagement and expressed willingness to collaborate with various groups interested in sustainability initiatives. He said next steps include the refinement of climate action strategies in collaboration with county departments and continued community and stakeholder engagement efforts.

Preparation for the final plan adoption by the County Board, targeted for Earth Day 2025

View the full presentation on County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).
See ADRC June 18, 2024 Meeting Details.

V. ADRC Governing Board Roles/Chair Report/ADRC Governing Board Membership Report: Kent Mayfield; Tracie Horton;

Tracie Horton reported on the status and upcoming changes regarding board membership:

- Current membership stands at 13 members out of a possible 17.
- Cindy Pichler is up for reappointment, scheduled for approval on June 20th.
- Karen Sager is awaiting confirmation for reappointment.
- A new referral, Jennifer Cohn Pettigrew, will meet with Tracie Horton to discuss potential board membership.

Mayfield emphasized the board's proactive role in recommending and recruiting new members from the community. He acknowledged the importance of diversity in expertise and values among board members.

Fenton interjected with a suggestion to provide each board member with an orientation manual, noting its helpfulness for new and potential members and offered to distribute two printed copies per member, with electronic copies available upon request.

Lillich queried the origin of the orientation manual and its alignment with board roles and responsibilities. Mayfield suggested the manual is provided by the state to outline fundamental board functions.

Mayfield expressed gratitude for the streamlined membership application and review process under Tracie Horton's leadership. He also raised concerns about

the timing of board meetings at 9:30 AM, potentially limiting participation for members with disabilities or other constraints.

Pichler supported adjusting meeting times due to transportation and caregiver challenges faced by members with disabilities.

Mayfield addressed the board regarding the operational framework and its responsibilities stating that there must be an evaluation of its role and responsibilities, particularly considering the monthly meetings and the guidance provided by the governing board orientation manual.

Questions have been raised regarding the translation of general statements into actionable board member activities. Mayfield emphasized the board's dual role as both advisory and operational, as outlined in the manual.

He posed critical questions: Are we effectively carrying out our duties? How can we improve our performance and explore alternative approaches within the DHHS framework according to State guidelines?

The Area on Aging plan provided by Dan Idzikowski, director of that service area, along with a two to three-year wish list initiated by previous ADRC Governing Board Chair, Debra Jupka are documents being used to provide insights and pose questions that require attention and strategic planning.

Mayfield acknowledged challenges posed by the pandemic, the aging population's evolving needs, and gaps in attention to individuals with disabilities and those facing mental health challenges necessitate a reevaluation of current practices.

Mayfield stressed the urgency of revising the ADRC's work plan stating that drafting bylaws alone is insufficient; they must operationalize the board's structure and ensure adherence to established guidelines. He proposed distributing relevant documents to board members for review and feedback.

A plan of action will be drafted in consultation with staff and circulated before the July meeting to facilitate further discussion. He also suggested an informal gathering at St. John's in August for deeper, non-binding discussions among interested board members.

In conclusion, Mayfield invited board members to share their thoughts and suggestions on the proposed action plan over the coming month. He emphasized the importance of collective input in shaping the board's future direction.

VI. ADRC Reports: Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disabilities Services, (DHHS/ADS): Tina Anderson, DHHS/ADS Director; and Bekki Schmitt, DHHS/ADS Community Programs Supervisor:

a) **ADRC Dashboard Report:** Tina Anderson reviewed the May 2024 ADRC Dashboard report and reported on other ADRC business.

1. Availability of Fans

Anderson began the report by announcing the availability of fans for residents calling the ADRC. These fans were ordered in advance during the winter of the previous year to assist vulnerable residents during the ongoing heatwave. Anderson encouraged members to spread the word and direct those in need to contact ADRC for assistance.

2. Staffing Updates and Salary Increases

Anderson then informed the board about an increase in ADRC positions from 22 to 26, including a new position at APS. She highlighted a recent hiring event and emphasized that all current employees received raises. The base rate for HSWs was increased from \$22.00 to \$26.25 per hour, coupled with a 2% raise across the board.

3. Outreach Efforts and Increased Demand

She noted a significant increase in both phone calls and walk-in visits at the ADRC, attributing this to enhanced outreach efforts. Anderson highlighted the excitement for the new facility and upcoming events to engage with the community more effectively. Anderson will circulate floor plans of the new ADRC building for review.

4. Improved Community Engagement and Service Accessibility

Anderson discussed efforts to change the messaging around ADRC's role in the community, encouraging proactive contact before crises occur. She mentioned plans to enhance walk-in services with the opening of the new building and shared details of upcoming community events where ADRC would be present.

5. Partnership with Hospital Systems

Anderson highlighted ongoing efforts to establish a positive relationship with local hospital systems to expedite support for clients in crisis situations. She noted collaboration with hospital teams to enhance service delivery and support for catastrophic cases.

b) **ADRC Outreach Report:** Bekki Schmitt provided the following outreach update:

1. Engagement at Community Events

Bekki Schmitt reported on ADRC's active participation in various community events, including resource festivals and the upcoming Juneteenth event. She emphasized the importance of these events in expanding ADRC's reach and visibility.

To view the report, view "Dashboard May 2024" on County Legislative Information Center under Meeting Details.

VII. Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disabilities Services (DHHS/ADS), ADS Reports, Mike Bonk and/or Tina Anderson

1. ADA Celebration and Website Accessibility

Michael Bonk provided updates on the upcoming ADA celebration and efforts to enhance website accessibility across Milwaukee County's services. Bonk will send out ADA celebration flyers to all board members. He mentioned partnerships with vendors and temporary staff to address accessibility concerns promptly.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

a) Fiscal Report, Matt Fortman, DHHS Chief Financial Officer (CFO). 2.0

Financial Update and Budget Preparation

Matt Fortman briefly mentioned ongoing preparations for the 2025 budget request, focusing on accommodating expanded funding and new positions within the department.

Fortman will finalize the budget request for submission to the County Executive in July.

b) Department of Health and Human Services

i. Office for Persons with Disabilities (DHHS/OPD): Jay-Sun Bowman, DHHS/OPD Director

No report was available.

ii. Adult Protective Services (APS), Cleopatra Casteneda, Adult Protective Services Director

Cleopatra Castaneda greeted the attendees and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to provide updates from Adult Protective Services (APS). She highlighted the following key points:

- APS has received approximately 1570 referrals from Milwaukee County residents for investigation, with over half of these cases involving individuals over the age of 61.
- There has been an increase in cases with limited information, possibly indicating existing service or status updates rather than new referrals.
- Financial exploitation remains the most reported issue, surpassing self-neglect, due to increased awareness and education efforts in the community.
- APS is actively collaborating with Social Security, MPD, local police departments, and the DA's office to support cases.
- Challenges in placement support persist due to staffing issues and Milwaukee County's housing crisis.
- Efforts are underway to provide educational sessions and direct outreach to older adults to mitigate financial exploitation risks.

Castaneda provided the following staffing updates:

- Currently, APS has 7 field services team members handling the workload of over 1500 referrals.
- Two new team members joined recently, and two part-time temp hires are being onboarded to support until permanent hires are secured.
- Additionally, two peer support specialists will be onboarded to aid the opioid prevention project starting July 15th.

Castaneda discussed recent and upcoming community initiatives:

- APS hosted World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at Wilson Park with 23 community partners, receiving positive feedback and requests for regular educational sessions.
- Plans are underway for the Challenges of Aging event tentatively scheduled for February to educate professionals and involve governing boards.
- APS is launching an opioid prevention project with community canvassing starting July 15th to address high-risk areas identified for opioid overdose.

iii. **Area on Aging, (AAA) Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS/AAA Director**

Daniel Idzikowski discussed collaborations with APS and provided updates on the Area Agency on Aging (AAA):

- AAA is enhancing presence in senior centers through outreach workers and seeking input from APS supervisors for the aging plan.
- A survey is being conducted to identify gaps in services for older adults, with a focus on policy development and advocacy.
- Recent initiatives include the Independent Living Support program and advocacy efforts to empower older adults in policy-making.

Daniel Idzikowski highlighted new initiatives:

- Launch of a blood pressure monitoring program in partnership with the American Heart Association to improve cardiovascular health among communities of color.
- Implementation of a social isolation and loneliness program in collaboration with community pharmacies and behavioral health services.

Anderson requested details on an upcoming gathering, and Daniel Idzikowski provided event specifics and committed to sharing a press release.

IX. Old and New Business:

No report was available

X. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

The next ADRC Governing Board meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Davia Fenton
Administrative Assistant
Aging and Disability Resource Center