



## AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING September 25, 2024

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video and teleconference.

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*  
Commissioner Mark P. Behar  
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski  
Commissioner Paula Penebaker  
John Griffith  
Anne Laatsch  
Debrah Lewis  
Kent Mayfield  
Jim McLaughlin  
Gail Morgan  
Nancy Simuel  
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

### **Members Excused:**

Patricia Dunn  
Sandra Janzer  
James Kimble  
Sally Lindner  
Martin Matson  
Suzanne Ryer

George Schneider

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Christel Colorado, DHHS  
Claire Enders, DHHS  
Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS  
Kaisa Kerrigan, DHHS  
Jill Knight, DHHS  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, DHHS  
Jennifer Lefeber, DHHS  
Vonda Nyang, DHHS  
Migdalia Pacheco, DHHS  
Emily Petersen, DHHS  
Gaylyn Reske, DHHS  
Marvic Rizio, DHHS  
Kayla Steinke, DHHS

### **Attendees from the Public**

Eric Grosso, DHHS  
Zachary Wilks-Metrou

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Director Idzikowski, took the roll call; A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 10, 2024 & AUGUST 14, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION:** Approve the minutes for the July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Aging Advisory Council meetings.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Penebaker Second).

### III. 2024 NETWORK SUMMIT DEBRIEF

Chair Callaway gave a quick update on the successful 2024 Aging Network Summit. The main objectives were to gather feedback on the Area Aging Plan and AARP's livable communities initiative, both of which share common goals.

Director Idzikowski expressed gratitude to the Advisory Council, particularly Chair Callaway, for successfully leading the conference. He acknowledged the staff's hard work, especially Kayla Steinke and Jill Knight, who played key roles in organizing the event and Vonda Nyang for compiling the results from the conference.

### IV. 2025-2027 AREA AGING GOALS

#### Local Goals

Idzikowski explained that the plan requires local goals responsive to community needs, separate from the established goal areas. He presented three suggested local goals for consideration:

- assistance for home repair or modification to prevent falls among low-income older adult homeowners and renters not enrolled in long-term care programs. This goal aims to address housing security and wellness needs. He noted the intention to reapply for a federal grant to support this initiative and opens the floor for discussion on this goal.

Council member John Griffith suggests creating a directory of organizations that provide these services, allowing community members to access information more easily. Commissioner Penebaker supported the idea of creating a directory of vetted contractors who would offer affordable rates for seniors needing home repairs. She emphasizes the importance of ensuring that any listed vendors provide reasonable pricing for their services.

In response, Director Idzikowski clarified that the program in question is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It involves occupational therapists assessing homes for necessary modifications to prevent falls, which Medicare does not cover. This program targets older adults not receiving Medicaid services and complements existing home repair initiatives. The Housing Services Division has a separate program for more extensive home repairs and already vets contractors to ensure they are qualified and insured.

Council member Barbara Wyatt Sibley questions whether the term "home repair" should be removed, noting that the focus seems to be specifically on fall prevention. Idzikowski agreed to remove the word "repair," changing the goal to "provide assistance with home modification for falls prevention."

**MOTION:** To remove the word "repair," changing the goal to "provide assistance with home modification for falls prevention."

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Penebaker Second).

Chair Callaway checked for any questions regarding the SMART measure related to the first goal.

**MOTION:** Approve Smart Measure.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (McLaughlin Moved, Laatsch Second).

Director Idzikowski shared the next goal; Milwaukee County is looking to join the AARP Friendly Community Network to enhance livability for older adults. The initiative involves collaborating with other aging network participants to identify key focus areas. A key measure is to adopt at least one goal from AARP's livability domains and lead efforts to implement it, improving the county's livability index over the next five years.

**MOTION:** Milwaukee County will join the AARP Friendly Community Network to enhance livability for older adults and the Commission on Aging will actively participate in Goal Selection.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Behar Second).

**MOTION:** Smart Measure Goal

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Mayfield Moved, Behar Second).

The third local goal of the Aging Plan focuses on advocating with local healthcare providers to maintain access to geriatric specialties for Milwaukee County residents. The Smart Measure is to collaborate with the Milwaukee Healthcare Collaborative to improve access to specialty care for older adults by either relocating services closer to them or establishing a sustainable fund for transportation to appointments in surrounding areas.

This goal arose from discussions at a summit highlighting that many specialty providers are moving to locations outside the county, making it challenging for older adults to access care. The initiative seeks to address transportation funding issues while advocating for geriatric services to be more accessible within Milwaukee County.

**MOTION:** To advocate with local health care providers to maintain access to geriatric specialties for residents of Milwaukee County.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Mayfield Moved, Griffith Second).

**MOTION:** Smart Measure Goal

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Mayfield Second).

#### Advocacy Goals

**MOTION:** Accept Advocacy Goals & Metrics as drafted.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Simuel Second).

#### Caregiver Goals

Commissioner Behar raised a concern about the metric stating, "deliver presentations to all FQHCs and major healthcare systems" by 2027, arguing that it implies these organizations must accept the presentations, which may not be guaranteed. They suggested rephrasing it to "offer presentations" or "present findings" instead, to reflect that acceptance is not assured.

The discussion included acknowledging the potential reluctance of FQHCs to accept presentations but also emphasized the importance of documenting any refusals. There was agreement on the need to track instances where FQHCs decline to engage.

**MOTION:** Caregiving Goals with change discussed to metrics

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Pennebaker Second).

#### Evidence-Based Wellness and Heart Health

Commissioner Behar inquired about the plan to provide five community physical activity based EBPP programs in the first year, specifically asking if these programs would be directed to senior centers and who the target audience would be. Kaiser Kerrigan, the Community Health Coordinator, clarified that the programs would be offered at various locations throughout the county, including senior centers, residential facilities, fire stations, community centers, and health departments.

Council Member John Griffith emphasized the need to assess the specific requirements of various minority groups within the senior community, including cultural, racial, and disabled individuals. He highlighted the importance of understanding these unique needs to improve health and wellness services and expressed concern about the lack of visibility for these issues.

Ms. Kerrigan noted that a marketing research group had conducted evidence-based research on the African American community, which will inform outreach strategies. Griffith acknowledged similar needs in the Latinx and LGBTQ communities, sharing insights about the discrimination LGBTQ seniors face in care facilities.

Chair Callaway discusses the need for an assessment of specific populations within the senior community. It was proposed that the assessment could serve as a measurable outcome or metric, suggesting a timeline of completing the assessment by 2026 and implementing pilot programs by 2027.

The Council agreed that this approach would help consolidate thoughts and guide actions. They noted that while the assessment would be tailored to each population, the outcomes might differ based on community-specific needs, highlighting that different groups, such as Native Americans or racial minorities, may have unique wellness outcomes.

Idzikowski highlighted the existing commitment to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare standards as part of a U.S. DHHS initiative. Although progress has been made, they aim to conduct intentional assessments for various racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ groups over the next three years to ensure these standards are effectively applied in health and wellness.

Chair Callaway then asked the Advisory Council for their feelings about adding this as a goal under evidence-based wellness and heart health. The Council members were in agreement to add this as a separate goal.

**MOTION:** Evidence-Based Wellness and Heart Health Goals and Metrics as amended, adding a goal to conduct health assessments among discreet minority populations in accordance with the CLAS standards.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Behar Second).

#### Nutrition

**MOTION:** To adopt the Nutrition area goals as drafted.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Wyatt Second).

#### Senior Center

Chair Guskowski questioned the importance of prioritizing the goals and suggested that there should be a clear hierarchy among them. He expressed a desire for the goals to be restated in a more organized manner, emphasizing that this relates to how the information will be presented and shared.

Commissioner Behar raised a point about metrics related to rebranding, suggesting that enhancing signage and promotional materials to reflect new names (like " Hub") should be included as measurable goals. He emphasized the need for clarity in naming conventions and proposed accelerating timelines for developing marketing strategies. The conversation highlighted a desire for more specific and measurable metrics to enhance the effectiveness of senior centers.

**MOTION:** Senior Center Goals and Metrics as amended

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Guskowski Second).

### Socialization

Chair Callaway opened the discussion focused on the goal of socialization and Isolation, noting that there was no specific metric defined for it. A program coordinator highlighted that this goal, added by the Service Delivery Committee, lacked direction. Socialization overlaps with support services, transportation, and caregiving, making it a broad and somewhat vague goal area. Ultimately, there was a motion to remove the socialization goal entirely due to its lack of specificity and metrics. The group agreed to strike it from the goals list and moved on to discuss other goals and metrics.

**MOTION:** Adopt Socialization Goals and Metrics as amended.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Mayfield Moved, Griffith Second).

### Transportation

Chair Callaway requested clarification on the metrics concerning the use of leased vehicles, particularly whether these services should be limited to older adults. Transportation Coordinator, Claire enders clarified that the intent is broader, allowing for services to various age groups and community events outside standard service hours.

Commissioner Guskowski suggested adding a goal focusing on improving partnerships with the Milwaukee County transportation system, particularly regarding connections to senior centers. Council member John Griffith spoke how transportation options vary widely. The idea is to create a more reliable system that encourages seniors to use public transit as they age, promoting accessibility at senior centers.

The Council proposed adding a goal is to develop a partnership with the Milwaukee County transit system to improve direct access to senior centers and meal sites. The metric would be to have a coordinated plan in place for all five senior centers by 2027.

**MOTION:** Adopt Transportation Goals and Metrics as amended.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Second).

Chair Callaway requested a motion to accept the proposed Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan goals and metrics for 2025-2027.

**MOTION:** Adopt the amended Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan Goals and Metrics for consideration in public hearing.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Penebaker Moved, Behar Second).

**V. NEXT STEPS & MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Callaway provided a quick overview of the next steps. A brief discussion will occur with the Commission on Aging about the changes made to the draft goals. Public hearings are scheduled for early October to gather feedback on these goals. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Council will reconvene to discuss any further changes to the goals based upon public feedback. On October 25, 2024, the final goals will be submitted for approval to the Commission on Aging.

Staff will continue working on additional components of the plan. A review of the final revised plan will take place in November, leading to its approval before submission to the Commission on Aging. The exact date for the Commission meeting is still being finalized, as it cannot be on the 4th Friday of the month due to Thanksgiving. The next group meeting is set for October 16<sup>th</sup>, and it is hoped that as many members as possible can attend in person.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Emily Petersen, Project Manager Policy Advocacy shared "Lunch and Learn" at McGovern Park on October 17, from 12 to 1 PM.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously, (Griffith Moved, Wyatt Sibley Second)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado  
Executive Assistant