

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: April 18, 2019

TO: Sup. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sup. James Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
Sup. Supreme Moore Omukunde, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Needs

FROM: Holly Davis, Executive Director, Department on Aging

RE: Wisconsin Policy Forum presentation relating to senior center research

Background

In 2017, the Department on Aging began a process to assess the current state of the five Milwaukee County-owned senior centers. Included in this assessment process were the following components: 1) a report summarizing social programming at senior centers throughout Milwaukee County as well as a GIS map of all of these senior centers, 2) listening sessions with seniors and the Commission on Aging to collect their thoughts on what social programming for seniors could and should look like in the future, and 3) an assessment of the infrastructure at the five county-owned senior centers (which was completed in September 2017 by Milwaukee County's Facility Condition Assessment Team).

In 2018, with funding provided through the Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services-Facilities Division, MCDA contracted with the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) to conduct research on senior center "best practices" and trends throughout the U.S. Throughout this research project WPF staff met with MCDA staff and a group of senior center customers and other community stakeholders to provide input on each phase of the project. WPF staff presented a powerpoint summary of their findings at the March 29th Commission on Aging meeting held at Washington Park Senior Center. WPF's final report was published on their website (www.wispolicyforum.org) on April 18th.

With MCDA's baseline senior center assessment work now completed, I am asking for an agenda item in the May cycle that would include an informational presentation from WPF staff regarding the key findings of their research. Such an agenda item would provide County Supervisors an opportunity to ask WPF questions about their research findings and how those findings could be applied in Milwaukee County. This dialogue would also provide Supervisors an opportunity to share their thoughts about the future of the County-owned senior centers, including specific programming that they might like to see implemented.

Thank you for your consideration of this item. If you have any questions about this report please call me at 289-6073.



Holly Davis, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun
Kelly Bablitch
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Jon Janowski

Attachments