



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2025

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at the Marcia P. Coggs Human Health and Service Center, 1230 W. Cherry St., Milwaukee, WI 53205. Members and attendees also joined virtually and by teleconference.

Members Present

Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Paula Pennebaker, *Vice Chair*
Commissioner Mark P. Behar
Roland Dittus-Plath
Jennifer Bliese
John Griffith
Karen Guskowski
Ann Laatsch
DA Leonard
Deborah Lewis
Kent Mayfield
Julia Means
Megan Newman
Amy O'Connor
Ellen Pimentel, *New Chair*
Cassandra Robinson
Nancy Simuel
Linda Stone
Constance Tenhawks
Deiadra Queary

Members Present continued...

Barbara Wyatt Sibley, *New Vice Chair*

Members Excused

Eugene Guskowski
James Kimble
Gail D. Morgan
Joanne Allbaugh
Suzanne Ryer

Staff Present

Claire Enders, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Ginger Rogers, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

Attendees from Public

Demetrius Mack

MINUTES

I. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET AND GREET

Emily Petersen, the AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, led a networking activity for the meeting attendees. In-person participants completed bingo cards by finding people who matched various descriptions, while online participants were placed in breakout rooms to introduce themselves. The first person to complete a row, column, or diagonal on their Bingo card will receive a prize at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Ms. Petersen also facilitated a meet and greet activity, followed by introductions from the Milwaukee County Aging Services team (names listed below). Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair of the Advisory Council, explained that members of the Commission on Aging (COA) are transitioning off the Advisory Council. This change is necessary to comply with the Older Americans Act, which mandates that the Advisory Council advise the Commission independently.

- Daniel Idzikowski (AAA Director)
- Claire Enders (Transportation Coordinator)
- Kayla Steinke (Caregiver Support Coordinator)
- Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco (Caregiver Support Specialist)
- Jill Knight (Program Coordinator)
- Ginger Rogers (Medicare Outreach specialist)
- Vonda Nyang (Executive Assistant)

II. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Advisory Council Chair, Denise Callaway, called the meeting to order at 2:56 p.m., and took the roll call. A quorum of Council members was present.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025, MARCH 12, 2025, AND JUNE 11, 2025, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the February 12, 2025, March 12, 2025, and June 11, 2025, Advisory Council meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed (Wyatt Sibley Moved, Behar Second. Leonard and Guszowski abstained.)

IV. ROUND ROBIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS/ICEBREAKER

New Advisory Council members introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds and reasons for joining the council.

V. ELECTION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Emily Peterson, the Advocacy and Policy Manager at AAA, explained the election process for the positions of chair and vice chair of the Advisory Council, including their roles and responsibilities. Following the nominations and voting, Ellen Pimentel was elected as chair, and Barbara Wyatt Sibley was elected as vice chair. Ellen is a staff attorney at Judicare Legal Aid, where she serves tribal elders, while Ms. Wyatt Sibley brings extensive experience from her six years on the Commission and her active involvement in community organizations.

Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Deborah Lewis, Kent Mayfield, and Deiadra Queary were all nominated for the position of Chair of the Advisory Council but declined the nomination. Roland Dittus-Plath and Ellen Pimentel were also nominated for Chair, and both accepted their nominations. They were asked to share their

experiences and explain what they would contribute to the role. After the votes were collected, Ellen Pimentel was elected as the new Chair of the Advisory Council.

For the Vice Chair position, Deborah Lewis and Kent Mayfield were nominated but also declined. Roland Dittus-Plath and Barbara Wyatt Sibley accepted their nominations for Vice Chair and were asked to share their experiences and contributions. After counting the votes, Barbara Wyatt Sibley was elected as the new Vice Chair.

VI. 2025 SECOND QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT 2025-2027 AREA AGEING PLAN

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski presented a quarterly progress report on the Area Aging plan, emphasizing that it focuses on older adults in Milwaukee County and requires the support of the entire aging network. He highlighted several achievements, including the implementation of advanced nutrition screening at congregate dining sites, cooking demonstrations at senior centers, and the launch of the "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" course in both Spanish and English. Additionally, the Commission on Aging (COA) successfully conducted a Social Security listening session that saw strong public participation and is collaborating more closely with retirees in Milwaukee County.

VII. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The Advisory Council is considering changing its meeting schedule, currently set for the second Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m., due to traffic concerns and conflicts with member availability. The new Chair, Ellen Pimentel, will collaborate with Ms. Petersen to coordinate a new schedule and create a Doodle poll to determine the latest schedule. Members have suggested starting the meetings earlier, around 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and avoiding Wednesdays and third Tuesdays.

Additionally, the group is exploring the idea of rotating meeting locations among various senior centers (specifically Washington, Heart, Clinton, Rose, or Wilson) once per quarter; This would allow members to experience different facilities while ensuring that remote participants can join via Zoom. And to consider holding virtual-only meetings during December, January, and February due to winter weather concerns.

VIII. RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

AAA Director Idzikowski discussed with the Advisory Council that they are still in the process of recruiting additional members, particularly from contracted agencies and the tribal community.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski expressed special thanks to Chair Denise Callaway for her dedicated service as Chair of the Advisory Council, along with Commissioners Paula Penebaker, Mark Behar, and Eugene Guskowski for their four years of service on the council.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Behar Moved, Penebaker Second)

Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next Advisory Council meeting is to be determined.

Sincerely,

Vonda Nyang
AAA Executive Assistant