



## **AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at the Marcia Coggs Human Services building, 1220 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Members and attendees also joined by teleconference.

### **Members Present**

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*  
Commissioner Mark P. Behar  
Commissioner Paula Penebaker, *Vice Chair*  
John Griffith  
James Kimble  
Jim McLaughlin  
Gail Morgan  
Suzanne Ryer  
Nancy Simuel  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### **Members Excused**

Commissioner Eugene Guskowski  
Patricia Dunn  
Sandra Janzer  
Anne Laatsch  
Debra Lewis  
Sally Lindner

### **Members Excused Continued...**

Kent Mayfield  
George Schneider

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Jill Knight, *DHHS*  
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. Executive Assistant Christel Colorado, took the roll call. A quorum was not present. Chair Callaway shared member updates. Sandra Janzer has decided to resign. Jim McLaughlin will also resign due to changes within United Way.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

A quorum was not present at the beginning, item was tabled.

### III. FINALIZE AREA AGING PLAN GOALS

Chair Callaway began the discussion by expressing gratitude to the staff for their hard work on the Area Aging Plan, emphasizing their dedication over the past year in organizing public hearings, focus groups, and managing data collection and dissemination.

Advocacy & Policy Manager Emily Peterson explained the structure of the 2025-2027 area plan draft, highlighting key sections of the document. The first part provides the context of the plan, summarizing public outreach efforts, including survey data, focus groups, and public hearings. It also presents demographic data, comparing the older adult population over time. The document then outlines goals that the Advisory Council has reviewed. Next, it covers state-required sections, such as coordination with Title VI Native American programs, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, and emergency preparedness, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. The document emphasizes collaboration with older adults and the Advisory Council in the plan's development. The final section lists appendices, which will include meeting minutes, focus group summaries, demographic charts, and other supplementary documents that provide additional context but are not part of the main plan.

Chair Callaway shared, after having a discussion with Director Idzikowski and Commissioner Guskowski, the draft of the plan provides a good foundation, but it's not yet ready to be moved forward to the Commission on Aging. They acknowledged the plan needs further adjustments that may not be achievable in this meeting. Chair Callaway requested feedback from others who have reviewed all or part of the document, specifically asking if there are areas of concern that need further refinement before the plan is finalized.

The group discussed the draft document, acknowledging that it has a strong foundation. But were able to find several specific areas for improvement:

- **Transitions and Clarity:** There are concerns about sections that lack smooth transitions and excessive verbiage.
- **Missing or Shifting Information:** Some sections need additional information or require adjustments. For instance, the section on public input needs to highlight more community engagement, not an overemphasis on LGBTQ+ focus group.
- **Goals and Strategies:** The document lacks clear connection between the public input gathered and the goals that were set. The process of how the goals and strategies were developed also needs to be more clearly explained.
- **Section Clarification:** The document would benefit from clearer identification of sections required by state and federal guidelines, especially when transitioning to sections like Title III and Title VI coordination.

- Document Presentation: Consider summarizing key points in bullet form or providing an executive summary to make the document more digestible for readers, especially for community members unfamiliar with the details.

Further discussion led to several recommendations for improvement:

1. Statutory Requirements: Some sections of the document are required by federal or state regulations. These sections are non-negotiable and should be included as required. Clarify which sections are statutory and which are subject to change.
2. Feedback Focus: The Commission should concentrate its review on the parts of the document that are subject to feedback and revision, particularly from the executive summary through specific pages (e.g., page 43). Many other sections, especially after page 31, are considered "pro forma" (routine and non-subjective), meaning they are already finalized or mandated by the State and should not be altered.
3. Document Development Process: Clarify the process behind the goal development in the document, explaining how feedback was collected, reviewed by committees, and then finalized. This would provide a clearer connection between the input received and the goals presented in the plan.
4. Timeline and Deadlines: There's concern about rushing to make revisions before the Commission meeting. The plan is set to be reviewed by the Commission before the meeting on the 22nd, but the group discussed potentially moving the deadline to December to give staff more time without compromising the quality of the document. The State has indicated flexibility in extending the timeline.

The Commission's meeting on December 13th could be used to finalize the plan, with the draft needing to be ready for review by December 6th. The Commission could review the document on a rescheduled meeting on December 2, 2024 focusing only on the narrative sections.

**MOTION:** To postpone action on finalizing the Area Aging Plan and to reschedule the December Aging Advisory Council meeting to Monday, December 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm.

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

#### IV. NEXT STEPS & MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday December 2, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. If available the meeting will be held at Washington Park senior center.

#### V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Idzikowski shared November is National Caregiver Month, and it will also be Social Connection Awareness Week. The Governor has issued a proclamation for Social Connection Awareness Week, and the County Executive has also issued a proclamation for National Family Caregiver Month. Everyone is encouraged to join in scheduled events.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously, (Callaway Moved, Second)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:25P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado  
Executive Assistant

Final