



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Advisory Council Meeting
March 8, 2023**

A quorum of **Advisory Council** members convened virtually on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Members Present:

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*
Gene Guskowski, *Vice Chair*
James Kimble
Sally Lindner
Kent Mayfield
Commissioner Paula Pennebaker
Suzie Ryer
Commissioner Cherie Swenson
Amanda Weiler

Staff Present:

Scherita Beets, *DHHS*
Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*

Members Excused:

Commissioner John Griffith
Patricia Dunn
Ann Laatsch
Gail Morgan
Cherie Rumler
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Attendees from the Public

Commissioner Gloria Miller
Sandy Pasch
Jeremy T.
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Roll call taken by Daniel Idzikowski. A quorum was present.

II. Review Advisory Council meeting minutes of November 9, 2022, January 11, 2023, and February 8, 2023

MOTION: To approve meeting minutes from November 9, 2022, January 11, 2023, and February 8, 2023.

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Guskowski moved, Kimble seconded).

III. Update on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

This item was laid over until the next meeting.

IV. Advisory Council Focus Areas for 2023 Update

Chair Wilberg reminded the Council of the two focus areas for 2023:

1. Loneliness, Isolation, and Mental Health

- a. Assess the incidence of loneliness, isolation, and mental health concerns among older adults in Milwaukee County, emphasizing racial differences.
- b. Gain understanding of how current aging and mental health systems respond to these needs and identify barriers to resource utilization.
- c. Develop recommendations for improvement in mental health service that include metrics to assess impact of their implementation.

2. Chronic Heart Disease Management

- a. Work with the Milwaukee Health Partnership to assess the prevalence of cardiovascular disease among people of color in Milwaukee County and collaborate on strategies to reduce racial disparities in disease prevalence;
- b. Develop strategies to improve participation by persons of color in Evidence Based Health Promotion Programs that lower risk for cardiovascular disease offered through the AAA;
- c. Develop recommendations to improve chronic disease prevention program delivery that include metrics to assess impact.

Council members will be invited to choose to join a workgroup in one of these areas. Other community based partners will be contacted to provide expertise.

A. Informational Item: Aging Network Summit Update

Kayla Steinke provided information regarding the Aging Network Summit. The Summit will meet one of the Area Plan Goals related to improving collaboration and communication within the Aging Network. AARP will be a funding partner. Planning is underway with a larger group convened initially and a smaller planning group identified. The event will provide broad opportunities for aging service providers to learn about the Area Aging Plan, network with one another, and determine areas where the network can better coordinate to meet unmet needs. The event will be held on **Friday May 12th from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wilson Park Senior Center.**

A. Discussion and Action: 2023 OAA ARPA IIIB Allocation

The AAA received the 2nd half of Older Americans Act ARPA funding from the state of Wisconsin - just over 1 million dollars. Now that there is a contract, funding can be committed to projects. Beyond the projects already committed for ongoing support through 2024, the plan for the remainder of OAA ARPA IIIB funding (approximately \$500,000) is to utilize it to replace tax levy funding allocated to Serving Older Adults for programming in the senior centers and

then use the “released” tax levy funding on capital and equipment improvements at the five Milwaukee County owned senior centers. OAA ARPA funds cannot be used for capital purchases above \$5000, so this provides a mechanism to provide additional capital funding by freeing up tax levy.

MOTION: To approve OAA ARPA IIIB funding recommendations as presented, so the chair can recommend this use to the full Commission at the end of the month

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Ryer moved, Weiler seconded).

V. Discussion and Action: Select Committee on Senior Centers Final Recommendations

Senior Centers Committee chair Guskowski provided a presentation to the Council outlining the background, demographics, findings, and recommendations contained in the Select Committee on Senior Centers final report. Guskowski noted the Committee’s deliberation on several “critical questions” which concluded that Milwaukee County should continue to sponsor programming at five senior centers in the county, but that it need not own and operate these centers. The County should consider a regional network of senior centers, pursuing additional partners and funding to support new programming and possibly new buildings to better meet the needs of future generations of older adults in accord with the attributes in the final report. Guskowski then discussed the SCSC’ vision for senior centers and each of the final recommendations:

Imagine innovative and vibrant environments programmed and designed to encourage a holistic approach to an engaged life.

Imagine spaces, activities, and experiences created to support the vital and active lifestyles of new and existing generations of mature Milwaukee County residents.

IMAGINE THE MKE HUBS!

- 21st Century Solutions Must Be Accessible
- 21st Century Solutions Must Be Available
- 21st Century Solutions Must Be Enjoyable
- 21st Century Solutions Must Be Economically Viable

Commission on Aging Serves as Central Coordinator of Senior Centers

Establish a Senior Centers Standing Committee

AAA Hire a Senior Center Project Manager

Ensure the Intent of the Attributes are Addressed

Rebrand the Senior Center Network

Continue Programming at 5 MKE County Centers

Explore New Alternatives to Upgrade Facilities and Bring Services & Programming Closer to Seniors

Explore New Facilities for a Variety of Cultures

Plan Improvements or New Centers with Attributes

Dialogue with All Municipalities to Create Network
Present this Report Publicly to Garner Support
Explore Sliding Scale Membership Fees
Pursue Partnerships with Philanthropic, Healthcare, Social Services, and Private Entities Serving Seniors
Establish Separate Fund-Raising Foundation

Questions and discussion with Council members followed.

MOTION: To accept the recommendations of the Select Committee on Senior Centers and recommend adoption by the Commission on Aging.

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Mayfield moved, Kimble seconded).

VI. Informational Item: Announcements

- A. Milwaukee County's Dementia Care Specialists will be holding a resource fair at Washington Park Senior Center in April that focuses on dementia programming and services.
- B. June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and we're working on plans in partnership with APS, for an event that will be held at Kelly Senior Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m

MOTION: To adjourn the Advisory Council meeting.

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Swenson moved, Kimble seconded).

Respectfully Submitted,

Domonique Klett
Clerical Specialist I