



## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

The **Commission on Aging** is a 16-member governing and planning body. Its members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Commission is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based services for Milwaukee County residents aged 60 and older. The Commission on Aging serves as the Area Agency on Aging for Milwaukee County.

The Commission has several standing committees, councils, and workgroups which are summarized below. Each Commissioner is required to participate in at least one standing committee or council.

### Committees

The **Executive Committee** consists of the Officers of the Commission and one "at large" member from the Commission on Aging. This committee may act in the name of the Commission.

The **Advocacy Committee** advocates on local, state, and federal policy issues concerning older adults.

The **Service Delivery Committee** reviews proposals for Older Americans Act and Wisconsin aging service contracts and recommends funding awards. This committee also reviews program and service assessments.

The **Wellness Committee** serves to educate and promote health and wellness among older adults using the foundation of the eight dimensions of wellness and the facilitation of evidence-based health promotion.

The **Senior Centers Committee** envisions and guides the development of Milwaukee County senior centers and senior center programming in Milwaukee County for current and future generations of older adults.

### Councils

The **Advisory Council** develops and monitors the Area Aging Plan for Milwaukee County, holds public hearings on the needs of older adults in the County, and conducts special studies to advise the Commission.

The **Nutrition Council** is an advisory body that provides recommendations, support, and assistance regarding Senior Dining programs and serves as a liaison between senior meal participants and the Nutrition Director.



### **What is the process for becoming a Commission on Aging member?**

- Potential Commissioners are recruited from all over Milwaukee County. At least four (4) members shall reside in the suburbs of the county. At least four (4) members shall reside in the City of Milwaukee. A majority of Commissioners must be age 60+, but there is no age requirement for individual Commission members.
- The Commission on Aging shall be comprised of leaders in the community, including leaders from groups identified as in greatest economic need and greatest social need, who have the respect, capacity, and authority necessary to convene all interested persons, assess needs, design solutions, track overall success, stimulate change, and plan community responses for the present and for the future.
- Potential Commissioners are recommended by the Chair of the Commission on Aging to the County Executive's Office. All prospective Commissioners must submit a resume or biography to the following e-mail address: [areaagency@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:areaagency@milwaukeecountywi.gov). The County Executive's Office interviews prospective Commissioners, and if there is a good "fit" then the Milwaukee County Executive formally appoints the individual to the Commission. All Commission on Aging appointments must be confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors.
- Once confirmed by the County Board, all Commissioners are then sworn in by the County Clerk's office and are seated at Commission meetings. Commissioner terms are for three years (starting from the time of the County Executive's formal appointment) and Commissions may serve two terms.

### **What are the primary Commission on Aging responsibilities?**

- The Commission on Aging is responsible for developing, administering and implementing a comprehensive, coordinated human service system for community based services for county residents age sixty (60) years and older, for assessing their needs, and for reviewing the service efforts of organizations and institutions in the county and its aging network. The commission also acts as the administrative planning and service agency for funding and programming under the Older Americans Act.
- All Commission members are appointed to a Commission standing committee where they are expected to actively participate in Committee discussions and activities. Commissioners are expected to attend all scheduled Commission and Committee meetings. There are generally 10 monthly Commission meetings each year (not July or December) and Committees meet either monthly or quarterly depending on a schedule determined by the Committee chairs.
- All Commissioners are expected to support the mission of the Area Agency on Aging and its staff by actively participating in events, actions, meetings, and activities. Commissioners are expected to be generally knowledgeable about aging programs and services and are expected to actively promote these programs and services throughout the community.
- As Commission vacancies occur, Commissioners are also expected to help recruit individuals in the community who could fill those vacancies.