



## AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2024

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video and teleconference.

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*  
Commissioner Mark P. Behar  
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski  
Anne Laatsch  
Debrah Lewis  
Sally Lindner  
Kent Mayfield  
Jim McLaughlin  
Gail Morgan

### **Members Excused:**

Patricia Dunn  
John Griffith  
Sandra Janzer  
James Kimble  
Martin Matson  
Commissioner Paula Pennebaker  
Suzanne Ryer  
Nancy Simuel

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

Cherie Swenson  
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*  
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*  
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Audrey Carignan  
Michelle Drouillard  
Truth Freeman  
Katrina Mosley  
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

## MINUTES

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

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Executive Assistant, Christel Colorado took the roll call; A quorum of members was not present.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Due to a lack of quorum, the January 10, 2024, Commission on Aging meeting minutes were tabled until the April meeting.

### **III. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN SURVEY**

Chair Callaway informed Advisory Council members that they had created a sub-workgroup to assist with collecting data for the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan. The Workgroup utilized the past Area Plan survey's topics and questions as a baseline, and will revise to update the survey to address current areas of interest for the older adult population. The Advisory Council is planning on collecting data through the following:

- Surveys (Online and paper copies)
- Focus groups (Organization, civic group, another senior center in the community)
- Public hearings

AAA Program and Planning Coordinator Koss Vallejo led the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan survey discussion. She reviewed the current 2025-2027 AAA survey questions for collecting data.

Commissioner Guskowski stated that in the section about senior centers, they would like input from the community on what they think needs to be improved in the County's five-owned senior centers.

Committee member Kent Mayfield led the discussion on Social Isolation, loneliness, and heart health. He discussed how they might find indicators in other questions on isolation and loneliness. The Council will need to review the overall survey results rather than solely relying on answered questions in this section.

Chair Callaway summarized the reason a question was included on heart health.

Commissioner Behar indicated that Dental Health is associated with cardiovascular disease and suggested that the Advisory Council could collaborate with MATC's Dental School and utilize their dental health school's questions to address heart disease.

Today, there wasn't anyone from the sub workgroup to talk about security at parks and increasing participation at county parks. They will investigate whether this topic is still of interest to the community at the public hearings.

### **IV. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Community Program Supervisor Bekki Schmitt guided the discussion on public outreach. Four public hearings are scheduled this spring. The Advisory Council will hold two public hearings at Milwaukee County's owned senior centers: Clinton Rose Senior Center and Wilson Park Senior Center, and the other two hearings will be held in suburban areas (Brown Deer area and Oak Creek or Greendale). The Advisory Council strategically selected the locations to reach diverse audiences and cover a broad area of Milwaukee County. The public hearing dates will be on a Tuesday or Thursday, and the times will occur around or after mealtimes (breakfast/lunch). The dates are as follows:

- April 4
- April 9
- April 16
- April 18

Chair Callaway asked Council members to ensure they place the dates on their calendars and encouraged attendance at the public hearings. At the last Commission on Aging meeting, she asked the Commission what populations or groups the Council needs to reach out to in order to be inclusive and ensure they have a variety of voices providing feedback on community needs.

Ms. Schmitt shared the public input and engagement document that was created to track the organizations, the contact person who suggested the organization, and whether they want to hold a focus group, distribute surveys, or promote the public hearings. She stated that the Council could have access to this document if they would like to see if any group was missed or just for informational purposes.

#### **V. DHS OFFICE ON AGING SITE VISIT**

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council that the State Department of Health Services, Office on Aging will visit the Area Agency on Aging on Friday, February 16, 2024. The AAA is hosting them at Washington Park Senior Center from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Advisory Council members are welcome to join.

Idzikowski stated that the AAA's Area Plan will be incorporated into the States Area Plan, and the topics of discussion at the meeting will be AAA's Programs and Services, providing highlights that the AAA has accomplished under the Older Americans Act.

Director Idzikowski announced that tomorrow at Clinton Rose Senior Center, starting at 10 a.m., The County Executive, Housing Services Division, and the AAA are launching a new initiative: funding for senior housing, senior home repair, and fall prevention modifications for those who own a home or rent. They are partnering with DHHS Housing Services and Revitalize Milwaukee to expand their home repair programs.

#### **VI. NEXT STEPS AND MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Callaway will inform everyone via email about the Area Plan's public hearings, surveys, and focus groups. She encouraged members to check their emails regularly as they will convene again in April.

The Chair mentioned that a few people have asked if the time of the meetings could be changed because they are not able to attend. She will hold a discussion about having both in-person and virtual meetings sometime in June.

#### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no other announcements.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:22 P.M.**

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant