



## ***MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING***

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**TO:** Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Needs

**FROM:** Stephanie Sue Stein, Director, Milwaukee County Department on Aging  
Jonette N. Arms, Assistant Director, Milwaukee County Department on Aging

**DATE:** October 8, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Informational report outlining actions taken by the Milwaukee County Department on Aging in partnership with the Commission on Aging Intergenerational Council to develop a plan that will assist with strengthening and bridging gaps between older adults and youth.**

### **Background**

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA) was authorized by the Committee on Health and Human Needs (File Number 12-587) to work in partnership with the Intergenerational Council of the Commission on Aging to promote and expand intergenerational programming in Milwaukee County.

Staffed by the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, a subcommittee of the Intergenerational Council met on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 to discuss strategies and possible partnerships for accomplishing the following outcomes as outlined in the resolution:

- Seek to expand membership on the Intergenerational Council to additional partner agencies within Milwaukee County
- Develop a guide sheet of intergenerational activities
- Make recommendations for additional intergenerational programming
- Develop evaluation and performance measurement tools for intergenerational programming so that future programming can be 'evidence-based'
- Reach out to other Milwaukee County departments to brainstorm additional intergenerational program opportunities

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Intergenerational Council's mission is to promote and strengthen solidarity, support and positive interaction among generations in the community. The Intergenerational Council embraces its mission and the opportunity to be supported by the Health and Human Needs Committee to build upon and enhance the current efforts of the council.

The council takes serious the charge assigned in the resolution and looks forward to being a change agent in creating and supporting meaningful intergenerational relationships across Milwaukee County. The Intergenerational Council subcommittee brainstormed ideas to begin preliminarily planning of an intergeneration symposium, which would be the impetus behind meeting the requirements of the resolution and helping to shape strong intergenerational connections.

During the subcommittee meeting of Wednesday, August 22, 2012, members came up with the subsequent framework.

### **Proposal**

To plan, coordinate, and conduct an intergenerational symposium. Too many youth and older adults do not know or understand each other. To assist with helping older adults and youth learn more about the richness of opportunities and share reciprocal experiences.

Developing relationships with younger generations can help older adults feel a greater sense of fulfillment. Creating opportunities for youth and adults can provide reciprocal rewards. These benefits can be revealed as:

- Opportunities for youth and older adults to learn new skills
- A sense of purpose for youth and older adult
- Helping youth to alleviate their fears and prejudices against older adults
- An approach to debunk myths, biases, and suspicions of youth
- Youth understanding and embracing their own aging process
- Older adults and youth developing respect for one another

To coordinate a community plan to promote and expand intergenerational programming, the symposium will be planned as an all-day event (9:00 am until 2:00 pm) and will be held when school is in session to allow their support and transportation of children. The thought is to hold the symposium prior to the end of the school year where children could take advantage of intergenerational programs and service-learning placements during the summer months.

One suggested component of the symposium would include a panel of speakers sharing expertise about intergenerational programming, current and potential opportunities, experiences, and benefits. A diverse group of individuals representing professionals, older adults, and youth will make-up the panel.

Additional ideas to be considered regarding the format of symposium:

- Continental breakfast with panel presentation
- Morning breakout sessions to discuss and share issues and concerns
- Lunch with a keynote speaker
- Afternoon group breakouts to develop ideas and strategies to address issues and concerns discussed in morning sessions
- End of day report out to share issues, strategies and commonalities among both populations
- Youth and older adults will lead all sessions and group breakouts

The Intergenerational Council will guide the formation of the symposium by identifying a planning workgroup comprised of youth, seniors, and community and service providers to support all aspects of the planning process (marketing/promotion, speakers, breakout sessions, etc.). Just like with Intergenerational Council meetings, MCDA staff members will oversee every workgroup meeting. All advisory committee meetings will have minutes and information discussed will be shared with and approved by the Intergenerational Council and reported at Milwaukee County Commission on Aging meetings.

A select group of individuals as described will be asked to participate on the Intergenerational Council symposium planning workgroup and or invited to expand the Intergenerational Council as regular members. New council members and planning partners will be considered based on:

- Broad involvement and knowledge of intergenerational programming
- Ability to target and work with underserved populations that often go unrecognized in the specific topic area i.e., Hmong and Laotian, Hispanic, and Indian

- Opportunities to provide sponsorship support (funding, marketing, educational programming, etc.)
- Ability to reach out to a broad diverse population of youth and families. Taking a family centered approach, the goal is to look beyond the specific needs of the children and also include how parents and extended family can be included to address all areas to support children's needs

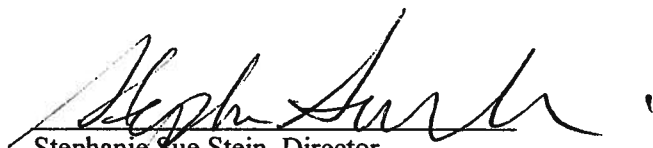
Potential partners meeting the aforementioned criteria are listed in the attached addendum.

Additional resources and tools will be considered as the MCDA and the Intergenerational Council continues to discuss and develop a plan to address the outcomes as mandated by the resolution:

- Create a *resource guide* of agencies and organizations that provide intergenerational programming
- Identify how resource guide will be maintained as a relevant and timely source of information
- Develop a *toolkit* as a roadmap for developing intergenerational programming
- Define programming
- Identify what will be considered success
- Identify what should be evaluated, e.g., effectiveness of the symposium, performance goals of outcomes developed during and implemented after the symposium, reduction in youth crime or violence and or increased involvement in child and older adult productive interactive opportunities (social, volunteer, educational, workforce development, etc.)

The Commission on Aging and Intergenerational Council are excited about this initiative, look forward to its implementation, and feel confident of its success.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stephanie Sue Stein, Director  
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

Attachment

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic  
Tia Torhorst  
Jennifer Collins  
Antionette Thomas-Bailey  
Jonette Arms  
Thomas Condella  
Mary Proctor Brown  
Nubia Serrano  
Chet Kuzminski  
Gary Portenier  
Diane Beckley  
Pat Rogers

**Addendum to the Milwaukee County Department on Aging Informational Report to  
Milwaukee County Health and Human Needs Committee  
Monday, October 8, 2012**

**Potential partners and members for Intergenerational Council:**

1. Admirals
2. Agape
3. American Indian School\*
4. Anthony Rhodes, United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee – Collaborative of several youth and family community centers/agencies\*
5. Archdiocese
6. Area Health Education Center – training health workers
7. Bevan Baker and other municipal health departments
8. Black Achievers
9. Boys and Girls Clubs
10. Brewers
11. Camille Mortimere, Academy of Learning Leadership
12. Center for Intergenerational Learning at Temple University (National support)
13. Center for Urban Population Health
14. Children’s Outing Association
15. Church Youth Ministries
16. Common Ground
17. Department of Instruction Educational Opportunity Program
18. Fatherhood Initiative
19. Former teachers/administrators (older adults)
20. Generations United (National support)
21. Gloria Rhone, Marquette University
22. Harley Davidson
23. Health Training Institute
24. HeartLove
25. Helen Bader
26. Hmong American Friendship\*
27. Hope Schools
28. Indian Council of the Elderly\*
29. Interfaith Older Adult Programs\*
30. Judge Barry Phillips
31. Judge Carl Ashley
32. Judge Derek C. Mosley
33. Judge Valerie Hill
34. Kosciusko Community Center\*
35. Lad Lake
36. Mac Weddle, Northcott
37. Marquette High School
38. Martin Luther King Community Center\*
39. Medical College of Wisconsin
40. Methodist
41. MICAH\*
42. Milwaukee Christian Center
43. Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
44. Milwaukee County Children’s Court
45. Milwaukee County Delinquency and Court Services Division
46. Milwaukee County Department of Family Care
47. Milwaukee County Executive’s Office
48. Milwaukee Police Community Services Division
49. Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council
50. Nation of Islam
51. Pan-Hellenic groups (sororities/fraternities)
52. PBS
53. Pearls for Girls
54. Planning Council for Health and Human Services
55. Professional Associations, such as Top Ladies of Distinction or Pilot Club (older women)
56. Project Ujima
57. ReDonna Rogers, Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship
58. Rhonda Taylor-Parris – Aurora, Inroads Program
59. Running Rebels
60. Silverspring Neighborhood Center
61. Social Development Commission\*
62. St. Amellian Lakeside Independence\*
63. St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care Buddy Program\*
64. State Baptist Convention
65. Ted Johns – Intergenerational specialization, Community Advocates
66. Time Warner Cable – STEM Program\*
67. Trinette McCray, Cardinal Stritch
68. UMOG
69. United Health Care\*
70. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee or Madison
71. Urban League
72. Urban Underground\*
73. Walker’s Point
74. YWCA

*\*Denotes partners that would be asked to become ongoing members of the Intergenerational Council.*