



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

**Advisory Council Meeting
October 11, 2023**

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting by videoconference and conference call.

Members Present:

Denise Callaway, Chair
Paula Penebaker, Vice-Chair
Patricia Dunn
Commissioner John Griffith
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski
Sally Lindner
Kent Mayfield
Gail Morgan
Commissioner Brian Peters
Commissioner Cherie Swenson
Janice Wilberg

Members Excused:

James Kimble
Anne Laatsch

Members Excused Continued...

Suzanne Ryer
Amanda Weiler Jim McLaughlin
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

Staff Present:

Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Chandra Staples, *DHHS*
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Anthony Myers, Riverworks
ASL Interpreter Derrick Cainion
ASL Interpreter Jill Kenehan-Krey
Michelle Rouillard, Goodwill

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., and Executive Assistance Christel Colorado took roll. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14TH, 2023 AND AUGUST 9TH, 2023

MOTION: To accept the June 14, 2023, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moved Griffith, Second Penebaker)

MOTION: To accept the August 9, 2023, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moved Mayfield, Second Guskowski)

III. AGING NETWORK SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Unit Director, gave a brief update as Bekki Schmitt, Community Programs Coordinator was not present. Chair Callaway chose to move to the next agenda item.

IV. AGING AND DISABILITY VACCINATION COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Director Idzikowski informed the council they have received grants from USAging and the State of Wisconsin to engage an Aging and Disability vaccination collaborative project to increase awareness and encourage older adults in obtaining the COVID and Influenza vaccines. They have partnered with four agencies: the City of Milwaukee Health Department, the City of Wauwatosa Health Department, Health Connection Inc. a nonprofit organization connecting health care providers to communities of color and INPOWER a marketing and advertising agency.

Director Idzikowski shared they have also engaged with the Medical College of Wisconsin, which completed a study of vaccine uptake during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how pharmacy intervention and pharmacy availability has affected it. They invited the principal investigator along with their community partners: The MCW School of Pharmacy, the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin and the County Medical Director who is a physician at MCW to join together to provide more community-based opportunities to older adults and people with disabilities to gain access to the Covid and influenza vaccines and promote the program.

Idzikowski noted some challenges, including a delay in hiring a project manager and Covid-19 vaccine availability. Their plan is to work with the City of Milwaukee and the City of Wauwatosa to utilize their existing flu clinics and then to stand up new clinics at senior centers, senior housing communities and other community gatherings that attract older adults. Advertisement for this program will go out via radio and television, including promoting it on the Monday night football games. The [Healthy MKE](#) website will continue to be run by INPOWER, providing vaccine opportunities, information on both vaccines and listing the location where they will be offered. Idzikowski also commented that they will work with pharmacy partners, to make the vaccine available to pharmacy students for them to go out and administer them in various community sites.

Member Kent Mayfield asked if they will be engaging the Milwaukee County Senior Centers. Director Idzikowski assured they are principal partners. Chair Callaway asked regarding the scheduled clinic and where they might be. Director Idzikowski will send out information as those dates and locations had just been provided to him a day before. Chair Callaway questioned if the RSV vaccine will be included in the program. Director Idzikowski shared that the grant is specifically to promote and administer the Covid and Influenza vaccine. There is also funding for transportation to the vaccination sites through the Older Adults Transportation

Services. Incentives will also be available to promote and encourage individuals to participate. Commissioner Penebaker asked if they will be providing any information about the RSV vaccine while promoting the Covid and Influenza vaccine. Director Idzikowski shared they will check with their federal partners to see what is allowed in terms of promotional or informational information. He also commented that if anyone has suggestions to host an event to please reach out, he has provided his email in the chat. daniel.idzikowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov

V. FOCUS AREAS PATH FORWARD

Chair Callaway spoke regarding the two focus areas the Advisory Council decided to further study. The first objective was to obtain a better understanding of the areas and what services are being offered. She then shared, beginning January, 2024, the Advisory Council will begin to discuss the process of discussing feedback and input on the next three-year Aging Area Plan. Chair Callaway suggested a broad discussion on where they are in the topics, the progress that has been made and the needed progress.

Isolation, Loneliness & Mental Health: Commissioner Kent Mayfield spoke regarding this topic. He shared he lives at Saint John's on the Lake, an independent living facility. Since 2019 they have been very active addressing this issue. They commissioned a film in 2019 All of the Lonely People, which addressed the context of isolation. The emphasis has continued to the Symposium on Aging for the last three years since the pandemic. Mr. Mayfield will provide information on the Symposium and the documented film. He suggests they should connect with Tim Wellens at DHS, who chairs the Wisconsin Coalition to end Isolation and Loneliness. Mr. Mayfield suggests Mr. Wellens speak at a future Advisory meeting.

Chronic Heart Disease: Chair Callaway shared she will meet with Barbara Wyatt-Sibley as she was not present.

VI. NEXT STEPS

Callaway questioned Director Idzikowski what material and information is needed to move forward for the three-year plan. Director Idzikowski shared that the Advisory Council's primary role is to help advise the Commission on Aging on the development and maintenance of a comprehensive coordinated community-based network of services for older adults. Next year will begin the process of writing the new Aging Area Plan 2025-2027. This council has the power to hold public hearings and gain public feedback as it develops. Secondly, the Advisory Council is responsible for maintaining and developing cohesion among the aging networks. Connecting with non-traditional partners and vendors that play a large role in the aging space. Lastly is to explore special topics of need. Provide recommendations to the Commission that address particular issues affecting older adults. The two topics addressed this year were thought of a great way to address the racial equity goal as well as a health goal. With tools and programs already in

place such as the Wellness program, Nutrition program, and the Socialization program.

Chair Callaway asked if the groups have convened and begun this work. Mayfield replied, no. Advisory member Barbara Wyatt-Sibley was not present. Director Idzikowski explained that these two topics were this year's focus, and beginning next year they will be consumed with the development of the next three-year plan. He suggests that if they would like answers and advise on these two topics they should be by the end of the year. Commissioner Griffith shared since Covid; transitional living residents have been impacted with social isolation. He suggests these facilities can help residents communicate through social platforms such as Zoom with their families.

Advisory member Patricia Dunn, asked for clarification on what was being asked. Chair Callaway asked the Council members if they have the time and commitment to meet and share information about community resources. Member Gene Guskowski commented that there has been plenty of transition in the council hence the delay. He also stated that being a volunteer they should consider what would be the best practice as everyone in the council does live full lives. He suggests smaller steps and should take in consideration other communities, to try to implement their resource in Milwaukee County. Member Mayfield suggested to join the Wisconsin Coalition on Loneliness and Social Isolation. Tim Wellens, chair of this coalition has spoken about it in a previous meeting. He suggested that it's a good step to access reliable resources. Member Cherie Swenson, suggested for members to prepare research for the next meeting to be able to present on one of the two topic that interests them. Mayfield shared he will meet with Tim Wellens in Madison, to obtain any ideas that the Advisory Council can consider moving forward with.

Chair Callaway thanked everyone on the board for bringing thoughts, idea and suggestions in order to move forward with these two important topics. New member Brian Peters spoke about a new series Blue Zone on Netflix, this series shows collaboration with different communities to help improve people's lives. It talks about improving nutrition, working together, being active. He suggests collaborating with this organization and if that is something the Advisory Council is willing to consider. Chair Callaway asked the council, if they have suggestions or any more ideas to please email Director Idzikowski or herself. Community Programs Coordinator Bekki Schmitt suggested the Council use a Google Doc. or online platform to gather resources and make it accessible who have Milwaukee County access and those who do not. The council chose which topic they will focus on member: Dunn, Griffith, Guskowski, McLaughlin and Penebaker will work on Isolation & Loneliness. Members: Kimble, Lindner, Morgan, Peters and Swenson will focus on Chronic Heart Disease.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Commissioner John Griffith announced his commission will be ending in November. He shared he will be reassessing how much he will be involved. But will continue to be involved as much as he can, he shared he has enjoyed working with everyone.
- Bekki Schmitt announced the Medicare series with Elder Benefit Specialist Nina Yang. Ms. Schmitt provided more information in the chat.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Dunn Moved/Guzskowski Second).

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next Advisory Council meeting will be November 8, 2023, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado
Executive Assistant