



## **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 23, 2026**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at Wilson Park Senior Center (2601 W Howard Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53221). Members and attendees also joined virtually.

### **Members Present**

Ellen Pimentel, *Chair*  
Commissioner Paula Penebaker, *Ex Officio Member*  
Karen Guskowski  
Linda Stone  
Amy O'Connor  
Cassandra Robinson  
DA Leonard  
Demetrius Mack  
Michael Vanblaricum  
Judith Amorsen  
Gloria Miller

### **Members Excused**

Jennifer Bliese, *Vice Chair*  
Joanne Allbaugh  
Deborah Lewis  
Nancy Simuel  
Julia Means  
Constance Tenhawks  
Megan Newman

### **Staff Present**

Emily Petersen, *DHHS*  
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Margaret  
K. Marshall

## **MINUTES**

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

Advisory Council Chair, Ellen Pimentel, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., and Emily Petersen, AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager took the roll call. A quorum of Council members was not present at the time the roll was called but appeared shortly thereafter.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 26, 2026 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve the March 26, 2026 Advisory Council meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Guskowski moved, Leonard second).

### **III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Chair Pimentel introduced the three new Advisory Council members: Michael Vanblaricum, Judith Amorsen, and Gloria Miller. Each member introduced themselves, shared about their background, and what interested them about

joining the Advisory Council. They also shared a time when they advocated for themselves or others.

#### **IV. REPORT FROM ADVISORY COUNCIL EX-OFFICIO MEMBER**

Ex Officio Member Paula Penebaker provided an update on activities of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging and the Milwaukee County AARP Age-Friendly Steering Committee. She reported that there was progress made on identifying a temporary facility for McGovern Senior Center programming led by Commissioner Eugene Guskowski. The Council also discussed the work done by the Age-Friendly Steering Committee and types of recommendations or projects that may result from the committee's work. Member Penebaker discussed that the Committee is planning to issue a final report at the end of the third year of the project with recommendations and is taking into consideration funding restraints and jurisdictional concerns.

#### **V. REVIEW 2026 QUARTER 1 AREA AGING PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Emily presented the report to the Council. The report was discussed with no action taken.

#### **VI. PRESENTATION ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN GOALS**

Emily provided the presentation on the agency's advocacy programs and advocacy goals in the area plan. The Council discussed with no action taken.

#### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Emily discussed the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) Day of Action opportunity with the Council. The Council discussed with no action taken.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Stone moved, Vanblaricum second).

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next Advisory Council meeting is May 28, 2026.

Sincerely,  
Emily Petersen  
Advocacy and Policy Manager