



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

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 12, 2025**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at the Marcia Coggs Human Services building, 1220 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Members and attendees also joined by teleconference.

### **Members Present**

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*  
Commissioner Paula Pennebaker,  
*Vice Chair*  
Mark P. Behar  
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski  
James Kimble  
Kent Mayfield  
Nancy Simuel  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### **Members Excused**

Patricia Dunn

### **Members Excused continued...**

John Griffith  
Anne Laatsch  
Debra Lewis  
Suzanne Ryer  
George Schneider

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Jill Knight, *DHHS*  
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

## **MINUTES**

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

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Executive Assistant Christel Colorado, took the roll call. A quorum was present.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The February 12, 2025, meeting minutes were not available for review.

### **III. FINAL REPORT REGARDING THE 2022-2024 AREA AGING PLAN**

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council that Milwaukee County's first Area Agency on Aging plan was published in 1975. The themes of that initial plan are like the current area plan, which included 50 goals last year. The AAA made significant progress on most of these objectives. The director emphasized the Council's role in monitoring the plan's development, highlighting the importance of

health equity, communication, and collaboration. He recognized the need for improvement in plan implementation and dedicated funding for communication strategies, which remains a priority. The Commission on Aging is exploring financing options for communication efforts and enhancing internal communication.

Idzikowski also mentioned advancements in wellness programs, including behavioral health and financial counseling initiatives. Rebuilding the volunteer network is a key challenge, and he called for help expanding grassroots advocacy.

The discussion included challenges to minority business participation in contracting, the success of the Dine Out program, and Chair Callaway's suggestion to collaborate with the African American Chamber of Commerce to identify barriers. Upcoming initiatives, such as the Senior Companions program, were highlighted, as well as the need for better outdoor recreational activities and an inter-agency transportation coordination council.

#### **IV. COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAW CHANGE RELATING TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Chair Callaway reminded the Council that new federal regulations required changes to the composition of the Aging Advisory Council. The Council considered proposed changes to the section of the Commission's bylaws regarding the Advisory Council. Key revisions include the fact that Commission on Aging members cannot serve on the Advisory Council, which must elect its own Chair. The Commission will still appoint and vet Advisory Council members, who will advise on the Commission on the development of Area Aging Plan.

#### **V. RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Council discussed having an introductory session for new members to help them understand operations, with existing members guiding the transition. Chair Callaway requested the AAA Director email the current Council composition for finding new member nominations.

To ensure a quorum for meetings, the Council agreed on a maximum of 20 members, with at least 11 needed for each meeting. Most members should be 60 or older, though others can be younger.

The transition for the Aging Advisory Council is set for June, with a potential extension into July. All tasks should be completed by October. Non-commissioner members can remain, while only commissioners who wish to retain their Commission seats need to exit the Council.

The group emphasized the importance of diverse representation and agreed to promote recruitment on social media and the county website. They will also confirm

current members' interest in continuing their service and identify the areas they represent. The Council will reconvene in April to review potential new members and their resumes that the Chair requested members to bring of potential members.

## **VI. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Due to time restraints this agenda item was not discussed.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously, (Guszkowski Moved, Wyatt Sibley Second)

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant