



**COMMISSION ON AGING
Advisory Council Meeting
January 10, 2024**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video and teleconference.

Members Present:

Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair
Commissioner Mark P. Behar
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski
Patricia Dunn
John Griffith
Sandra Janzer
James Kimble
Sally Lindner
Martin Matson
Kent Mayfield
Gail Morgan
Suzanne Ryer
Nancy Simuel
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

Members Excused:

Commissioner Paula Penebaker
Anne Laatsch
Deborah Lewis
Jim McLaughlin
Commissioner Cherie Swenson

Staff Present:

Cleopatra Castaneda *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo *DHHS*
Candice LeGros *DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco *DHHS*
Emily Petersen *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Commissioner Amber Miller
Yvonne Greer, DrPH, RD
Tony Myers
Zachary Wilks-Metrou, AHA

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., and Director Daniel Idzikowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Callaway welcomed everyone and asked for the new members to introduced themselves.

Sandy Janzer is a retired Registered Nurse. Ms. Janzer has worked with a lot of community resources in the social services, as well as running a private duty nursing program and a personal care worker program for a Medicaid HMO.

Nancy Simuel is a retired social worker. She has worked in hospitals, schools and with the elderly. She retired from the Milwaukee Public School System. She has been living in Milwaukee since 1969.

Marti Matson is a former comptroller for the City of Milwaukee. Mr. Matson had worked for the city for 27 years; he has been retired for four years now.

Commissioner Mark P. Behar, a retired Physician Assistant, worked in Family Medicine at Milwaukee Health Services for about 17 years at MLK Clinic and Isaac Coggs Clinic two Federally Qualified Health Centers in Milwaukee. He is currently volunteering at Repairs of the Breach Medical Clinic and Bread of Healing clinic providing clinical services. As for extracurricular activities he has been working with The National Association of Black and White Men.

New member Debra Lewis was not present. Chair Calloway recognized and thanked Brian Peters for his prior service on the Council. He is now chair of the Advocacy Committee.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF December 13, 2023.

MOTION: To approve the December 13, 2023, Aging Advisory Council meeting minutes.

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

IV. AARP LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES' DISCUSSION

Commissioner Amber Miller, AARP Associate State Director of Outreach gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the AARP Livable Communities initiative.

Commissioner Miller stated that the livable communities initiative goal is to create a network of age-friendly communities. It serves as a catalyst to educate local leaders and to encourage them to implement the types of changes that make communities more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults.

Commissioner Miller gave a short background on AARP, all the information can be found on the AARP Livable Community website. As of January 8, 2024 there are 818 communities that will take on the commitment to work towards making their community livable. It is a five-year process and has no cost to participate.

She discusses the eight domains of livability and suggests focusing on the three to four domains, based on survey results. Commissioner Miller mentioned forming a new Steering Committee, and how it's important to have a diverse group but no more than 20 members on it. Their role would be getting the word out about the initiative to the community.

Commissioner Behar questioned whether it was a proposal for Milwaukee County or the Commission on Aging to act. Director Idzikowski shared that Commissioner Miller brought this idea to the Commission on Aging; the COA has discussed it. But for Milwaukee County as a whole to become an age friendly community, support and initiative from a higher level is needed. Milwaukee County already has many attributes that make it a livable community. The County has been reviewing this initiative internally. Director Idzikowski stated they would want the Commission on Aging and Advisory Council to be involved as they move forward.

Director Idzikowski reminds the Council they are in the 2025-2027 planning year, and the first item that must be done is putting out a survey, which could coincide with the AARP survey process. Chair Calloway stated there is no action on their part, but if Milwaukee County does indeed pursue, the Commission on Aging and Advisory Council would play a role in the five-year process.

Commissioner Guskowski suggested that the Advisory Council bring up this idea to the Commission on Aging. Member Mayfield shared he welcomed participation in the program. Member Wyatt-Sibley suggested they should look into the area plan and the results from the survey to see if there are any connections to be able to support the program. She recognizes the level of work it will take to complete the Area Plan.

V. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN DISCUSSION

Community Program Supervisor Bekki Schmitt spoke on how she will be assisting the Advisory Council with the public engagement process for the Area Aging Plan. She discussed the timeline and work process of the community input and engagement sessions. The first step is the public engagement process. This is an opportunity for the public to see the Council and staff. Have conversations and see what the needs are for the older adults in Milwaukee County.

Ms. Schmitt shared a PowerPoint: Area Plan, Public Input & Community Engagement. She discussed the major pillars needed: Survey, Public Hearing, Focus Groups, Promotion, the Role of the Advisory Council, and the Next Steps. The first major pillar is the survey. Last year's survey was in alignment with the AARP Livable Community survey. Paper and electronic copies are distributed. The survey is translated, to be accessible to different populations within Milwaukee County. Ms. Schmitt shared the various ways the survey is distributed.

The second major pillar for public engagement is public hearings. Choosing a centralized location is ideal. Public hearings are open to all members of the public and should be widely advertised. Previous public hearing have been held at Clinton Rose Senior Center, Washington Senior Center, Wilson Senior Center and virtually.

Third major pillar are focus groups, a great way to gather feedback. But also, to target certain populations within the community. Focus groups have been setup with AARP Milwaukee Leadership, United Community Committees, LGBT Community Centers and many more.

Ms. Schmitt discussed a variety of ways they've promoted the engagement in previous years. She discussed the role of the Advisory Council and how they are an active part in leading public engagement. They are responsible for working with them to plan the public hearings, the focus groups and facilitate them. Most importantly promote the Survey and Area Plan flyer. Ms. Schmitt discussed the next steps, which are: finalizing the survey, scheduling the public hearings, identify targeted audience for the focus groups and scheduling them, promote and finally prepare for the public hearing and focus groups.

Chair Calloway thanked Ms. Schmitt for presenting. She emphasized they are at the beginning of the process, there will be plenty of opportunities of engagement for the Council. Member Griffith shared it was a great opportunity as a member of the commission, but also encouraged everyone to participate. Program Planning Coordinator Carrie Koss-Vallejo suggested a committee to meet in between the Advisory Council's meeting. This group would be staffed from members of the Advisory Committee and staff carrying out and facilitating some of the projects.

Member Wyatt-Sibley suggested social media be part of the Area Plan flyer to increase participation. New Member Marti Matson informed the Chair he will be emailing her his questions. Member Patricia Dunn shared her concern, with this year being a voting year. Chair Calloway asked the Advisory Council who would be interested in becoming involved to begin work on the survey, discussing location and times. Members Sandy, Mark, Marti, Kent, Patricia, and Gene have committed. Ms. Wyatt-Sibley requested a calendar to keep organized with all future events.

VI. FOCUS AREA PATH FORWARD

Chair Callaway requested quick updates on the two main focus areas the Advisory Council has been discussing: Isolation, Loneliness & Mental Health, and Chronic Heart Disease.

Member Kent Mayfield gave an update on social isolation and loneliness. He suggested including these two topics into the gathering of information and building it into the Area Aging Plan. He shared the ADRC will be discussing information resources and sources of support in the area of isolation, loneliness and mental

health. Member Barbara Wyatt-Sibley agreed with Mayfield. She also suggested identifying someone who is already part of the initiative to help guide them in the Area Plan.

Chair Calloway informed the Council smaller groups will be developed to help identify those who are willing to assist in establishing goals. Ms. Dunn questioned if there will supportive staff assisting. Director Idzikowski informed the Council there will be staff carrying out these responsibilities, Ms. Schmitt in the community engagement side, Ms. Koss-Vallejo in the data analysis portion and Ms. Petersen in terms of the overall framework, guidelines and drafting of the overall plan.

Wyatt-Sibley voiced an observation from the previous focus groups and public hearings. She noticed people of color were not reached as they received an overwhelming response from the Northshore, Shorewood area. Ms. Koss Vallejo informed the Council that a mid-point check was done on the survey to run demographics. At that point they were able to identify groups in the community that had not responded to the survey. They stopped the online distribution and distributed paper versions to partnered organization and non-partner organizations. To increase the response and make sure people that were not connected to their services but also to zip codes that were underrepresented.

Guszkowski would like to advocate to create three or four focused questions regarding the Senior Centers. Commissioner Paul noted that out of the 185,000 older adults in Milwaukee County, 1,000 responded to the survey. He commented the response was too low. Much improvement must be made to make people aware of the survey itself. Chair Calloway's plan is to utilize natural networks to be able to distribute the survey out to different communities.

VII. NEXT STEPS & MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Calloway discussed the meeting schedule. The Advisory Council will meet in February and then every other month as the full Advisory Council. Taking place between those month members who chose to engage will be meeting in groups. Chair informed the Council if they would like to volunteer to inform her. Director Idzikowski will be sending out an updated roster along with the most recent updated informational progress the Advisory Council has made.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Behar shared information on the St. John's Symposium event. Mayfield shared this is the 7th year, registration is open. Ms. Schmitt shared information regarding the OATS cultural tours, more information can be found on the DHHS Aging website. The Independent Living Support Program is open for enrollment for only three more months. We are also highlighting the Medicaid re-enrollment announcement. Director Idzikowski shares the Aging and Disability

Vaccine Collaborative initiative working with Wauwatosa and the City of Milwaukee Health Department, Health Connections Inc. and Empower. There will be advertising promoting vaccine updates on COVID and Flu vaccines. ADRC can also connect clients with in-home vaccinations.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Ryer Second).

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m

The next Advisory Council meeting will be February 14, 2024 a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Christel Colorado, Executive Assistant

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