



## AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 10, 2024

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, April 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  
Commissioner Paula Pennebaker  
John Griffith  
Sandra Janzer  
James Kimble  
Kent Mayfield  
Nancy Simuel

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Jill Knight, *DHHS*  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Julie Lara, *DHHS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Vanessa Harris

### **Members Excused:**

Patricia Dunn  
Anne Laatsch  
Debrah Lewis  
Sally Lindner  
Martin Matson  
Jim McLaughlin  
Gail Morgan  
Suzanne Ryer  
Barbara Wyatt-Sibley

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Vice Chair, Paula Pennebaker took the roll call; A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10 AND FEBRUARY 14, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION:** To accept the January 10, 2024, and February 14, 2024 Advisory Council meeting minutes.

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

### **III. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN SURVEY DISTRIBUTION**

AAA Program and Planning Coordinator Koss Vallejo gave an update on the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan survey. The survey was released on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and became live mid-afternoon, in English only. The survey has been up for 10 days and there are over 120 responses from the community. Ms. Vallejo shared they have received the Spanish translation and it will be live soon. They will also be translating the survey into Arabic and Burmese. The most recent Area Plan Survey was translated into Hmong but due to having a close relationship with the Hmong American Friendship Association, they have decided to conduct live translations of the survey, as Hmong is not a written language.

Aside from online surveys, they plan to print and distribute 30,000 copies of the survey. Scanning software will organize and process the results, not including open ended questions. People attending the public listening sessions have completed a handful of surveys and with some being mailed back. Commissioner Behar questioned if there are iPad or laptops available for people to use.

Ms. Vallejo spoke on the first outreach efforts, which involve using paper surveys to create a somewhat randomized sample of current clients receiving services through the Area Agency on Aging. She utilizes a database that tracks client information and contact information who are served through Milwaukee County programs. She encourages Commissioners to distribute paper surveys at their meetings and within their networks in addition to sharing the survey link.

Lastly, she discusses strategies for survey distribution, noting that previous efforts included placing surveys in public libraries and community sites. She suggests conducting an early analysis of current respondents to avoid overrepresentation of certain demographics, particularly racially white and higher-income individuals from specific ZIP codes. Ms. Vallejo recommends targeting libraries and community sites in underrepresented areas to ensure a more balanced and inclusive sample.

Committee member Nancy Simuel asked how she can obtain copies of the survey. Commissioner Paula Pennebaker requested a link to be able to print, for those who do not have access to a computer.

Committee member John Griffith concern about the visually impaired and asked how they will be reached.

### **IV. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Director Idzikowski spoke on behalf of Emily Petersen, Project Manager Policy Advocacy from Aging and Disabilities Services. Idzikowski discusses the plans for follow-up activities after a debrief on April's public hearings. He mentions the intention to organize focus group meetings in specific topical areas and potentially with specific populations, referencing a broad list of potential areas of interest derived from the Older Americans Act and Milwaukee County demographics. Idzikowski also highlights efforts to distribute surveys, including leveraging existing community partnerships for door-to-door campaigns to increase outreach. The next steps involve planning focus groups, aiming for May to early June, and considering additional public hearings, including the possibility of virtual or evening sessions.

Director Idzikowski explains that in addition to gathering public input, they are accessing various surveys and demographic data from community-based sources. This data will help inform their planning process and goals, complementing the public input they receive. Demographic analysis of the aging population in Milwaukee County, along with a summary of community input and survey results will be presented to the Advisory Council, which will then use this information to push forward the goal-setting process to subcommittees in late summer or early fall.

Chair Calloway shared they have received good feedback on two of the public hearings that were held at Wilson Senior Center and Greenfield Public Library. The next two sessions will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Clinton Rose Senior Center and April 18<sup>th</sup> at Brown Deer City Hall. She mentions the importance of the upcoming focus group work, aiming to conclude it by June 7<sup>th</sup>. She acknowledges the collaborative effort in generating the draft focus group list and mentions plans to establish a scheduling process to ensure efficient coordination of groups, with support from staff and Advisory Council members. Commissioner Behar questions the logistics of hosting a virtual public hearing, and the challenge of breaking up into small groups. Idzikowski reassures they are able to breakout in MS Teams or Zoom.

#### **V. ASSIGNMENT OF CONSTITUENT AREA OF INTEREST**

Director Idzikowski discussed the importance of gathering input from diverse communities in Milwaukee through focus groups. He acknowledges the challenges of hosting numerous focus groups but emphasizes the need to ensure representation from various demographic and interest groups. Idzikowski suggests assigning individual council members specific subject areas or population groups to act as a community liaison and gather input even if formal focus groups are not possible. He encourages council members to leverage their connections within communities to ensure comprehensive feedback collection. The goal is to capture a wide range of opinions and perspectives to inform decision-making processes.

Member Kent Mayfield requested printed material. Commissioner Behar raises a question regarding the approach to be taken for focus group discussions within the Council's subcommittee. He proposes considering whether to use the same questions from public hearings for focus groups or to customize them to better suit the interests of specific constituent groups. Chair Calloway decided to hold off on this discussion.

#### **VI. SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS & CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH UPDATES**

Director Idzikowski provided an update on initiatives in these areas. The State of Wisconsin has released a request for proposal for grants to address social isolation and loneliness, as well as livable communities. He mentions plans to submit grant proposals in these areas, focusing particularly on collaborating with pharmacy partners. Idzikowski emphasizes the need to reach those affected by social isolation and loneliness, acknowledging existing programs but highlighting the challenge of connecting people with these resources. Idzikowski discusses plans to partner with the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin to train students and practitioners, aiming to submit a grant proposal for funding within five days to further this initiative.

Director Idzikowski shared a few updates on the cardiovascular health topic. The AAA has been partnering with the American Health Association to pilot a blood pressure cuff loan program at the Clinton Rose Senior Center. The program involves distributing blood pressure screening machines and cuffs to all Milwaukee County Senior Centers. Additionally, there will be presentations on heart health and blood pressure monitoring at the senior centers, along with outreach efforts involving local health clinics such as the MLK clinic, to encourage physician referrals to the senior centers. The ultimate goal is to increase participation in physical activities at senior centers to improve heart health and raise awareness about the benefits of such activities among older adults.

## **VII. NEXT STEPS & MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Callaway reminds the Advisory Council of their agreed-upon schedule to meet every other month. She confirms with the council members if this schedule still works. Director Idzikowski suggests the Advisory Council should meet in November as well, due to the State requesting to be completed earlier than expected.

Chair Callaway brought up the idea of potentially holding an in-person meeting for the upcoming June session. She acknowledges the convenience of virtual meetings but highlights the limitations they pose in fostering deeper connections among council members. Another concern she brought up is the time of the Advisory Council, which may not be ideal for everyone.

Director Idzikowski raises the importance of scheduling focus groups and ensures that plans are made during the meeting. He expresses concern about leaving the meeting without a clear plan for organizing these focus groups. Chair Callaway responds, by indicating that there is already a subgroup working on the logistics of the focus groups, with a meeting scheduled for later in the month to finalize details. She emphasizes the importance of being thoughtful in the approach to conducting these focus groups and suggests scheduling some after preliminary results are available to address any gaps in the feedback received from different populations. Idzikowski reminds the Council to not conduct a work group with more than nine members. Otherwise, it would be considered a public hearing.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no other announcements.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously, (Behar Moved, Pennebaker Second)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:30 P.M.

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christel Colorado  
Executive Assistant