



Advisory Council Meeting June, 14, 2023

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advisory Council convened virtually on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting by video conference and conference call.

Members Present:

Denise Callaway
John Griffith
Eugene Guskowski
Kent Mayfield
Paula Penebaker
Suzanne Ryer
Cherie Swenson
Barbara Wyatt Sibley
Patricia Dunn

Members Excused:

James Kimble
Anne Laatsch
Sally Lindner

Members Excused Continued...

Gayle Morgan
Cherie Rumler
Jan Wilberg, Ph.D.
Amanda Wiler

Staff Present:

Daniel Idzikowski
Carrie Koss Vallejo
Bekki Schmitt
Kayla Steinke

Attendees from the Public

Michelle Drouillard, Goodwill of SEWI
Angela Wright

MINUTES

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

Domonique Klett called roll at 3:04pm.

II. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL of March 8th and April 12th 2023 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: To accept the March 8th, 2023, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Kent Mayfield moved, Gene Guskowski second).

MOTION: To accept the April 12th, 2023, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous vote (Suzy Ryer moved, Gene Guskowski second).

III. **Election of Vice Chair of the Advisory Council**

1. A summary of the duties of vice chair were summarized:

- Working with staff to assemble an agenda
- Take the place of the chair in instances they are unable to attend
- Discuss potential agenda items
- Delegating responsibilities to other staff members as needed

MOTION: To nominate Commissioner Paula Penebaker as Vice Chair of the Advisory Council

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous vote (Patricia Dunn moved, Cherie Swenson second).

IV. Report on Senior Center Committee

Gene Guskowski, Chair of the Senior Center Committee reported that Commissioners Terrence Moore, Cherie Swenson, and Amber Miller have agreed to join the Senior Center committee. Additionally, Kent Mayfield, Howard Snyder and Alice Steuck Konkol have worked on an outline of the Committee's scope of responsibility. The Senior Center Committee plans to address how a standing senior committee can serve as an effective liaison between the Commission on Aging, Program vendors and senior center participants to best benefit everyone.

The new Committee will review the Milwaukee HUBS report by the Select Committee on Senior Centers and work on implementation of its recommendations including:

- Rebranding initiative (review signage)
- Identify staff and community partners
- Funding Support

The Committee will develop a strategic plan that shows how the committee plans to implement the recommendations make the senior centers appealing to the next generation of participants.

Patricia Dunn asked if the Senior Center committee will deal with programming that occurs at the Senior Centers? Guskowski replied that programming will be a part of the review within a larger core curriculum for the senior centers.

After some discussion, it has been decided that the Senior Center Committee will release quarterly progress reports on where they are in their mission.

V. Aging Network Summit Follow-Up

Daniel Idzikowski expressed his gratitude for the council and their involvement that made it possible for an Aging Network Summit to be a success.

Bekki Schmitt gave an overview of the Aging Network Summit. It was a very successful event with an estimated 150 staff, state agency staff, committee members, community partners, speakers, etc. in attendance. The real emphasis was on networking and facilitated discussions around what we envision for older adults in Milwaukee County and specific collaborations that can be formed to make that happen.

Kayla Steinke shared that there was a response rate of 59 out of 150 for the evaluations. The majority of people commented on the positive experience they had collaborating with others during the summit.

Bekki Schmitt announced that tomorrow, June 15th is World Elder Abuse Day, and that Milwaukee County will be hosting an event in honor of this at Kelly Senior Center with the Milwaukee County Exec, 9:30-11:30AM

VI. Advisory Council Focus Area—Isolation, Loneliness & Mental Health

Chair Denise Calloway shared that Commissioner Pasch, had agreed to work with the Advisory meeting on the Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health topic but has now resigned from the Commission on Aging. The Chair shared that the Governor has named 2023 as a year focused on improving mental health.

Kent Mayfield shared that Tim Wallace, head of the Wisconsin Coalition to end social isolation has announced that June 20, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. a statewide webinar on this topic. They are interested to work within the county where representation in the Coalition has lacked. Idzikowski commented that the coalition to end isolation is run through the Wisconsin Institute on Healthy Aging and has confirmed that there has not been representation on the Coalition from Milwaukee County since its establishment. Dan shared that the US Surgeon General has issued a notice that social isolation loneliness among older has reached a crisis level. Idzikowski suggested that the Advisory Council focus on this issue and move forward identifying how we can help and who to work with.

Chair Calloway opened up a discussion; she asked the Council if anyone would be interested in leading the Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health topic area. The Chronic Heart Disease topic currently has a chair, should the Advisory Council move forward with this and revisit Isolation Loneliness, and Mental Health? Member Barbara Wyatt Sibley shared they should move forward with both, since they need to identify gaps relating to programs and services that are focused on older adults.

Idzikowski commented that the Council's major focus in 2024 will be developing the new three-year plan. Wyatt Sibley commented that the Chronic Heat Disease focus intertwines with other programs such as senior plans, area plan and the RFP's. The Chair and Council members agreed both are equally important and need to be moved forward together to be able to identify issues and collaborate with other organizations to find solutions. Kent Mayfield agreed to take the lead on the Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health focus area.

VII. Advisory Council Focus Area—Chronic Heart Disease

Barbara Wyatt shared she had a small report. She's reached out to potential individuals but is awaiting their response. She was able to identify three individuals to reach out to from the proposed participants. The main focus is to see what they are currently doing that relates to chronic heart disease along with common connections and gaps. Idzikowski shared that there is a Wisconsin Heart

Health Alliance that focus of heart disease on a statewide level. Idzikowski asked if there was another member willing to help with Chronic Heart Disease focus area and Suzanne Ryer volunteered.

VIII. Announcements

Cathy Wood, CEO of Serving Older Adults shared two events. First event will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at Washington Park Senior Center, the other will be Friday, June 23rd at Clinton Rose Senior Center, both events are a celebration of Black History Month and Juneteenth day. Idzikowski shared Avoiding Crisis Planning Ahead for Caring and Aging on June 22nd at Ebenezer Church on Martin Luther King Drive at 10:30 a.m.; An Overview on Aging and Disability Services, relating to caregiver support will be held at Calvary Baptist church on Teutonia on Saturday, July 29th. He also shared the wellness-based workshops – links are located on the Aging and Disability Services webpage. The Medicare 101 series will continue throughout the summer. The next presentation will be at the Zablocki Public library on July 25th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Older Adult Transportation (OATS) service will be sponsoring tours at the Mitchell Park Domes, Boehner Botanical Gardens and the Wehr Nature Center. If interested, you can call OATS transportation or call the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn (Dunn/Wyatt Second). Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be July 12, 2023, a virtual meeting.
Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully Submitted,

Domonique Klett
Clerical Specialist I

Christel Colorado
Executive Assistant