



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2026

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center (1230 W Cherry St, Milwaukee, WI 53205). Members and attendees also joined virtually and by teleconference.

Members Present

Ellen Pimentel, *Chair*
Commissioner Paula Penebaker, *Ex Officio Member*
Gail Morgan
Nancy Simuel
Karen Guskowski
Linda Stone
Deiadra Queary
Amy O'Connor
Joanne Allbaugh
Cassandra Robinson
DA Leonard
Julia Means
Megan Newman

Members Present (Continued)

Roland Dittus-Plath
Jennifer Bliese

Members Excused

Deborah Lewis
Constance Tenhawks
Demetrius Mack

Staff Present

Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Deidra Williams, *DHHS*

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 present.

II. ELECTION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

Roland Dittus-Plath was nominated to serve as Advisory Council Vice-Chair, which he declined. Nancy Simuel was nominated to serve as Advisory Council Vice-Chair, which she declined.

Jennifer Bliese was nominated to serve as Advisory Council Vice-Chair and she accepted the nomination.

MOTION: To elect Jennifer Bliese Advisory Council Vice-Chair.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the November 20, 2025 Advisory Council meeting minutes.

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

IV. REPORT FROM ADVISORY COUNCIL EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Commissioner and Advisory Council ex officio Member Paula Penebaker provided a report to the Council regarding senior centers, Age-Friendly communities, vendor contracts and other work by the Commission on Aging. The Council also discussed recent developments related to grocery store closures, food apartheid, and the role the Commission on Aging can play in advocating for food accessibility for older adults. There was no action taken.

V. REPORT FROM BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chair Pimentel introduced and discussed the Advisory Council bylaws developed over the past few months by the ad-hoc Bylaws Committee. The Council reviewed and discussed the document. The Council expressed their appreciation for the work of the ad-hoc group in developing the bylaws.

MOTION: To adopt the Advisory Council bylaws.

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

VI. PRESENTATION ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND 202-2027 AREA AGING PLAN SENIOR NUTRITION GOALS BY GAYLYN RESKE, SENIOR DINING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Gaylyn Reske, Senior Dining Program Coordinator, provided a presentation to the Council on the senior dining program and the 2025-2027 area plan goals related to nutrition. The Council discussed the presentation and opportunities to increase outreach on these programs to the community. There was no action taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Newman moved, Means second).

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next Advisory Council meeting is February 26, 2026.

Sincerely,
Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager