

To: Bettie Rodgers, Chairwoman Advisory Council,
Milwaukee Commission on Aging
Re: Extraordinary Session to Schedule "Community Conversations/Public Hearings" on the future of
Milwaukee County senior centers and programming.
Date: June 13, 2019

Madam Chair:

First, please extend my thanks to the Council members and especially Vice Chair, Judy Troestler for hosting the Council meeting Monday June 10, 2019 to discuss the Wisconsin Policy Forum's report on the future of senior centers in Milwaukee County. Over a hundred people attended the meeting and participants provided this Council with valuable information regarding our senior centers. Comments from the June 10 meeting and previous comments received during Phase I efforts serve as a good foundation for future conversations as this Council and the full Commission on Aging work to "...ensure that seniors today and in the future have the best possible facilities and resources needed to age in place and live healthy, independent lives..." (Milwaukee County Department on Aging 2019-21 Aging Area Plan, p. 36).

This Council is meeting today to schedule future public listening sessions as part of this long-term senior center planning process. Please consider the following:

1. **Purpose and context of listening sessions.** People need to know the purpose of the listening session and how their comments fit into the overall planning process.
2. **Comprehensive senior center study time line.** The upcoming community conversations are part of a "long-term planning process." People need to understand how this all fits together. Please develop and conspicuously post a complete time line/action plan from beginning to end as generally outlined in the Aging Area Plan on pages 36-37.
3. **All public "community conversations" should be held at the senior centers.**
4. **Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.**
 - a. **Website.** Create a senior center study "link" on MCDA home page that includes:
 - i. Comprehensive study plan timeline and actions
 - ii. Notices of all upcoming meetings
 1. Public meetings
 2. Commission/Committee meetings
 3. County Board hearings
 - iii. Previous/current public comments and other relevant information
 - iv. Phase I information
 - b. **Notices/Postings.** Develop fliers similar to the June 10 Policy Forum flier for all future public meetings and other critical events.
 - i. Post these fliers at all senior centers.
 - ii. Reprint them in the SOA "Connection"
 - iii. Distribute fliers to churches, volunteer groups, outreach coordinators

Thank You,
Dain Maddox