



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2025

The Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council convened in-person at the Marcia Coggs Human Services building, 1220 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53205, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Members and attendees also joined by teleconference.

Members Present

Commissioner Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Commissioner Paula Penebaker, *Vice Chair*
Mark P. Behar
James Kimble
George Schneider
Nancy Simuel
Commissioner Eugene Guskowski
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Members Excused

Patricia Dunn
John Griffith
Anne Laatsch

Members Excused Continued...

Kent Mayfield
Deborah Lewis
Gail Morgan
Suzanne Ryer

Milwaukee County Staff

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco
Pacheco, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Executive Assistant, Christel Colorado, took the roll call. A quorum present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2024, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the December 2, 2024, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Penebaker Moved, Kimble Second)

III. REVIEW OF REVISED FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND REGULATORY INTERPRETATION PERTAINING TO THE ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski provided an overview of 42 U.S. Code § 3026, which pertains to the Area Plans Advisory Council. He discussed the revised federal regulations affecting the Advisory Council, highlighting a significant change: members of the governing body of the Commission on Aging (COA) are not allowed to serve concurrently on the Aging Advisory Council. This requirement to separate the membership of the COA and the Advisory Council was mandated by the Administration for Community Living under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and will be fully implemented by October 1, 2025.

The process for becoming a member of the Advisory Council will remain unchanged, except for one key detail: the Chair of the Commission on Aging will no longer appoint the Advisory Council Chair. The appointment of Advisory Council members will continue through the regular process overseen by the Commission on Aging.

IV. COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAW CHANGE RELATING TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Director Idzikowski reviewed proposed revisions to the COA Bylaws for 2025, particularly Article IV, "Officers and their Duties," which allows the Chair of the Commission on Aging to designate a Commission member as an ex officio member of the Advisory Council.

He also examined Article VII, "The Advisory Council to the Commission," which updates the membership composition to comply with federal regulations requiring that at least 50% of members be older individuals eligible for services, as well as minority individuals and those with significant economic or social needs. The Advisory Council will now elect its chairperson and vice-chairperson annually.

The Council's role is to provide advice on the Area Plan's development and administration, ensuring diverse representation from the public, including older people, service providers, and local officials. Conflict of interest policies must be established by both the Commission and the Council, and current commissioners must decide whether to remain on the Council or the Commission.

The Advisory Council will set its meeting schedule, meeting at least quarterly, and may adopt its bylaws upon the new bylaws' adoption. These updates aim to comply with federal law and enhance the Council's effectiveness in representing community needs. Additionally, discussions included expanding the Council's membership categories to include transportation and senior living services. Director Idzikowski will incorporate the suggested changes to the Bylaws and present the revised version to the Commission on Aging for approval.

V. RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

AAA Director Idzikowski discussed the strategies for recruiting new members with the

Council, focusing on broadening representation by reaching out to non-English speaking communities and immigrants. The recruitment will involve identifying individuals according to the bylaws to ensure diverse representation.

The goal is to have new members approved by June 2025, with a possible extension to August 2025. Current Advisory Council members need to confirm their interest in continuing, while commissioners must decide whether to stay on the Commission or join the Advisory Council. Outreach efforts will be made to inform the community about changes and opportunities, including public announcements and targeted outreach.

The Advisory Council will provide documentation outlining its responsibilities and the Area Aging Plan to potential members. The Advisory Council aims to finalize new members by June 2025, with a transition meeting that month. All members are encouraged to suggest candidates to Denise Calloway, who will coordinate outreach and compile a candidate list.

VI. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Commissioner Wilberg emphasized the importance of improved and sustained public engagement. The new public engagement strategy aims to encourage ongoing involvement with the community instead of only reaching out during specific planning periods. To achieve this, a Select Committee on Community Engagement has been created to develop innovative methods for sustainable community participation. The committee will convene soon to outline its strategies.

The primary goal is to ensure diverse representation and input from various community members, especially those who may not have previously participated. This engagement strategy will work in conjunction with the Advisory Council to enhance community involvement while avoiding duplication of efforts. These initiatives are designed to improve the effectiveness and inclusivity of public engagement within the aging network. COA Chair, Commissioner Wilberg, is leading the Select Committee on Community Engagement and will provide recommendations in due course.

VII. NEXT STEPS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

The Advisory Council has scheduled another meeting in March to discuss the transition and recruitment process further.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Penebaker Moved, Behar Second)

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant