



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MAY 21, 2025

The Wellness Committee members convened virtually on March 21, 2025.

Members Present:

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Chair
Mark Behar
Denise Callaway
Gloria Miller
Crocker Stephenson
Cindy Van Vreede

Staff Present

None

Attendees from the Public

None

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Visual roll was taken. All committee members were in attendance. A quorum of members was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17, 2025, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the April 17, 2025, Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Stephenson Second)

III. ACTION / INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Discussion Item, Discussion of the April 20, 2025, Social Security Listening Session:** Chair Wilberg opened a discussion regarding the AARP-COA Social Security Event held April 30, 2025, at Washington Park Senior Center. She stated that the event showed that the COA can attract seniors to a discussion on a critical issue. Also, the event was the first time the COA collaborated with AARP on an event of this kind. One drawback was AARP's decision to not invite the media. Ideas for next time including making sure we can have media present and doing a better job on registration and sign-in in order to develop a mailing list of interested seniors.

Other comments from committee members: Commissioner Stephenson said event was a huge step forward but regret that no media was present. Commissioner Miller said event gave people a platform to

express themselves openly and have someone listen to their pain about Social Security issues. Commissioner Callaway stated that it was unfortunate not one has media, would have let people at home know they aren't alone on this issue. She also stated that the event showed the power of a good partnership, there was good attendance by elected, if we have an issue of importance, people will engage. Event was missing a call to action.

- b) Discussion Item, Review and Discussion of the State of Milwaukee County's Older Adults Draft Report:** Commissioner Stephenson presented his draft of the report, focusing on people in greatest need. Commissioner Callaway stated that the structure of the report would support holding meetings/discussions on specific topics, like transportation. There was discussion about how to present to the public. It was proposed that Commissioners Stephenson and Callaway work on getting a story in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel or Milwaukee PBS with a town hall meeting to follow. Commissioner Behar also proposed working with WUWM. Next steps include revisions to the report and pursuing partnerships for dissemination.

- c) Informational/Discussion Item, Other Opportunities for Engagement:** Currently, there were no other opportunities.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Community Engagement Meeting Date and Time:** The next meeting was set for June 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Action: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Van Vreede moved, Callaway second)

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Wilberg,
COA Chair