



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Commission on Aging April 27, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

Chair Commissioner Barbara Wyatt Sibley called the meeting to order at 9:00 am at the Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, 1220 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee WI 53205.

Commissioners Present

Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Chair
Fred Knueppel, Vice Chair
Patsy J. Delgado
Gladys M. Carroll-Weathersby
Debra Jupka
Jordan Luhr
Elizabeth Meyer-Arnold, R.N., M.S.
Bettie A. Rodgers, J.D.
Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.

Commissioners Excused

Charles Vang
Maria Castrejon-Pérez
Gwen T. Jackson, *Commissioner Emeritus*

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Kate Sprague
Carmen Pangilinan
Bekki Schmitt
Jill Klecha

Guests Present

Sherrie Tussler, *Hunger Task Force*

Guests Present

George Liberatore, *Communications & Awareness Wkgrp*
Neil Minogue, *State Office on Aging*
James Kimble, *Advisory Committee*
Deborah Lewis, *Senior Ambassador*
David Hoffman, *Wellness Committee*
Stacey Vojvodich, *Unison*
Casper Green
John K. Griffith, *MKE LGBT Center*
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill Industries*
Sandra Smith-Dill, *Unison*
Dain Maddox, *Advocacy Committee*
Susan Joy, *Unison*
Judith Troestler, *UAW*
Cathy Young, *Unison*
Song Xiong, *MCC*
Laurie Lambach, *Unison*
Shirley Warren
Brittany Schoenick, *Senior Law, Legal Action of WI*
Cherl Rumen, *UCC*
Hector Hernandez, *UCC*
Brittany Schoenick, *Senior Law*

II. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 23, 2018, MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the March 23, 2018, COA meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Meyer-Arnold **Moved**, Rodgers **Second**).

III. REFLECTION – Steve Taylor

County Supervisor Steve Taylor gave a moving reflection on how and why he became a County Supervisor, his time spent on the Commission as a Commissioner, and his views on forthcoming County Budgets and MCDA's future. Mr. Taylor expressed how delighted he has been serving on the Commission and working with its members. He plans to continue attending some of the Commission meetings. A plaque of appreciation was given to him by Chairperson Wyatt Sibley and Director Holly Davis for his years of service to the commission.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Hunger Task Force Services for Seniors in Milwaukee County – Sherrie

Tussler, Executive Director at the Hunger Task Force: The Hunger Task Forces serves low-income families and individuals whose incomes are below \$1,300 a month, and reside in Milwaukee County and South-Eastern Wisconsin. The Hunger Task Force is charged with the prevention of hunger and

malnutrition throughout these communities. There is a Hunger Task Force outreach employee at the Coggs Human Services Building, they are known by the blue shirt they wear. If you have been turned down to receive Food Share benefits, do not hesitate to talk with one of the Outreach Assistants. Most recently, the Hunger Task Force has partnered with Pick N' Save in creating a mobile food market to provide much needed fresh food throughout the communities for those who do not have easy access to local grocery stores. Milwaukee County Senior Centers, MATC, and UWM are just a few locations where the Mobile Market stops to provide food. Sherrie Tussler shared with the Commission the services they provide:

- **Stock Boxes:** Stock Boxes are a commodity supplement provided through a food program offered by the Hunger Task Force. Stock Boxes consist of boxed milk, cheese, processed meat in a can, canned and dry foods. A stock box was displayed at the meeting.
- **Mobile Food Market:** Every item on the "Mobile Food Market" is 25% off the original price providing fresh fruits, vegetables, etc. The Hunger Task Force obtained a Federal grant, "Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive, FINI," which allowed them to provide this service. The Mobile Market is available twice daily five days a week, once in the morning and afternoon and drives around the entire city and spends 90 minutes per stop. The Mobile Markets schedules for May & June 2018 were dispersed.
- **Senior's Farmers Market Vouchers (\$25 worth of Coupons):** Farmers Market Vouchers are disbursed in late in July, and the Task Force hands out about 3,200 vouchers. Food stamps also can be used at the farmer's markets.

Ms. Tussler discussed some of the changes that are coming with the Food Share – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Most of the changes to the SNAP program will impact individuals who are 18-49 years of age and are still able to work 20-hours per week. This change will affect families of school-aged children. ResCare will do the work placement for SNAP. To-date, 87,000 people in Wisconsin have lost their SNAP benefits in the past two years. SNAP is 100% federally funded. Currently, any family member can use the SNAP card; however, the governments proposed changes to having a Photo ID and drug testing. Also, another change the government is proposing is an asset test before receiving benefits. An individual will not be able to own a car worth more than \$20,000, and or a house more than \$321,000. Testing for assets. Value of home, etc. SNAP has an outreach staff speaks multiple languages. A flyer was distributed.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Update on Senior Center Assessment Project – Holly Davis, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Department on Aging:

- Holly Davis reviewed the updates to the Senior Center Assessment Project report that Jon Janowski, Director of Administration, prepared for the department's Performance Management meeting. MCDA received some additional tasks to complete for the upcoming meeting. MCDA worked with the Department of Administrative Services (to create a map that displayed all the County's Senior Centers, and shows seniors population in the community.
- All tasks have been completed except for one, which is finding a comparable community to Milwaukee. Ms. Davis and Mr. Janowski will be presenting this report on Monday. Ms. Davis thinks the next step might be discussing the creation of a task force for the Senior Centers. Please see report for more information. Copies of these reports were provided.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

MCDA's New Memory Connections Center: MCDA opened a new Memory Connections Center at the Northshore Library Hub which was featured in the Journal Sentinel. Department Secretary of Health and Human Services, Linda Smyer, was in attendance.

- **Senior Statesman Program:** The Senior Statesman Program, designed to inform and train seniors on County government and how to be an effective advocate, took place on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. There were twelve seniors in attendance and it was a successful day.
- **Aging Advocacy Day:** The Aging Advocacy Day is May 16, 2018, at the State Capitol in Madison. Transportation will be available for those who would like to attend. The purpose is to learn about Wisconsin's State issues, to meet with State Assembly Representatives and State Senators. The training session takes place in the morning at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, then spend the rest of the day at the State Capitol. If you are interested in attending, please contact MCDA's Carmen Pangilinan at (414) 289-6546 or Email: Carmen.Pangilinan@milwaukeecountywi.gov. Ms. Pangilinan provided flyers to the Advocacy Committee and the COA meetings.
- **MCDA Staffing:** Currently MCDA's Resource Center is staffed at 93%, and there are only four positions open, they are: one Human Social Worker in Elder Abuse, one Unit Supervisor Access Unit One, two Information & Assistance Human Social Workers. The Area Agency has two positions on hold, the Program Coordinator for Community Programs, and Secretarial Assistant.
- **MCDA Budget Cycle for 2019:** Ms. Davis discussed the department's tax levy for last year and this year. Next Friday all County Department heads have a budget meeting. Ms. Davis plans to advocate for stability in the tax levy. Ms. Davis will keep the Commission informed when she receives more information on what is happening with next year's budget. Questions rose about MCDA's contingency funds, are they available and if not used within a specific time frame will they be lost. Also, there were questions about the request for contingency funds that the Advocacy Committee sent to the County Executive. Currently, Unison is gathering recommendations to submit to Jill Kletcha, and Jill, Holly and Jon are working with Unison to request those funds. **Action Item:** Ms. Davis will investigate and inform the Commission later.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (April 2, 2018) *See Executive Committee meeting minutes for April 2, 2018, (mailed and distributed) for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.*
 - B. **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE** (April 2, 2018) *See Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for April 2, 2018, (mailed and distributed) for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.*
- NO MOTION OR ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

VIII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: TBA – The County Executive has not appointed a County Supervisor to serve on the Commission on Aging, so this time there is no Supervisor's Report.

- IX. STATE UPDATES:** Neil Minogue, Older American's Act Program Supervisor for State Office on Aging:
- **Older Americans Act Funding:** The State of Wisconsin has submitted its three-year plan for the Older Americans Act Funding to the ACL which was due on March 1st. The ACL has responded back with comments in which the State will have to address and submitted their responses by the end of June 2018.
 - **Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging, GWAAR:** Mr. Minogue discussed some of the highlights from the latest GWAAR meeting. The GWAAR meeting had a workshop to discuss planning and development of County Area Plans. One of the featured questions from the seminar was "What are the agencies Advocacy goals going to be for the next three years."
 - **State Office on Aging Proclamation:** Governor Walker gave the State Office on Aging, a proclamation recognizing Older American's month. It so happens Advocacy day at the State is in the same month.

- **FARM Bill:** Mr. Minogue asked members to pay close attention to the Farm Bill as changes are coming regarding the amount of money provided to seniors for food.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Chair

- **Communications & Awareness Workgroup:** Mr. George Liberatore provided a presentation on Communications & Awareness Workgroup. The Communications & Awareness Workgroup's goal is to assist MCDA in raising awareness in the community about the services MCDA offers seniors. The workgroups job is to get the word out to caregivers, seniors, the community, and other organizations about MCDA's services. The workgroup also assists MCDA with executing their Area Agency plan items and advise the staff on the development of its marketing plans. The workgroup consists of professionals who are in Communications, who assists MCDA's staff to connect and network with other organizations and suppliers.

In Addition, the workgroup reviews all of MCDA's brochures, videos, the MCDA website, etc., and participates in their focus groups. The workgroup meets quarterly to discuss their goals and plans. Milwaukee County Department on Aging promotes social media with their Facebook page and actively updates it with promoting their major marketing goals, events, and news. The Communications and Awareness Workgroup is working on getting the word out to shut-ins and other senior housing authorities. Discussed branding for the Department. Flyer provided.

- **Executive Committee April 2, 2018, Report:** Chair Wyatt Sibley reported the actions the Executive Committee has decided to implement as of the April 2, 2018 meeting. The Commission will look into new ways of raising money for MCDA to have for travel, training, and building relationships with national organizations and corporations like Northwestern Mutual, Johnson Controls, and Harley Davidson. Also, looking to establish relationships with Foundations that may offer funding for senior initiatives. Commissioner Wyatt Sibley discussed how the Executive Committee is working to ensure mandates and diversity are implemented when selecting Commissioners, succession planning as well as orientation is in place. Commissioner Wyatt Sibley welcomed the Commissions two new Commissioners, Charles Vang and Jordan Luhr. Two more new Commissioners are waiting to be appointed. There was an announcement that Orientation for Commissioners would take place after the COA meeting today.
- **Intergenerational Council and the Resource Center Oversight Committee:** It has been recommending to eliminate the Intergenerational Council and the Resource Center Oversight Committee. Although this Committee and Council will be eliminated, the Executive Committee is considering continuing some of the activities with partners. The goal will be to have a Commissioner represent the Commission at the State RCOC (Resource Center Oversight Committee)
- **COA Bylaws: Corporation Counsel:** Due to Corporation Counsel's loss of the individual who initially reviewed the bylaws which has created another setback, and from the review of the current Bylaw revisions, Corporation Counsel has suggested having them rewritten. Also, Corporation Counsel is going to provide training to the Commissioners on Roberts Rules of Order.

XI. COUNTY EXECUTIVE UPDATE: Evans Gant, Director of Community Relations was not present, no update was given.

XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS:

Public comment regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for older adults:

- **Pride Fest 2018:** Pride Fest will be from June 7th thru June 10 at the Henry Meyer Festival grounds, all are welcome to attend.
- **Circus Parade:** The Circus Parade this year is on July 21, 2018, in Baraboo, WI, please tell your family and friends to attend.
- **National Senior Health & Fitness Day:** Interfaith is having a Health & Wellness event on May 30, 2018. Also, you can find Interfaith's Activity guide online which tells you about the various events and programs Interfaith offers seniors at all the County owned Senior Centers. Flyer provided.

XIII. Department on Aging announcements regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for seniors:

- **Wellness Committee:** The Wellness Committee decided at their April meeting to have bi-monthly meetings; therefore, their May meeting has been canceled. The next Wellness meeting will be on June 21, 2018, at Clinton Rose Senior Center. For more meeting information, please contact Jennifer Lefeber at (414) 289-6352 or Email: Jennifer.Lefeber@milwaukeecountywi.gov
- **Elder Abuse Unit Training:** Kate Sprague, ARC Manager for Milwaukee County Department on Aging, announced MCDA's ARC's, 11-staff Elder Abuse Unit, which conducts abuse investigations, will participate in free training sponsored by DHS this summer. The training will be for three full days over the months of June, July, and August and will assist in standardizing how elder abuse investigations are conducted within Wisconsin. The Elder Abuse Unit handled nearly 1000 cases in 2017 and has seen a rise in financial abuse and self-neglect
- **MCDA's Area Plan Input Session:** All are invited to attend MCDA's Area Agency Planning Session on April 30, 2018, from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. At Wilson Park Senior Center. Come and assist the department in drafting goals for the County's seniors programs.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 11:15am.

The next Commission on Aging meeting will take place on Friday, May 25, 2018, at 9:00 am at the Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.

Respectfully submitted,



Vonda Nyang
MCDA Executive Assistant