



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee May 7, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on May 7, 2018 at the Marcia Coggs Building, 1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104, Milwaukee, WI 53212 in Room 104.

Commissioners Present

Fred Kneuppel
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Commissioners Excused

Bettie Rodgers
Gwen Jackson – Commissioner Emeritus

Advocacy Members Present

Barbara Bechtel
Tom Frazier
Casper Green
John Griffith
Bob Haase
David Hoffman
Dain Maddox
Gary Mikolajczyk
Dr. Elliott Moeser
Judith Troestler

Advocacy Members Excused:

Tim Harrington

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Holly Davis
Jill Klecha
Carmen Pangilinan

Guests Present

Maureen Fitzgerald- Hunger Task Force
Tom Gossett- Goodwill
Tony Jones- Advisory Council
Deborah Lewis- Senior Ambassador
Bill Meunier- Social Development Commission
David Pifer- Legal Action of Wisconsin
Stephanie Sue Stein- League of Progressive Seniors
Jan Wilberg- League of Progressive Seniors
Cathy Young- Unison (SET/Interfaith)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fred Kneuppel called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Ms. Wyatt Sibley, Chair of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, was in attendance. Ms. Wyatt Sibley provided an introduction to the committee and committee members did the same for her.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018

MOTION: Approve the April 2, 2018 minutes.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Griffith moved, Haase seconded)

III. PRESENTATION- CHANGES TO THE FARM BILL AND THE IMPACT TO OLDER ADULTS, MAUREEN FITZGERALD, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, HUNGER TASK FORCE

Ms. Fitzgerald provided an update to the Committee regarding the changes to the Farm Bill which recently passed out of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee (H.R. 2). This bill would end or cut FoodShare benefits for a large number of older Americans and will increase food insecurity and hardship.

A summary of the changes are highlighted below, please see attachment for more detail:

- **Work Requirements:** changes in this section of the bill include requiring adults aged 18-59 years old to work a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- **Categorical Eligibility:** Changes federal income cutoff to 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) from the previous 200% FPL and medical expenses will no longer be considered. This will cause individuals to have to go through more paperwork to prove eligibility.
- **Replacement of EBT Cards:** Limits the amount of replacement EBT cards to two lost cards in a 12-month period.
- **Benefit Recovery:** Limits the amount of time that benefits carryover in an individual's case.
- H.R. 2 still has to pass through the House, Senate Committee and the full Senate before it would become law. The House may vote as soon as May 14.
- The group had a discussion about potential action that could be taken.

MOTION: Send a letter to the member of the House of Representatives with districts covering Milwaukee County as well as Senators Baldwin and Johnson and encourage members to make phone calls to oppose the proposed changes in the Farm Bill.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Mikolajczyk moved, Haase seconded)

- Mr. Green asked if this was a story that could be shared with the media. Ms. Davis explained there is a media policy in place in which any contact with the media must be cleared with the County Executive's office first. Ms. Davis stated that she would look into how this policy may impact the Commission on Aging and its Committees or Councils and get back to the Committee with more information.
- Ms. Fitzgerald also announced the dates and locations for Farmers Market vouchers. Distribution will take place between 9-11am:
 - **Tuesday, July 10 APCI, 7830 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53223**
 - **Friday, July 13, Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut Dr., Wauwatosa, WI 53213**

- **Monday, July 16, Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy, WI 53110**
- **Wednesday, July 28, Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53221**
- **Friday, July 20, Clinton Rose Senior Center, 3045 N. Martin Luther King Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53212**

IV. PRESENTATION- SENIOR CENTER ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATE- HOLLY DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING

- Ms. Davis reviewed the May 1, 2018 Performance Management meeting with the County Executive's office and referred the group to the MCDA website to view the PowerPoint. The meeting focused on:
- Additional budget and operational information on the ten senior/community centers MCDA supports financially (Clinton Rose, Kelly, McGovern, Washington, Wilson, United Community Center, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee Christian Center, Indian Council of the Elderly, Asian American Senior Center).
- A GIS map that plots all senior/community center information as well as MCDA meal sites, poverty data, and senior demographic data within the City of Milwaukee as well as Milwaukee County.
- Additional best practice senior/community center programming information based on state or national research.
- Budget and operational information for the Kosciuszko and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Centers that are operated by Milwaukee County Parks.
- The Department was asked to assess all of the information it has collected to date and submit a recommended plan of action to the County Executive's office by the end of the month. Ms. Davis stated next steps also include look into bringing in a consultant, creating a charter, and appointing a task force.
- The group took part in a lively discussion which covered topics such as funding for a consultant, creating an RFP for the consultant, and a request for involving members of the Advocacy Committee in the task force so as to be a part of the process and not just on the receiving end of information. The suggestion was made to hold committee meetings at senior centers to allow for participants to attend and have continuous input.

V. INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEM- FEDERAL UPDATES ON AGING ISSUES

Mr. Helbick was unavailable to attend today's meeting, but will be joining the group in June.

Ms. Pangilinan reviewed the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Policies for and Aging America and details of their 2018 policy agenda with the group.

VI. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Ms. Pangilinan shared some opportunities with the group:

- SeniorCare Public Hearing regarding request for 10 year waiver. Thursday, May 10, 2018. 2-4pm. Wilson Park Senior Center. 2601 W. Howard Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53221.
- Area Plan Public Hearings May 22 from 9:30-11:00am at Clinton Rose Senior Center. Please come and share your thoughts on proposed goals for the Area Plan.
- National Senior Health and Fitness Day. Wednesday, May 30. Events at all five County owned senior centers.
- Senior Fest Day at Summerfest. Tuesday, July 3, 2018, noon-4pm. Free admission for individuals 60+.
- AARP is launching a voter engagement campaign.
- Dine at Five Senior Dining. Monthly, every third Wednesday at Elks Lodge, 5555 W. Good Hope Rd. Call 760-3195 for reservations

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM. **Next meeting will be held on Monday, June 4 at 1:30pm at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Room 104.**

Respectfully submitted,



Carmen Pangilinan
Program and Policy Coordinator