



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
AAA Advisory Council Meeting
May 9, 2019**

The Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at the Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.

Attendance was taken and documented.

Members Present:

Commissioner Bettie Rogers, Chair
Commissioner Judy Troestler, Vice Chair
Ruth Bevenue
Barbara Bechtel
David Hoffman
James Kimble
Krystina Kohler
George Liberatore
Sally Lindner

Commissioners Present:

Commission Chair Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Staff Present:

Daniel Idzikowski, Program & Policy
Coordinator
Beth Zatarski, Program Coordinator

Attendees from the Public

Christine Carter, LGBT Center
Dean Muller
RoseMary Muller

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:34 PM by Chair Bettie Rogers.

II. Review and Approval of February 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Approve February 14, 2019 Advisory Council meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion carries unanimously (Liberatore moves, Kimble seconds)

III. Advisory Council Membership Expansion

Council members engaged in a discussion of past membership. Some expressed view that membership requirements changed to become more legalistic and this turned people off. Inclusiveness is important. DHS used to come to meetings. MCDA not always as visible in the community as it was – Council members would be present at events and in the public representing Commission and MCDA.

MOTION: Recommends the Commission on Aging make an affirmative effort to recruit more members to the Council by contacting all senior centers, particularly SOA Advisory Committee members and meal sites; inviting Senior Statesman and recruit membership from other senior services programs.

ACTION: Motion carries unanimously (Bechtel moves, Troestler seconds).



IV. Review of Progress on MCDA 2019-21 Area Aging Plan

Idzikowski refers Council members to written 1st quarter AAA plan update. Zatarski highlights successful expansion of senior dining to Muslim, Greater Life, and Milwaukee LGBT community centers. Met AAA plan goals for meal sites in diverse communities. Zatarski notes the American Indian Council refurbished a hall on the former Concordia College site (now Wgemas) and this will serve as a beautiful new facility. Notes unsuccessful efforts to engage Ikea as a senior meal site on southwest side, looking at other opportunities. Council member suggests partnering with the Salvation Army.

Zatarski also notes Judy Spencer will be inducted into the Senior Hall of Fame on May 30th. The event is combined with the dining volunteer recognition event and sponsored by Davians this year. Council member questions why only one awardee? Notes used to have several each year for Senior Hall of Fame. Zatarski replies that MCDA doesn't receive a lot of nomination. Council members suggest returning to process of asking County Supervisors nominate. Council believes this event builds good will in the community.

V. Public Comment

Rogers opens meeting for public comment. Bechtel likes to open meeting with open airing of issues. Guests Mullers introduced selves as members at OASIS senior center. Muller notes that the opioid epidemic is growing rapidly in the senior population 65+, particularly from prescription paid med addiction. Surprised that this is not included in the Milwaukee County AAA plan.

VI. Review of Wisconsin Policy Forum Report "Young at Heart: Exploring the Future of Senior Centers in Milwaukee County"

Idzikowski refers the Council to the "Young at Heart" report that all members have in their packet. He notes that MCDA commissioned the Wisconsin Policy Forum to examine the state of Milwaukee County senior centers and explore the role of senior centers in other jurisdictions and Area Agencies on Aging across the country. The WPF selected five counties that had similar size and demography as Milwaukee, explored their relationship with senior centers and AAA programming and posed several questions for consideration. The WPF has already presented their findings to the County Board, Commission on Aging at Washington Park Senior Center. The report is available on the MCDA website.

Discussion ensues regarding the WPF report and the questions it raises. Council member notes that works for one jurisdiction does not necessarily work for others. Comparisons may not be fair. Comments from the public were entertained by the Chair, including a suggestion that senior centers consider intergenerational programming. At the many Boys/Girls clubs around the County, space isn't used during times when not in use by youth, could be utilized by seniors. New City of Milwaukee libraries are another example – City no longer responsible for real estate because built on ground floor of residential



buildings. There is even a kitchen at Mitchell street library. Ask what seniors want. Coordinate with MPS recreation. Give the senior centers back to the Department of Parks. Some felt that the report was driven by lack of funding. In report, PA devotes lottery funding to aging, Ohio has a property tax levy. What about the stadium tax? For best practices, look at UCC senior center programming. UCC also developed housing. Think about a system where it is up to the municipality to decide what kind of programming should be in the center. There are many other facilities in Milwaukee County that serve as senior centers, beyond the five county owned sites. Should they be supported as well?

MOTION: Continue discussion on senior center report at a special meeting next month.

ACTION: Motion carries unanimously (Bechtel moves, Liberatore seconds).

VII. Change of Venue for Upcoming Advisory Council Meetings

Discussion about holding meetings outside of Coggs, gathering feedback from the public on the "Young at Heart" report. Potential locations mentioned including Washington Park Senior Center and Bader Philanthropies. Kohler mentions that the United Way would be willing to host a community meeting. Decide about venue for other meetings later.

MOTION: Hold the next meeting of the Commission on Aging as a listening session on the future of senior centers at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee Volunteer Center.

ACTION: Motion carries unanimously (Liberatore moves, Bechtel seconds).

VIII. Announcements

- Senior Health and Fitness Day – Wednesday, May 29th at all Milwaukee County senior centers
- Hunger Task Force will Accept Applications for Senior Farmers' Market Vouchers July 9th – July 19th at various locations.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn meeting until special session at United Way is scheduled.

ACTION: Motion carries unanimously. (Bevenue moves, Bechtel seconded).

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

The special session of the Advisory Council will be determined based upon availability at the United Way. Other special sessions may be needed. The next regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8th, 2019, at a location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Idzikowski
Program and Policy Coordinator