



**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging  
AAA Advisory Council – Extraordinary Meeting for Scheduling Purposes  
June 13, 2019**

The Advisory Council held an extraordinary meeting to schedule a series of community conversations regarding the future of senior centers in Milwaukee County on Thursday, June 9, 2019, at the Marcia Coggs Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee.

Attendance was taken and documented.

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Bettie Rogers, Chair  
(by teleconference)  
Commissioner Judy Troestler, Vice Chair  
David Hoffman (by teleconference)  
George Liberatore

**Staff Present:**

Daniel Idzikowski, Program & Policy  
Coordinator

**Attendees from the Public**

Dain Maddox

**Commissioners Present:**

Commission Chair Barbara Wyatt Sibley  
Commissioner John Griffith

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 10:35 a.m by Chair Bettie Rogers.

**II. Scheduling of Community Conversations / Public Hearings on the Future of Milwaukee County Senior Centers and Programming**

Initial discussion on the purpose of senior centers and the community conversations. Discussion about different cohorts of aging groups with different desires. Griffith suggests idea of virtual senior centers, Hoffman suggests that wellness programming can be provided in a variety of venues. If issue is one of funding, promote Fair Deal initiative. Commission chair Wyatt Sibley brought Council back to question at hand: scheduling of community conversations. Idzikowski referred the members present to the “Questions for Consideration” handout as a guide for further discussion. This document posed the following questions:

- 1) How many community conversations will be held?
- 2) When & Where will the community conversations be held? Who leads them?

Chair expressed that the first two questions belong together. No set number. Should cover all the existing Milwaukee County senior centers, utilizing the SOA Advisory Councils, but also reach populations that do not utilize the Milwaukee County senior centers. Discussion about potential locations ensued.



Idzikowski provided lists of other community centers, libraries, and senior dining sites. Could we cover all of the senior dining sites? YMCAs? Charles Allis Art Museum? Bader Philanthropies? Outreach at SeniorFest or at beer gardens in parks? Make sure we gain input from ethnic and faith communities. OSHER at UWM. Corporate Retiree groups. Wyatt Sibley noted she had a connection at Alverno College. Council members recommended community conversation locations on northwest, northcentral, north-shore, southwest, west central, and near south side. MCDA staff will work out a plan to cover geographic regions of the county and build a schedule. Perhaps there could be social media session, such as a live FaceBook event. Avoid Fridays for public sessions. Try to have some evenings sessions as well.

Given the number of suggestions, discussion ensued about the timing of this project. Can we stretch this out over the year? What is the deadline? Idzikowski and Wyatt Sibley explained that the Commission considers budget recommendations in October and would like to have a report with recommendations from the Council by their late September meeting. Might need to scale back effort, provide other means to gather input. Suggestion that all Council members needn't be present – just have coverage at each public session of at least one Commissioner or Council member.

- 3) Will the format change from the initial session held at the United Way?  
Format allowed public to express their opinions and feel they were heard. Small group sessions worked well and generated a lot of good ideas. Judy did well leading.
- 4) Who will facilitate the small groups? Could they be self-directed?  
Utilize commissioners, council members, committee members, and community volunteers.
- 5) Will the Young at Heart PowerPoint be presented each time? By whom?  
Council members discussed that the PowerPoint may have focused too much on finances and not enough on the positive value of senior centers. Provided important context, but questions could be different. Provide a more positive tone in presentation. Also let public know what has happened with previous phases of the senior center assessment project and what the plan will be to utilize all of the information gathered. Make sure that the comments received will actually be used by the Commission/ Department to formulate plan. Can build trust with community this way.
- 6) Will there be an online option for comments?  
Yes, an online survey should be offered for those who cannot attend public sessions. As noted above a YouTube, Facebook live, or other “chat” session was suggested.
- 7) Any tweaks to the questions asked of the small groups?  
Questions were generally good. Might want to simplify. Make sure you ask questions to generate answers that are helpful to MCDA.



### **III. Outreach for Community Conversations / Public Hearing sessions**

8) How will the sessions be promoted/advertised?

Utilize existing senior center, dining site, and MCDA vendors to help advertise. PSAs? 50 Plus news. Post notices in public locations – grocery stores, pharmacies, libraries. Commissioners, Council members to help with promotion.

### **IV. Public Comment**

Dain Maddox requests to be recognized and was recognized by Chair Rogers. Maddox hands out a memo to Chair Rogers that contains a list of considerations in planning the upcoming community conversations. Memo is attached.

### **V. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Adjourn meeting until community conversations are scheduled.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

The community conversations will be determined based upon venue availability.

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