



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
Aging Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes August 8, 2019**

The Aging Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee JCI Volunteer Center, 200 W. Pleasant St, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Attendance was taken verbally and documented by Advisory Council Chair Bettie Rodgers.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:
George Liberatore

Commissioners Present:

No additional

Staff Present:

Dan Idzikowski, Policy and Program Coordinator
Andy Bethke, Outreach Social Worker

Attendees from the Public

Christie Carter, LGBT Center
Cathy Wood, SOA

MINUTES

I. 1:30 p.m. Call to Order

Chair Rodgers called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

II. 1:30 – 1:35 p.m. Review and Approval of meeting minutes from May 9, 2019 and June 13, 2019.

MOTION: Approve Advisory Council meeting minutes from May 9, 2019 and June 13, 2019.

ACTION: Motion passes unanimously (Kohler moves, Troestler seconds).

III. 1:35 – 1:40 p.m. Advisory Council Membership

Idzikowski notes that the Advisory Council currently has only nine members and notes that several categories of representatives required by the OAA are not seated. Encourages members of the Council to recommend new members to the Commission.

Kimble recommends that the Commission on Aging appoint a representative to the Advisory Council from all Milwaukee County senior centers and have MCDA staff take the lead in recruiting candidates for membership from senior centers across the county as well as participants in the Senior Statesman program.

Notes that at least 50% of the membership of the Advisory Council must be individuals who are participants eligible for services under the Older Americans Act.

IV. 1:40 – 1:50 p.m. Review Progress on MCDA Area Plan & Suggested Updates to Area Plan

Idzikowski provides a brief overview of updates on activity during the 2nd quarter of the first year of the Area Aging Plan.

Notes that Beth Zatarski, the MCDA Nutrition Coordinator retired, and the position remains unfilled to date.

Nutrition program: added 3 new sites, including at the LGBT community center. Carter from public notes that between 12- 14 participants are now attending the monthly dining center. Other sites are at the Muslim Community Health Center and at the Greater Galilee Senior Center.

Services in Support of Caregivers: New contracts for the Family Caregiver Support Network were signed with the Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin. No new issues to follow up on. The Governor has announced a caregiver task force.

Candace LeGros hired and is conducting dementia screens, and mini-cogs and training others to do so. In process of hiring 2nd Dementia Care Specialist.

Hoffman asked if she is responsible for Memory Cafés?

Idzikowski replies yes, LeGros has been connected with them and working with the UW Alzheimer's Institute to support the cafés.

Wellness: 13 people trained in evidence-based programs to provide workshops to communities of color with health disparities and 2 new organizational partners identified; Walk with Ease has 1 partner organization and 1 Chronic Pain Self-Management training program held with one more scheduled with three leaders trained.

Transportation: No new progress. Notes NEMT broker contract out for bid by DHS.

Senior Centers: Phase II Young at Heart report completed. Now gathering public input to envision future of senior centers. Advisory Council taking the lead.

Elder Justice: Conducted crisis training by the Elder Abuse unit.

Senior Volunteer recognition dinner: Held and well attended. Will begin planning for 2020 event in October, but the event format is contingent on private sponsorship. Usually held in May. Better Aging Resource Fair is on hold, to be replaced by Dementia event.

Senior Statesman Program: Held and well attended.

Bechtel brings up need to be vigilant on bills decreasing training for CNAs and increasing outreach to caregivers.

Hoffman notes that Wisconsin is number one for binge drinking and this is probably also true for seniors. Bechtel notes opiate overdose among the elderly is also on the increase. Hoffman notes that mental health & substance abuse issues are not a part of the aging

plan. Doesn't know if MCDA has any expertise on mental health issues. Suggests that someone from the mental health community be appointed to sit on the Advisory Council.

Hoffman notes that he thinks the OAA requires a plan goal on mental health to be included. Rodgers asks how the plan was approved by the State without such a goal if that is true? Idzikowski cannot speak to this issue. Hoffman mentions that the State is concentrating on dementia and perhaps that is where the emphasis is.

Chair Rodgers suggests that we consider amending the plan next year to include a goal on mental health and substance abuse.

V. 1:50 – 2:00 p.m. Public Comment

Carter notes there is a picnic next Saturday from 12-4 pm at the Milwaukee LGBT center.

VI. 2:00 – 2:20 p.m. Review Coordination of Aging Services

Idzikowski notes the letter from Director Davis to the County Board regarding the completion of contracting process for all services formerly provided by Unison. All services formerly provided by Unison under contract with MCDA are now being provided by different vendors as listed.

VII. 2:20 – 2:30 p.m. Review Progress and Comments on Envisioning Senior Centers Community Conversations

Between today and the next meeting in November we will continue to hold Envisioning Sessions, gather input from other constituents, and online comments. The goal is for the Council to prepare some recommendations for the Commission on Aging at their November Commission meeting.

VIII. 2:30 – 2:55 p.m. Schedule Extraordinary Sessions and determine format for considering Report and Recommendations regarding future of Milwaukee County senior centers

Council members debated location of future Advisory Council meetings.

MOTION: Hold future Advisory Council meetings at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee as long as room is available.

ACTION: Motion passes unanimously (Kimble moves, Bechtel seconds).

Hoffman comments that the Council needs to encourage seniors from the public to attend these meetings.

MOTION: Establish a subcommittee to draft recommendations for consideration by this Advisory Council on the Future of Senior Centers.

ACTION: Motion passes unanimously (Hoffman moves, Rodgers seconds).

Rodgers asks Hoffman, Kohler, and Bevenue to prepare recommendations for the November 14, 2019 meeting.

IX. 2:55 – 3:00 p.m. Announcements

Idzikowski announces upcoming Let's Talk Medicare sessions on August 16th and October 29th.

X. Adjournment: until Thursday, November 14, 2019

MOTION: Adjourn meeting until Thursday, November 14, 2019.

ACTION: Motion passes unanimously (Rodgers moves, Bechtel seconds).

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Dan Idzikowski, Policy and Program Coordinator