



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
**Department on Aging**

**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging  
Advisory Council Meeting  
November 14, 2019**

The Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Brengel West conference room, 225 W. Vine Street., 2nd Fl., Milwaukee.

Attendance was taken verbally by Council Chair Bettie Rodgers and documented on a sign in sheet.

**Members Present:**

Bettie Rodgers, Chair  
Barbara Bechtel  
Commissioner Jason Haas  
David Hoffman  
James Kimble  
Alice Pugh (Advocacy Committee)  
Judy Troestler, Vice Chair

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Chair  
Commissioner Debra Jupka  
Commissioner Cesar Pabon  
Commissioner Shirley Sharp

**Staff Present:**

Dan Idzikowski, MCDA Program and Policy Coordinator  
Pam Matthews, DAS Budget & Management Analyst

**Attendees from the Public**

Dain Maddox, Wauwatosa Commission on Aging  
Christie Carter, MKE LGBT Center  
Stephanie Sue Stein, League Progressive Seniors  
Cathy Wood, Serving Older Adults

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Bettie Rodgers at 1:00 p.m.

**II. Review and Approval of meeting minutes from August 8, 2019 and October 23, 2019.**

**MOTION:** Approve the draft minutes of the August 8, 2019 Advisory Council meeting.

**ACTION:** Passed unanimously (Hoffman moves, Jupka seconds).

**MOTION:** Approve the draft minutes of the October 23, 2019 Advisory Council meeting, with the following amendment added:

add an asterisk (\*) at paragraph IV: "Note that this action is subject to review by the Advisory Council at its November 14, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting."

**ACTION:** Passed unanimously ((Bechtel moves, Kimble seconds), amendment offered (Rogers moves, Troestler seconds) Bechtel accepts friendly amendment)).

**III. Review Progress on MCDA Area Plan & Suggested Updates to Area Plan**

Idzikowski reviews the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report for the 2019-21 Area Aging Plan. Notes the following highlights:

- Nutrition: a 4<sup>th</sup> new dining site will be added on November 25<sup>th</sup> at Water View apartments in Greenfield to serve the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- Alzheimer's Association is new Family Caregiver Support Network provider and they have convened a new community caregiver coalition.
- Both Dementia Care Specialist positions have been filled and two events have been held in the African-American community.
- MCDA Elder Abuse unit is a partner on a federal grant to improve elder abuse awareness and community response.
- Senior Center assessment process is wrapping up its third year, focused on gathering public input through community conversations and an online assessment.
- The 2020 Senior Statesman program has been scheduled for March 25-27<sup>th</sup>.

A copy of the full 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter AAA plan report was distributed to Council members. No suggestions were made to update the plan at this time.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Jupka asks whether Milwaukee County has an Assistant District Attorney designated for Elder Abuse? No one has a definitive answer to this question.

#### **V. Review Draft Report on Envisioning Future of Senior Centers**

Idzikowski provides an overview of the draft report "Envisioning the Future: Milwaukee County Senior Centers 2020". Notes that a section has been added on progress already made by SOA.

Rodgers comments that she likes the format of the report and the fact that it emphasizes the Commission on Aging never suggested closing the senior centers. She enjoyed reading all the recommendations provided by the public.

#### **VI. Recommendations and next steps regarding future of Milwaukee County senior centers.**

Hoffman opines that he doesn't think it is the role of the Council to pick and choose between the suggestions made by the public. The most important conclusion is that more than 500 individuals contributed to the discussion. The shortage of funding drives fewer staff and need to be addressed.

Lack of funding is driven by the inability of the County to raise additional revenue from the State. Seniors brought this issue to the County Executive and the County Board and encouraged them to work together. This resulted in the Fair Deal initiative and this needs to continue to move forward.

The Council needs to have an ongoing vehicle to share information between the SOA Advisory Councils and the Commission on Aging Advisory Council. We can't just pick suggestions and be done. We need an ongoing process.

Jupka – states that we need to understand what other individuals want from senior centers beyond the current participants.

Hoffman – suggests that the Council create a structure within the Council to continue to monitor this issue.

Wyatt Sibley reminds the Council that the Commission on Aging encouraged recruiting a representative from every Milwaukee County senior center on the Advisory Council. Commissioners have been attending the SOA advisory councils. She notes that the Area plan is a living document and is subject to review. We do have a mechanism in the Advisory Council and can monitor this senior center effort through the area plan. It is important that we connect the senior centers with the Council.

Rogers – In addition to monitoring the area plan and likes the idea of having a program committee and the idea of having each senior center have a representative on the Advisory Council.

Jupka – Are we making a recommendation to have a representative from each senior center linked to the Advisory Council?

Hoffman – Important to have a committee that can spend more time discussing the future of the senior centers than is currently available through quarterly Advisory Council members.

Bechtel – Important to have a representative from each senior center.

Bevenue – Asks whether the representative would be an SOA staff member or senior participant?

Bettie – I think it would be a participant, but this is open to discussion.

Izard – Important discussion regarding the investments in infrastructure reported in Section III of the draft report. Asks about amounts indicated for future capital projects. Suggests including a total amount of need by individual senior center from the Phase I report.

Idzikowski & Matthews explain that the projects listed have been approved by the Board of Supervisors in the County's 5 Year capital plan. This plan can change each year, but these are the senior centers projects that have been approved from 2019 – 2022 in the current County capital plan.

Wyatt Sibley – Add a recommendation to advance the Fair Deal/Forward Milwaukee initiative to respond to the need for additional revenue to address senior center infrastructure and programming.

Building, programming, and people are the three pieces of the future of our senior centers. Within programming there is promotion and activities. Do you want to include recommendations that are overarching? What statement can we make that is inclusive of all of the recommendations? There is nothing in t

Rodgers – Add the following recommendations:

- 1) Milwaukee County should continue to maintain and sustain the five existing Milwaukee County senior centers, build on them, and improve them.
- 2) Existing senior centers should partner with other community resources to increase participation and revenue.
- 3) Milwaukee County should explore other models of senior centers that include public-private partnerships, such as housing, banking, education, and health care.
- 4) Establish a program committee that both SOA and other senior center participants can sit on.

Jupka – UCC is a role model as is MCC rising from the ashes.

Maddox – Likes the idea of exploring different models, like the Milwaukee Public Libraries, and establishing a program committee. Look to the Medical College of Wisconsin which is looking to partner more in the community.

Hoffman – Aurora Health Care is beginning an initiative for healthy aging.

Jupka – Put on agenda for next time the process to continue broadening this conversation. Talk with community members. Participate in On the Table next year.

Discussion about the proposal at the last Advisory Council meeting to establish a new position within MCDA as Outreach Coordinator for the Senior Centers.

Haas – Notes that this budget amendment was not put forward and that he understood this to be a role played by SOA.

Wood – States that SOA does have a very part time outreach coordinator, but we simply do not have the funding for a full-time outreach coordinator.

Rodgers – Asks whether Milwaukee County Department on Aging has a full-time Outreach Coordinator?

Stein – Milwaukee County used to have a full-time position dedicated to coordinating all senior centers and now it does not.

## **VII. Announcements**

None

## **VIII. Recommendations and Next Steps**

Rogers: Where do we go from here? Subcommittee to meet? Idzikowski notes the meeting must be publicly noticed. He will send a Doodle poll for a new extraordinary meeting in December.

## **IX. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn the November 14, 2019 Advisory Council meeting.

ACTION: Passes unanimously (Troestler moves, Jupka seconds).

Post Factum: The next Advisory Council meeting will be held on December 3, 2019, at Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Idzikowski  
Program and Policy Coordinator