



DHHS-DIVISION ON AGING

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 2021

Members Present

Commissioner Bettie Rodgers, *Chair*
Barbara Bechtel
Patricia Dunn
Commissioner John Griffith
Gene Guskowski
Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas
Commissioner Richmond Izard
Debra Jupka
Krystina Kohler
Sally Lindner
Nia Norris
Patti Pagel
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Members Excused

Ruth Bevenue
Vi Hawkins
David Hoffman
James Kimble
Rick Lewandowski

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Andrew Bethke, MCDA-DHHS
Sumaiyah Clark, DHHS
Steve Gorodetskiy, DHHS
Dan Idzikowski, MCDA-DHHS

Milwaukee County Staff Present...Continued

Rick Flowers, Veterans
Jon Janowski, MCDA-DHHS
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, MCDA-DHHS
Jill Knight, MCDA-DHHS
Pam Matthews, DAS
Vonda Nyang, MCDA-DHHS
Bekki Schmitt, MCDA-DHHS
Carrie Vallejo, MCDA-DHHS

Attendees

Pat Bruce, ADRC Board
Rita Bruce
Christine Carter, LGBT Ctr.
Maureen Conrad
Sandra Dotson
R.K. Frank
Thomas Gossett, Goodwill
John Hyatt, Impact 211
Alice Steuck Konkel
Denise Lavrenz, CCSB
Kent Mayfield, ADRC Board
Amy Mlot
Rosemary Mueller
Commissioner Shirley Sharp
Commissioner Janice Wilberg
Cathy Wood, SOA

I. Call to Order

A quorum of Advisory Council members convened virtually on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Chair Bettie Rodgers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of the October 26, 2020, Advisory Council meeting minutes

Upon request by the Chair, Director Janowski informed the Advisory Council that the 2021 County Budget included the two new Human Social worker positions and the Elder Benefits Specialist position for the Division on Aging. The division is currently interviewing for the Elder Benefits Specialist position. They have made offers to two candidates for the Human Social worker positions.

MOTION: To approve the October 26, 2020, Advisory Council meeting minutes as clarified.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Jupka Moved, Bechtel Second).

III. 2019-2021 Area Aging Plan – Proposed Amendment Update

The Director updated the Council on the Amendment submitted by the Division on Aging to the existing Area Aging Plan. MCDA offered detailed information on the integration plan regarding the integration of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging into the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services as the Division on Aging. Currently, the State Office on Aging at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is reviewing the proposal. Once the review process is complete, the Division will receive a formal letter informing them whether the amendment was approved. Chairwoman Rodgers noted that it wasn't a requirement for the Advisory Council to approve the Area Plan amendment to submit it to the State. Janowski stated the Commission and the Advisory Council's decisions and comments made at their meetings about the integration and modification were incorporated into the amendment that the State received.

IV. Progress on 2019-2021 Area Aging Plan

- **Update on Senior Statesman Program:** Idzikowski discussed the 8th quarter update on the 2019-2021 3-year Area Aging Plan. Idzikowski highlighted that the Senior Statesman Program was very successful in 2019, and due to pandemic in 2020 the Division didn't offer the program. The Division is hopeful they will resume the Senior Statesman program this year. They are researching if there can be an effective way to offer this program on a virtual platform.
- **Update on Increasing Senior Knowledge of Policies that Affects them and the Importance of policies and the Senior Community Building relationships with their Elected officials:** Idzikowski reported that this year the Advocacy Committee would continue to work in a virtual platform and advocate for the ability to interact with legislators remotely. MCDA is working on designing a new series on advocacy training on a virtual platform.
- **Update on MCDA Nutrition Programs: Dining Sites, Home Delivered Meal Programs, and Promoting Healthy Aging:** There were no new updates. Idzikowski stated the Nutrition Coordinator is working overtime to provide nutritious meals to new and existing participants. She is working with UEDA to increase participation from minority vendors with meal production and offerings for the future.
- **Update on Services in Support of Caregivers:** Currently, there are very few updates on caregiver support services. There were efforts to collaborate virtually with the Alzheimer's Association. There was a meeting with the LGBT Community Center to expand caregiver services to that community. The summit goal to have educational sessions is at a halt due to the pandemic.
- **Update on Services to People with Dementia:** Both Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) are working hard to provide outreach to communities of color. They have conducted much outreach to various ethnic and minority groups. They have completed the majority of their goals.
- **Updates on Healthy Aging/ Healthy Aging Evidence-Based Programming:** The Evidence Based Program Coordinator didn't meet the first goal due to staff turnover at a partner agency and the inability to recruit and train qualified individuals to provide evidence-based wellness programming. They continue to recruit for the "Stepping-On" program, but this evidence-based program is at a halt for now. They will conduct a few virtual trainings for the American Indian and African American communities with "Training the Trainer."

- **Updates on Elder Justice:** the Elder Abuse unit met their first goal to hold several trainings on financial exploitation; but did not meet their second goal of completing a resource and referral guide; however, they understand their clients' needs and needed resources better to identify and address gaps by the end of 2021. For the third goal Elder Abuse secured a federal grant.
- **Transportation Coordination and Mobility Management grant application:** Idzikowski stated that MCDA has met their goal to identify and address transportation gap. MCDA successfully secured a 2-year 5310 federal grant for a Mobility Manager/Transportation Coordinator position. The position is going through the County's approval process, and the Division expects to have someone hired sometime in April 2021. MCDA expanded transportation services last year to provide voter transportation for seniors.
- **Senior Centers & Local Programs:** Although all five Milwaukee County Senior Centers are closed until further notice, the nutrition programs continue to operate, allowing participants to pick-up their meals, the Meals on Wheels program, and deliveries through transportation services for those who don't have other accommodations. Although the centers are closed, there has been some virtual programming and outdoor activities. Senior Center staff is conducting wellness calls. The Advisory Council met their goal for a Senior Center Select Committee, and they are scheduling their first meeting soon. Ms. Knight reported that due to COVID-19, they had to cancel the Senior Hall of Fame, but they did move forward with selecting a candidate.

The Advisory Council discussed Milwaukee Public Schools are reopening their Beulah Brinton and OASIS buildings as location sites for the Senior Centers. A council member stated they would like to see metrics on MCDA's vendor's reports to clarify their programming's financial impact. A discussion ensued about the senior centers and what's going to happen after the pandemic is over.

V. 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan Process / Timeline:

- Idzikowski reviewed the Area Aging Plan outline titled "Timeline for 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan" with the Advisory Council and provided detail on each step they will take to create the 2022-24 Area Aging plan. The plan must be complete by the end of December.
- Bekki Schmitt discussed her ideas with the Advisory Council on how they should construct their objectives, send the message to the public to receive community input through paper and electronic surveys, and conduct listening sessions. The chair proposed to create a workgroup to work on developing the survey tool. The workgroup members are Bekki Schmitt, Rita Bruce, Pat Dunn, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Gene Guskowski, John Griffith, and Janice Wilberg.

MOTION: To create a workgroup to work on developing the Area Plan survey tool.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Guskowski moved, Dunn seconded).

VI. 2024 Area Aging Plan Outreach

VII. Announcements and Member Recruitment

- Chairwoman Rodgers announced Commissioner Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, will have a meeting soon.

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- FYI: Milwaukee County Transit System will have many bus route changes this March 2021. If you use the system, please be aware of the TransitNext public meetings to give an overview of what to expect for Phase One of MCTS NEXT, which takes effect on Sunday, March 7, 2021. You can join an online public meeting to learn about Phase One of MCTS NEXT. Register in advance for one of these upcoming sessions at [Ride MCTS | Programs | MCTS NEXT](#).
- Nia Norris announced that the City of Milwaukee is having a virtual townhall on COVID-19 vaccine distribution at 6 p.m. this evening. She supplied the information for the town hall meeting through the video chat conversation.

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 as a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant