



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2021

Members Present

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*
Commissioner John Griffith
Commissioner Shirley Sharp
Barbara Bechtel
Patricia Dunn
Gene Guskowski
Supervisor Jason Haas
Vi Hawkins
David Hoffman
Krystina Kohler
Sally Lindner
Patti Pagel
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Members Excused

Ruth Bevenue
Debra Jupka
James Kimble
Nia Norris

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

Attendees

Rita Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Christie Carter, *LGBT Community Center*
Marisol Cervera, *United Community Center*
Melva Darrough, *ERAS Senior Network*
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*
Kate Hayden, *Serving Older Adults*
Karen Higgins, *Milwaukee Christian Center*

I. Call to Order

A quorum of Advisory Council members convened virtually on Wednesday, April 10, 2021. Chair Wilberg welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Idzikowski called the roll.

II. Review of the March 10, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes: The March 10th minutes were neither attached nor posted, so this item will be laid on the table until the next meeting.

III. 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan Process

- **Review OAA Charge for Area Plan:** Daniel Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator, reviewed the Older American's Act (OAA) Charge for the Area Plan. He explained the importance of the Advisory Council's role in the area planning process and the federal regulation implementing the Older American's Act and Title III purpose. Title III provides formula grants to the Area Agencies on Aging under approved state plans to develop and enhance comprehensive and coordinated community-based systems to provide services to older adults with a particular emphasis on those who have the most significant economic or social need.
- **Review Timeline for Completing the Area Plan:** Idzikowski reviewed the area planning deadlines with the Advisory Council. He noted that survey data collection will end with mailings postmarked on May 31, 2021. The Council discussed some of the difficulties they had with filling out the online survey, including when using an iPad.

- The Council discussed goals for distribution and receiving feedback from the area plan surveys. Idzikowski provided an update on survey distribution. The 55 Plus magazine published the AAA survey at the end of March, we recently mailed surveys to a random sample of 3000 participants. MCDA's plan is to distribute additional 7000 paper surveys to Advisory Council members, vendors, senior housing sites, and others.

IV. 2024 Area Aging Plan Survey Update (Discussion and Action)

- **Review Final Survey Instrument:** Vallejo reviewed the final survey instrument, and Schmitt discussed the survey distribution and the different ways the division had promoted the survey and listening sessions. Vallejo launched the AAA survey online last week and will provide weekly updates on response rates. Vallejo will investigate the demographic responses to see what demographics we need to focus on when distributing paper surveys. She mentioned that online responses tend to underrepresent low-income and minority populations. An Advisory Council member stated that their goal should be to reflect Milwaukee County, so most survey numbers should come from low-income and minority populations as it would reflect Milwaukee County.
- **Discuss Distribution and Collection Methods:** Schmitt provided a screenshot of the DHHS Division on Aging's webpage where seniors can find the link to the online Area Plan survey. She reminded the Advisory Council about the upcoming listening sessions and provided a preview of the flyer. The second phase of outreach was to send emails out to MCDA staff and County Board, contracted vendors, and partners. The Outreach Social Worker emailed his contacts the AAA Survey for distribution to their contacts, and the ADRC Governing Board also will assist with distribution of the AAA survey.

The Advisory Council discussed distribution and collection methods including canvassing the community and businesses like housing complexes, barbershops, churches, outdoor events and handing out surveys to clients enrolled in or receiving services through the County's programs.

V. Community Conversations (Discussion)

- **Meeting Logistics for the Community Listening Sessions scheduled for April 30, 2021, and May 11, 2021:** Schmitt clarified that the staff has drafted preplanned agendas for the listening sessions and discussed options for conducting the public listening sessions. Depending upon turnout, the Council could have 4-5 breakout sessions, where Council members would lead small group discussions. Schmitt asked the Advisory Council for feedback and ideas on gathering information during these sessions. The Council decided they should ask attendees in each breakout group what are their top three priorities/interests. Since COVID-19, seniors' priorities might have drastically changed and not look the same as pre-COVID-19.

The Advisory Council also discussed having in-person public listening sessions outdoors. Maybe they could set up special public listening sessions for specific

populations through a partner organization like United Community Center, Senior Centers, LGBT Community Center, etc.

Schmitt showed on screen and reviewed the agenda for the public input sessions with the Advisory Council. Commissioner Wilberg will provide introductions and welcome (explaining the ground rules for conducting the session and how to use Zoom) at the listening sessions. Idzikowski asks Council members to volunteer as a facilitator for the breakout sessions at the listening sessions. He asked the Council to email him if they would be interested in participating and volunteering at the listening sessions.

VI. Assignment of Constituent Areas of Interest (Discussion and Action)

Idzikowski discussed the spreadsheet sign-up for Advisory Council members to assist with outreach with particular groups based upon areas of interest identified in the area plan and with groups which socio-economically disadvantaged, or based upon zip code. Most Council members have signed up to help with outreach in particular areas, but not all Council members have responded. We still need assistance in the following areas/populations:

Individuals with IDD or Mental Illness

Hispanic/Latinx

Southeast Asian

Residents Age 85+

Residents with Alzheimers and other Dementias

53204

53225

Advisory Council members are asked to act as a liaison to the community (reach out to local businesses, churches, organizations, etc.). We can also reach out to other Commissioners. He asked the Advisory Council to let send him an email to let him know what areas they would be interested in volunteering to assist.

VII. What Else Do We Want to Know?

The Council members did not express the need for any particular additional information.

VIII. Member Recruitment and Announcements:

Reminder that the AAA plan listening sessions will take place on Friday, April 30th at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday, May 11th at 5:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 as a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang

Executive Assistant