



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

**Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021**

Members Present

Gene Guskowski
Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas
Vi Hawkins
Debra Jupka
James Kimble
Sally Lindner
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown,
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

Members Excused

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*
Barbara Bechtel
Ruth Bevenue
Patricia Dunn
Commissioner John Griffith
David Hoffman
Krystina Kohler
Rick Lewandowski
Nia Norris
Patti Pagel
Commissioner Shirley Sharp

Attendees

Rita Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Judith Free
Kathy Gale
Thomas Gossett
Melva Darrough
Christine Carter
Rachel Bush
Kent Mayfield
David Lillich
Lisa Ruiz Garcia

I. Call to Order

The Advisory Council members convened virtually on Wednesday, April 10, 2021. Acting Chair Gene Guskowski welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Dan Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator for DHHS Division on Aging, took roll call.

II. Review and Approval of the February 10, 2021 and March 10, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes: The Advisory Council didn't act on minutes due to a non-quorum.

III. Election of Advisory Council Vice Chair

Idzikowski provided context for the purpose, role, and length of service of the Advisory Council's Vice-Chair. Currently, the Advisory Council doesn't have a Vice-Chair, and they need to select one to assist with future meetings. The Advisory Council didn't act on this item due to no quorum present at today's meeting. Idzikowski asked the Council to think about whom they would like to elect as Vice-Chair for the next Advisory Council meeting.

- IV. Review Progress on 2019-2021 Aging Plan:** Idzikowski reviewed the 9th quarterly report of the “2019-2021 Area Aging Plan” and highlighted the progress made on the current area plan, which ends this year. The updates that Idzikowski provided were on the goals in the following categories: Advocacy, Nutrition Program, Services in Support of Caregivers, Services to people with Dementia, Healthy Aging, Elder Justice, Transportation, Senior Centers, and Special Projects. See Pdf titled “2019-2021 Area Plan 9th Quarter Report for more information.

A question was asked: “How will the Senior Center’s information be integrated into the new area plan?” A goal worksheet will be provided to each Commission Committee and Council to draft goals in their area of expertise, including the Select Committee on Senior Centers.

Review of DHS Area Plan Guidance: Idzikowski explained that the State Office on Aging controls how many Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) there are in the State. Currently, there are three AAAs: Milwaukee County, Dane County, and Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). The area agencies oversee writing their three-year area plan for their area and are to oversee each County unit’s plan. The Commission on Aging is by ordinance the Area Agency on Aging in Milwaukee County. Idzikowski shared that the State Office on Aging had provided new instructions for developing the 2022-24 area aging plans. New aspects of this guidance include: a requirement to incorporate 20-30-year long path goals and considering the needs of persons with disabilities along with older adults in the plan. Along with plan goals, the Advisory Council needs to focus on the context of older adults and likely demographic trends, how the aging network is organized, what the critical issues are, and the resources and partnerships needed to address them. Finally, the State, like the County, has a goal to confront health inequities, particularly due to structural injustice against people of color. There must be strong community involvement with the plan’s development and the Council must hold a round of Public Hearings and Listening sessions once the plan goals are drafted, but before finalizing the goals.

V. Area Aging Plan Survey Update

- **Discuss Preliminary Results:** Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council of how many surveys MCDA printed and distributed to the public, organizations, and other resources (libraries, housing complexes, etc.). They made phone calls to vendors, housing complexes, churches, and other organizations to distribute more surveys to reach other demographics not well represented in the online survey responses.
- **Discuss Distribution and Collection:** Carrie Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator for DHHS Division on Aging, reported on the population sampling goal they set for 381 seniors to answer the surveys. So far, 400 survey responses were received, which has exceeded that goal. Most responses have come from the online and newsletter surveys, with the highest response rate coming from the 53211-zip code (mainly from Caucasian, high-income families). MCDA is now targeting specific zip codes that were not well represented with responses, including: 53209, 53215, 53223, 53216, and 53218.

- Discussion followed regarding specific community outreach and ways that the Council could assist by distributing paper surveys to their communities of interest.

VI. Community Conversations (Discussion)

Guidance on next steps in process – what you would like to see happen next.

Vallejo provided a summarized report on the two listening sessions; the trends were:

- Seniors are proud of MCDA's efforts during the pandemic.
- MCDA and its vendors need to improve communications with the public about their services.
- Seniors are concerned about being isolated, with senior centers being closed. They were happy to hear that senior centers are about to reopen
- Seniors were excited to hear about the new open-door policies
- Seniors would like to have more transportation opportunities and more access to services.

The acting Advisory Council Chair Gene Guskowski asked Vallejo to create a word cloud created from the listening session results. Idzikowski was asked to reiterate the subcommittees working with the Advisory council on the area goals and what goals they will assist with in the process. They are:

Goal areas

Nutrition programs
Caregiving
Wellness
Advocacy
Socialization
Senior Centers

Committee or Council

Nutrition Council
Caregiver task force
Wellness Committee
Advocacy Committee
Service Delivery Committee
Select Committee on Senior Centers

VII. What Else Do We Want to Know? (Discuss) – Tabled until next meeting

VIII. Announcements:

The Wellness Committee and AARP will sponsor a Virtual Wellness Symposium **on May 26, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Opening remarks from County Executive David Crowley and keynote speaker Carrie Molke from the WI Department of Health and Human Services.

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

The next Advisory Council meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 as a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang, Executive Assistant