



## **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes June 9, 2021**

### **Members Present**

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*  
Commissioner John Griffith  
Barbara Bechtel  
Patricia Dunn  
Debra Jupka  
James Kimble  
Sally Lindner  
Nia Norris  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### **Members Excused**

Ruth Bevenue  
Gene Guskowski  
Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas  
Vi Hawkins  
Krystina Kohler  
Rick Lewandowski  
Patti Pagel  
Commissioner Shirley Sharp

### **Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Sumaiyah Clark, *DHHS*

### **Milwaukee County Staff Present...Continued**

Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*  
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*  
Pam Matthews, *DAS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*  
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

### **Attendees**

Rita Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*  
Christie Carter, *LGBT Comm. Ctr.*  
Kathy Gale, *ERAS Senior Network*  
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*  
David Lillich  
M. Kent Mayfield, *ADRC Governing Board*  
Neal Minogue, *WI-DHS*  
Sharon Roy  
Alicia Steuck Konkel  
Cathy Wood

## **I. Call to Order**

The Advisory Council members convened virtually on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Chairwoman Wilberg 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, March 10, 2021, April 14, 2021, and May 19, 2021 Advisory Council meeting minutes**

Motion: To accept the February 10, 2021, March 10, 2021, April 14, 2021, and May 19, 2021 Advisory Council meeting minutes.

Action: (Motion Griffith, Second Jupka)

### **III. Election of Advisory Council Vice Chair**

Chairwoman Wilberg announced that the Advisory Council is seeking nominations for Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council. There were two nominees for Vice-Chair, Barbara Bechtel and Gene Guskowski. Idzikowski was tasked with sending out a ballot via email to the Advisory Council members to ask which nominees they would like to see as the Advisory Council Vice-Chair. Idzikowski will notify the Advisory Council chair regarding the results of the election for Vice-Chair.

### **IV. Discussion Item: Improving Community Engagement with the Aging Advisory Council and Making Membership and attendance at the Advisory Council a Worthwhile Experience:**

The Council discussed how critical it is to know what the future looks like for seniors (Senior housing, transportation, programs, and services that affect seniors) and the importance of strategic planning. They discussed what representation seniors need that they currently don't have and the need to forge partnerships, find new funding sources, and build a more excellent rapport/communication with the County Board and other counties collectively.

The Council noticed a trend with the community having trust issues with the government. There is a need to work on a foundation of trust with the community. The Council must interface with seniors regularly and not wait until the area planning process to discuss Community needs and develop plans. There must be ongoing communication with the Community on the Area Plan and plan results with the public and staff. There needs to be consistency with physically being visible in the public. There is confusion with the community understanding of the Council's purpose. Some members of the community think they are there to solve all the community's problems. The Chair stated that this would be a continued discussion on their next Advisory Council agenda.

### **V. Discussion Item: ADRC Integration. Aging Resource Center Manager Rachel Kaehny-Frank, informed the Advisory Council that DHHS Division on Aging is applying to integrate both resource centers (the Aging Resource Center and the Disability Resource Center) into one combined ADRC in January 2022. Kaehny-Frank is requesting input from the Advisory Council on three questions: How can a combined Aging and Disability Resource Center make accessing services and support easier? What can the ADRC do to improve its service delivery through this integration and improvement process? Are there other groups we should be reaching out to for input?**

The Advisory Council provided the following feedback:

- There needs to be a new facility that is accessible to all disabled persons. The current facility is not accessible to seniors, and they have many mobility issues with maneuvering through the current facility.
- The Division needs to ensure they have identified the correct staff that know how to work with both populations and have problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- The Division on Aging needs more bilingual staff to service the needs of the Latinx population.

- To service clients with critical and crisis needs, staff must inform the clients of steps they must take with receiving help and time frames. There have been cases where clients didn't have an outline of services for specific issues, and they didn't understand the services available to them.
- Ensuring that the legacy systems are getting integrated into the work.
- There must be continuous staff training as two populations served under the "No Wrong Door."
- The ADRC's need to reach out to providers and cross-cultural groups for input.

Rachel Kaehny-Frank left her contact information with the Advisory Council members to contact her later if they wish.

## **VI. 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan Process Update**

- **Review of DHS Area Plan Guidance:**
- **Discuss Preliminary Survey Results:**  
Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council that overall the Division on Aging distributed more than 7,000 surveys.

Carrie Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, provided the Advisory Council with a preliminary data analysis to review and discuss the Area Plan survey results that the DHHS Division collected from the Area plan surveys and listening sessions.

**Discuss Goal Setting Process/Parameters:** The State sent a detailed 17-page document outlining the Area planning instructions for completing the entire plan. Idzikowski asked the Advisory Council to review and read the Area Agency guidance that Wisconsin DHS has provided. As an Area Agency on Aging, the Advisory Council has a bit more time to develop an Area Aging Plan. Idzikowski asked the Advisory Council to think about what the Aging Network should look like in the next 20-30 years.

## **VII. Discussion Item: Community Conversations**

Idzikowski informed the Council that approximately 20 participants from the public attended each listening session, excluding staff numbers. The purpose of the listening sessions is to allow the public to provide feedback on the Area Plan.

The next listening session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Members Debra Jupka Barbara Wyatt Sibley will host the listening session. Idzikowski asked everyone to promote the event.

Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council that there might be a few subpopulations that were unreachable with the survey, and he asked them to provide feedback on ways to gather input from these subpopulations. A Council member suggested that the Advisory Council ask for assistance from the Division's service providers to offer insights into reaching these subpopulations. Another suggestion was to set up tables at events to collect feedback.

Another subpopulation discussed was High School students who assist family members as caregivers for their love ones to be a group to reach out to for feedback.

**VIII. What Else Do We Want to Know? (Discuss)**

A member informed the Council that on 76th and Good Hope Road, there used to be a Senior Center which is now a library. And that there isn't a senior center nor youth center in that area. A Council member suggested that they discuss having a satellite location for a senior center. Also, there is an empty building on 76th and Mill Road that could be a Senior Center site. The Advisory Council could discuss this at their next meeting.

**IX. Announcements:**

The Alzheimer's Association has a 4-Part Virtual Educational Series that Idzikowski reviewed and shared the flyer with the Council. See attached flyer for more program information.

**X. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant