



**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
Aging Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021**

Members Present

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*
Commissioner John Griffith
Barbara Bechtel
Ruth Bevenue
Patricia Dunn
Gene Guskowski
James Kimble
Amanda Weiler for Krystina Kohler
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Members Excused

Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas
Vi Hawkins
Debra Jupka
Sally Lindner
Nia Norris
Patti Pagel
Commissioner Shirley Sharp

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Steve Gorodetskiy, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

Attendees

Christie Carter, *MKE LGBT Center*
Kathy Gale, *ERAS Senior Network*
Laz Jackson, *SOA*
Denise Lavrenz, *CCSB*
Kent Mayfield, *ADRC Board*
Jim Piontek, *AARP*
Sharron Fitak
Leon Davis

I. Call to Order and Roll Call (25 participants)

The Advisory Council members convened virtually on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Chair Wilberg welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Daniel Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator for DHHS Division on Aging, called the roll. There was not a quorum present at the start of the meeting. However, the Advisory Council did meet quorum later in the meeting.

II. Review and approve the Advisory Council meeting minutes from the July 14, 2021, meeting. Due to a non-quorum at the start of the meeting, the Advisory Council tabled the minutes until later. The Council later reviewed and approved the minutes.

MOTION: To accept the July 14, 2021, Advisory Council meeting minutes.

ACTION: Prevailed by unanimous consent (Wyatt Sibley Moved, Griffith Second).

III. 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan Vision

- **Review of Population Demographics:** Idzikowski provided a summary of the special Advisory Council meeting reviewing demographics and trends in Wisconsin's and Milwaukee County's aging population. Notably, the population of older adults will continue to grow in Milwaukee County and will constitute nearly a third of the total county population by 2040. Most of this growth will come from communities of color, particularly black and Latino older adults, who will balance the current disproportionately white suburban older adult population. Also of note is that the life expectancy of black residents is 7 years shorter than white residents. Idzikowski also reviewed the document titled "2020 Older Adult Demographics and MCDA Services" which reported on the populations served by MCDA various programs across demographics.
- **Review Survey and Community Input:** Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the AAA Area Plan Survey results. Chair Wilberg mentioned that the survey data results are an excellent resource that needed to be utilized in all parts of the Commission's committees, councils, and the Division on Aging's work.
- **Vision for Aging Network of the Future:** Idzikowski reminded the Advisory Council about the WI-DHS's instruction to envision the Aging Network 10-20 years from now and think about what older adults would want and need in the future. The Advisory Council decided to utilize the eight dimensions of wellness to assist them in creating those goals.

IV. Aging Network Goals

The Advisory Council considered a draft vision Aging Network Vision Statement which provided context for the goals to follow in light of the changing demographics of the aging population in Milwaukee County and Milwaukee County's strategic vision that "by achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin."

The Council discussed the draft Vision Statement and made revisions. The Council agreed that overcoming racial inequities should have pride of place among the goals listed in the Vision Statement which now reads:

In twenty years, the composition of society in Milwaukee County will be enriched by a greater number of older adults across a wide range of generations, perspective and experience. These older adults will enjoy broad knowledge of services, supports, and opportunities that easily connect them with their peers, are easy to access, and are coordinated among many different provider groups.

The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being for all older adult residents of Milwaukee County by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness.

The Council then considered goal statements aligned with the Aging Network Vision statement under three topical divisions: Health Equity, Communication and Collaboration, and Dimensions of Wellness. Three broad goals were laid out under each of the topical areas. Discussion followed. Chair Bettie Rodgers asked that the words “older adults” be included as a modifier in Topic Area 1, Goal 2 relating to accessible service delivery. Member Wyatt-Sibley recommended spelling out all acronyms. No other changes were suggested to the draft goals.

MOTION: To approve the Aging Network Vision Statement and accompanying goals in three topical areas: Health Equity, Communication and Collaboration, and Dimensions of Wellness as amended.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith, Guskowski Second).

V. 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals

Idzikowski summarized the WI-DHS instructions for constructing the AAA Area Plan goals. Idzikowski reviewed the following documents: 8 Dimensions of Wellness diagram, WI County Aging Plan Instructions 2022-2024, and the 2022-2024 draft Area Aging Goals with the Advisory Council.

Idzikowski reviewed each of the proposed OAA Title III Goals and local Goals. The Advisory Council discussed the goals generally, with the view of granting great deference to goals proposed by other Commission on Aging councils and committees with expertise in their given area. The Council suggested that the OAA Title III Goals and Local Goals should flow from and fit into the framework of the broader topical areas under the Aging Network Vision Statement. Member Guskowski noted that while he saw broad coverage in the three-year goals addressing collaboration and the dimensions of wellness, Many of the goals did not address racial equity. An Advisory Council member suggested blending the Aging Network and Older American’s Act strategies rather than having all the committees and councils working separately amongst each other. They would like to have an overall coordinated plan.

The Council instructed Idzikowski to reformat the OAA Title III and Local goals into the Aging Network Vision framework and to contact each of the various councils and committees to request them to either revise or redraft a goal that specifically addresses overcoming racial inequities to achieve older adult well-being.

Idzikowski will have the goals revised and sent to the Advisory Council Chair by September 1, 2021. At the next scheduled Advisory Council meeting on September 8, 2021, Idzikowski will review the changes made to the draft goals, and the Advisory Council will approve the final drafted goals.

VI. Public Outreach on Draft Plan

Idzikowski proposed that to meet the requirement for public feedback on the Area Plan, the Advisory Council could host a series of listening sessions, virtual, or where possible, hybrid/in-person at each of the five Senior Centers. However, since there have been more pandemic variant outbreaks, in person meetings may not be possible. The Advisory Council discussed holding listening sessions at two or three Milwaukee County operated senior centers and two or three listening sessions at other centers or meal sites. Idzikowski was instructed to draft a plan with dates for virtual /in-person listening sessions along with other methods to invite public input, possibly through the website or in person by the next Advisory Council meeting on September 8th. Advisory Council members will then sign up to act as hosts for the various proposed listening sessions.

VII. Announcements – No announcements

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant