



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
**Department on Aging**

**Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2021**

**Members Present**

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*  
Commissioner John Griffith  
Commissioner Cherie Swenson  
Barbara Bechtel  
Patricia Dunn  
Gene Guszowski  
Nia Norris  
Patti Pagel  
Amanda Weiler

**Members Excused**

Ruth Bevenue  
Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas  
Debra Jupka  
James Kimble  
Sally Lindner  
Commissioner Lenor Rosas  
Commissioner Shirley Sharp  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

**Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*  
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*  
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Pam Matthews, *DOA*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*  
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

**Attendees**

Rita Bruce  
M Hildenbrand  
Elizabeth Hipp  
Sharon Roy, *West Allis Senior Center*  
Melissa Meier  
Cathy Wood, *Serving Older Adults*

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call (23 participants)**

The Aging Advisory Council members convened virtually on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. Chair Janice Wilberg welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Daniel Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator for DHHS Division on Aging, took roll call and a quorum was present.

**II. Review and approve the Advisory Council meeting minutes from the September 14, 2021, meeting.**

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

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith moved, Swenson second).

### **III. 2019-2021 (Current) Area Aging Plan Report**

Idzikowski provided a report to the Advisory Council on the current progress made on the 2019-2021 Area Aging Plan. Coordinator Idzikowski discussed each of the current area plan goals: Advocacy, Nutrition, Caregiver Support, Dementia Care, Healthy Aging/Wellness, Transportation, Senior Centers, Elder Justice. 2021 third quarter updates included:

- The new “Dining Out” program which added three local minority-owned restaurants providing additional meal choices for dining participants;
- Progress made with the Alzheimer's Association local Caregivers Taskforce;
- Dementia Care Specialist’s virtual outreach, and MCTS employee training, as well as additional \$135,000 in annual program funding that the State has allocated to the DCS program for Milwaukee County.
- Additional Healthy Aging wellness workshops and programs with communities of color, including at the Gerald Ignace Indian Health Center and the Milwaukee County Senior Centers, where 9 Serving Older Adults staff were trained in 8 different programs.
- DHHS hiring a new Transportation Coordinator who will serve to help coordinate transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities.
- While the Elder Abuse unit didn't complete a resource guide for community health clinics; MCDA did create a list of residential housing providers. EA has expanded its crisis training and Community Intervention Teams.

### **IV. 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals Review and Approval**

The Advisory Council held two virtual and two in-person public hearings on the Area Aging Plan goals as well as providing copies of the plan goals with a feedback form in English, Spanish, and Hmong on the Division on Aging’s website and Facebook page. In addition, MCDA staff distribute hard copies of the goals along with postcards to all dining site participants, and at select outreach sites, including Spanish language versions at the United Community Center.

Idzikowski reported on the feedback received from the public hearings and feedback forms regarding the Area Aging Plan goals. These sessions confirmed the Advisory Council’s focus on Aging Network collaboration and communication, as well as the importance of the existing services and the desire to return to congregate programming. Discussion by the Advisory Council followed.

Chair Wilberg indicated that no substantial changes to the proposed goals were needed. Suggestions were made to create a Development Director position to work on getting funding and endowments to support these goals, particularly with respect to the future of the Milwaukee County senior centers. Another participant suggested bringing back the "Senior Ambassador" program to increase awareness and access to the services offered through the Division on Aging at decentralized locations such as senior centers and other locations. Members also emphasized the significance of the Area Plan and its ambitious agenda and suggested that the County retain a public relations firm to help provide a multifaceted message to the older adult community in connection with the broader County Vision.

The Advisory Council made only one change to the goals document, located under Collaboration and Communication within the Wellness Goals. They modified the language under that goal for accuracy. Coordinator Idzikowski displayed the changes on the screen for the Advisory Council to review.

**The Advisory Council moved to approve the proposed OAA Title III and local goals as presented.**

**MOTION:** To approve the proposed amended Title III and local goals for the 2022-2024 Area Plan as presented.

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

## **V. 2022-2024 Area Plan Next Steps**

Idzikowski informed the Advisory Council on the next steps for the 2022-2024 Area Plan. The Wisconsin Office on Aging granted the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging an extended deadline to submit the final 2022-2024 Area Plan to correspond with Commission on Aging and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' schedules. The Division on Aging shared the 2022-2024 draft goals discussed at today's meeting with the State and received no objections or corrections.

Idzikowski outlined the documents that the Commission must enclose with the 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals' final submission to the State. He discussed two areas that needed improvement in Section III relating to community involvement in plan development and Section VI regarding coordination between the American Indian tribal aging services and the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging.

Lastly, he informed the Advisory Council of the timeline for approval of the 2022-2024 area plan:

1. Today, the Advisory Council reviews the goals in light of the public hearing process and makes any suggested changes to the goals.

2. At their October meeting, the Commission on Aging will vote to adopt the final set of Area Aging Plan goals as recommended by the Advisory Council.
3. At the Aging Advisory Council meeting on November 10, 2021, the Council will review the full draft plan, with all the contextual sections.
4. At the Commission on Aging's November 19, 2021 meeting, the Commission is to review and adopt the entire plan, which, once approved, will be presented to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisor for their approval and or revisions.
5. **On Thursday, February 3, 2021**, The County Board of Supervisors will accept the complete plan.
6. The Commission on Aging has **until February 2022** to submit its final plan to the State Office on Aging.

The Aging Advisory Council Chair discussed the need for the Council to start discussing the important work they need to start working on in 2022.

#### **VI. Announcements**

**Please check out the Division on Aging's website for educational services. Medicare 101 Series:** 2021 Medicare Update is tomorrow, Thursday, October 14 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. online.

#### **VII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

The Advisory Council will meet again virtually at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant