



**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2024**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened virtually with MS Teams videoconference option on Friday, March 22, 2024.

Commissioners Present:

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*
Terrence Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
George Banda
Mark P. Behar, PA-C, MPAS
Denise Callaway
Eugene Guskowski
Amber Miller
Paula Penebaker
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Cindy Van Vreede

Milwaukee County Staff:

Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Bailey Knutson, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Marietta Luster Ph.D., *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*
Nina Yang, *DHHS*
Keshawn Williams, *County Clerk's Office*

Attendees from the Public

Truth Freemyn
Tanya Fonseca, *City of Milwaukee*
John Griffith
Vanessa Harris
Mathew Hayes
Miriam Kaja
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *Interpreter*
James Kimble
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Anthony Myers
Amy Oeth, *City of Milwaukee*
Shae Williams
Ateph Zito, *Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller took the roll call; A quorum of the Commissioners was present. The Chair welcomed new Commissioner Jacqueline Smith and asked her to introduction herself to the Commission.

II. GUEST REMARKS, GROWING MKE, CITY OF MILWAUKEE, DEPARTMENT OF CITY DEVELOPMENT (DCD), AMY OETH, SENIOR PLANNER, AICP, AND TANYA FONSECA, LONG RANGE PLANNING MANAGER

The Milwaukee Department of City Development (DCD) is developing a new plan, Growing MKE, to reduce barriers to diverse housing types in all neighborhoods, including housing that will allow people to age in place, like accessory dwelling units, cottage courts, and small multifamily buildings. It also wants to provide more quality, affordable housing choices for all of Milwaukee County, create walkable urban neighborhoods, increase transit options, and improve access to jobs.

DCD proposes to change some of its building zones as the current zoning codes limit the housing types that builders can build in many areas throughout the City of Milwaukee. DCD has talked with housing and zoning about the initiative and has started the planning process by conducting outreach, engaging in community and focus groups, online engagement pop-ups, senior centers, and community events to receive feedback since June 2023. Growing MKE is a collaborative process led by the City of Milwaukee, non-profit organizations, community groups, and leaders. For more information, see the “Growing MKE – Commission on Aging Presentation” PowerPoint presentation.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2024, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the February 23, 2024, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moore Moved, Van Vreede Second).

The Chair asked for an amendment to the agenda to address an urgent request from Administration for the Commission to consider expressing its support for a federal earmark request by Milwaukee County to Congresswoman Gwen Moore. Request to create agenda item VII.G, Letter of Support.

MOTION: Motion to amend the agenda to include an item VII., G

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Guszowski Second).

IV. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT, TIM SCHABO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S OFFICE

Deputy Chief Schabo’s report is tabled until the April meeting because he could not attend.

V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

The Service Delivery Committee and the Nutrition Council didn't meet this month, so there was no report.

- **Chair of the Advisory Council**, Denise Callaway, reported that it has temporarily adopted a new meeting schedule and did not meet in March; however, its sub-committees have been working on the Area Aging Plan. The Area Aging Plan survey is now complete and is in the process of being translated into Spanish. The paper and online surveys (website access) will be available on April 1, 2024.

Four public hearings are scheduled; two will be at the County's senior centers, and the other two will be in suburban areas. Commissioner Callaway informed the Commission that their participation in the Area Plan process (at the hearings and focus groups) is needed. Regarding the focus groups that the Commissioners have recommended to the Advisory Council, the Council will meet to put a process in place so they can schedule the groups and identify the key members who will run the groups.

- **Chair of the Advocacy Committee**. Brian Peters reported that they meet two days ago and discussed three major items:
 - A county resolution for a one-time purchase for a state lifetime recreation pass for older adults.
 - Senior Leadership program which instructs learning how to lead and advocate in the community for aging issues; and
 - The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, Advocacy Day. Please attend as it is important for the Commission to represent the community and speak on senior issues in Madison. there will be coordinated transportation available for this event.
- **The Senior Center Committee Chair**, Eugene Guszowski, reported that the Committee had provided a PowerPoint presentation on the senior center vision at the St. John's symposium and received excellent feedback. The Committee sees how it can engage the community in that format. The Committee is at an inflection point. Now that they have their PowerPoint/Presentation package, they will review their report and generate recommendations to present to the Commission as they move forward. The Committee is excited about the progress made and looks forward to having a very productive year.
- **Chair of the Wellness Committee** Gloria Miller reported that the Wellness Committee met this past Wednesday. A new wellness program called "Strong

Bodies” to help older adults become or stay fit was introduced by Jennifer Lefeber. The program is in partnership with 16th Street Clinic, which will offer a Spanish version of the program. Two presentations were given at the meeting, one from Jill Renken, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, on addressing social isolation and loneliness. The second presentation was by Aziz Abdullah, from Impower, on a project to identify strategies for increasing engagement with the wellness program participation among African Americans. Lastly, Bekki Schmitt, DHHS/ADS Community Programs Supervisor, no longer supports the Wellness Committee; however, Jennifer Lefeber will continue to support the Wellness Committee.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (January 16, 2024)
- b) Senior Center Committee meeting minutes (January 5, 2024, and February 2, 2024)
- c) Executive Committee meeting minutes (February 9, 2024)
- d) Nutrition Council meeting minutes (October 24, 2023)
- e) Wellness Committee meeting minutes (January 17, 2024)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda items listed above.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway moved, Penebaker Second).

VII. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Election of Legislative Officer, Janice Wilberg:** There was one nomination for Legislative Officer; Commissioner Brian Peters nominated himself. There were no other nominations, therefore Commissioner Peters was nominated by acclamation and unanimous consent.
- b) **Election of “At-Large” member to Serve on the Executive Committee, Chair Wilberg:** There were two nominations for "At-Large Member" to serve on the Executive Committee. Commissioner Amber Miller nominated herself, and Commissioner Eugene Guskowski nominated himself. There was an email ballot, and the Commissioners elected Commissioner Miller as the new "At-Large" position on the Executive Committee.
- c) **Advocacy Items, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Brian Peters:** Although there were three action items listed (HR 7513 Nursing Home Staffing Minimums, Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA), and the County Board Resolution Regarding the State Recreation Passes for Older Adults) for the Advocacy Committee, there is just one item that needs action from the

Commission which is the County Board resolution regarding State Recreation Passes for Older Adults.

Due to the County Board having already voted on this resolution, Commissioner Peters would like to amend his motion to include the State Recreation Passes in the 2024 Advocacy Committee's Advocacy Priorities List.

MOTION: To amend the Advocacy Committee's plan to include support lifetime State recreation passes for older adults

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters Moved, G. Miller Second).

- d) **2023 Commission on Aging Year in Review (for County Board), COA Chair Janice Wilberg:** The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging 2023 Year End Review lists the significant accomplishments of the Commission on Aging, and the document's purpose is to present it to the County Board along with a description of the accomplishments of Aging Services as an Administrative Unit. The Chair wanted to ensure the Commission could review the document before submitting it to the County Board. The Chair motioned to approve the document so she can present it to the County Board and various committees.

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2023 Commission on Aging Year End Review.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda Moved, Moore Second).

- e) **2025 Budget Development, Matt Forman, DHHS CFO:** CFO Matt Fortman presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025 Budget process and current budget outlook to the Commission. Mr. Fortman reviewed the Commission on Aging's Authority Code 53.01 from the Milwaukee County's Code of Ordinances and Aging Services funding sources (Older Americans Act funding, tax levy, State and Federal funding, Short-Term ARPA funding, One-Time Tax Levy funds). Mr. Fortman also presented the five-year capital plan and the County Board's Budget Calendar. For more information, please see the document titled "COA March 24 Budget Feedback". Chair Wilberg asked the Chair of the Advocacy Committee to closely monitor the budget and the Commission's potential advocacy for the 2025 budget cycle.
- f) **Release of 2024 AAA Requests for Proposals (RFP's):** Aging and Disabilities Services Program and Planning Coordinator Carrie Koss Vallejo discussed five Requests for Proposal (RFP) to be released soon and the new process for the RFPs. The Administration of the Milwaukee County Senior Centers is now a single RFP rather than separate meal site supervision and social programming contract. Legal Services for Older Adults and Elder Benefits Services contract will also be released this year after the RFP was waived last year. In addition, three additional RFPs are being consider for release this year:

- Transportation to the United Community Center,
- Programs at the United Community Center, and
- Services to the Native American Elderly.

Chair Wilberg asked whether there is a role for Commissioners in the RFP process. Ms. Vallejo replied that Commissioners can attend the Service Delivery Committee meetings and serve on the RFP review panels.

- g) Congressionally Designated Funding Request to Congresswoman Gwen Moore:** AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski provided information on this request. Each federal budget year, Milwaukee County requests the congressional delegation to advance congressionally designated project funding. In consultation with the County Board, the County Executive is pursuing two infrastructure projects in their earmark requests from the congressional delegation for senior centers and affordable housing for seniors. The earmarks would provide funding for capital investments to allow the construction of affordable housing with a new senior center (McGovern Park Senior Center) and for Clinton Rose Senior Center to receive a kitchen and dining room rebuild.

MOTION: To authorize the Commission on Aging to send a letter of support to Congresswoman Gwen Moore in her efforts to acquire the Congressionally designated funds for Milwaukee County for affordable housing coupled with a new senior center and for a kitchen and dining room remodel at Clinton Rose Senior Center.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Moore Second).

VIII. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, AAA DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI

AAA Director Idzikowski informed the Commission that the AAA is continuing its work on the immunization outreach initiative by sending a letter signed by Executive Director LaGrant-McClain and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ben Weston to all nursing homes and residential facilities for older adults and people with disabilities in Milwaukee County encouraging them to take advantage of the immunization clinic program. There will be several clinics this month and in April. The State invited Aging Services to apply for a new grant for this purpose. USAging has also invited the County to apply for a no-cost extension of the federal grant USAging into 2025. The AAA hoped to receive some funding through the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Initiatives to build a Pickleball court, but unfortunately, the project estimation cost exceeded the initial estimate, so the AAA would not have been able to match the cost.

The State has released two grants: Social Isolation and Loneliness and Livable Communities. The AAA Director is working with the Grants Development Office to write proposals for both grants. Aging Services wants to partner with the Pharmacy Society

of Wisconsin, the Medical College of Wisconsin's Pharmacy School, to train pharmacy students and Pharmacists to administer an evidence-based screening for loneliness and social isolation throughout Milwaukee County and provide them with resources to give referrals for programming through the ADRC and AAA. Lastly, Aging Services is participating in a Suicide Prevention Task Force for individuals aged 55 and older; they are actively looking for ways to increase mental health preventative services. Aging Services would like to put together a proposal that aligns with an initiative to improve the community's livability in line with AARP's Livability program. Please see the "2024 March AAA Director's Report" for more information.

IX. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, LAURA LANGER

Laura Langer for the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources conveyed that Milwaukee County was approved to receive \$400,000 for a vaccination outreach grant. The State will send the contract by the end of April or the beginning of May. Congress is still reviewing the Federal Budget; however, once the budget is signed, it will take about six weeks before the County receives funding once it clears Congress. Also, an Older Americans Act Reauthorization Bill in Congress has a section to reauthorize reinstating senior centers as part of the Older Americans Act. The State will support this bill only if there is additional funding designated for senior centers, as they don't want to take funding away from current programs to fund senior centers.

Lastly, she reported that the Social Isolation and Loneliness and Livable Communities Grant was released last Friday, and the award is \$100,000 per grant proposal. There's an informational call on Thursday, April 4, 2024, and applications are due on Monday, April 15, 2024. For more information, please get in touch with Laura Langer.

X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Taylor informed the Commission that the last County Board meeting for the 2024 session was yesterday. The next time the Board meets is April 15, 2024, for an organizational meeting; this is when current and newly elected board members take their oaths and select a County Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Taylor also provided an update on her recruitment efforts for the Commission. She has sent information to the County Supervisors asking them to promote the Commission on Aging and its Committees and Councils to recruit more members. In addition to the flyers on the Listening Sessions and the Senior Leadership program, Supervisor Taylor has posted the information on her Facebook page. She also sent information to organizations and groups she's associated with asking them to share it within their networks.

XI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Wilberg thanked the Commissioners who are planning to attend the public hearings. In his State of the County Address, County Executive Crowley talked about Aging Services, the Commission on Aging, and the effort to reimagine the senior

centers. County Executive Crowley also discussed the innovations in the Nutrition Program and Dine Out program. It is Women's History Month, and the Commission doesn't have an event to celebrate Women's History Month; however, the Chair wanted to acknowledge the eight women serving on the Commission. The entire Commission is so dynamic and capable. Lastly, the Chair announced that Commissioner Amber Miller is the "At-Large Member" of the Executive Committee.

XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Commissioner Callaway reminded everyone to try to attend an Area Plan Public Hearing

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:10 A.M.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, G. Miller Second)

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be an in-person meeting at Clinton Rose Senior Center on Friday, April 26, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant