



**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2026**

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at Kelly Senior Center (6100 S Lake Dr, Cudahy, WI 53110). Members and attendees also joined the meeting virtually and by conference call.

Members Present

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*
Commissioner George Banda
Maureen Conrad
Sopheya Farrell
Kimberly King
Trina Koch
Paulette Maclin
Kathy Scott
Tom Suchecki
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
William Meunier

Milwaukee County Staff

Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Rene Smith
Derrick Canion, *ASL Interpreter*
Steph Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, Emily Petersen conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2026 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the February 6, 2026 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda moved, Suchecki second).

III. ELECTION OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Tom Suchecki and Maureen Conrad both self-nominated for the position of vice-chair. There were no other nominations for vice-chair. The Chair conducted a closed ballot vote for vice-chair. Emily tallied the votes received via paper ballot and email. Chair Peters announced the winner, Maureen Conrad.

MOTION: To approve Maureen Conrad as Advocacy Committee Vice Chair.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Conrad nominated).

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- A. 2026 Senior Leadership Program
- B. 2026 Disability Advocacy Day

Chair Peters and Emily introduced the two items attached. The Committee discussed with no action taken.

V. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATES

A. Federal Aging Policy

I. Federal Budget and Issues

- a. **FY2026 Budget update.** Emily provided an update on the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Committee discussed the update, including funding for the AmeriCorps Seniors programs, with no action taken.
- b. **Federal housing issues impacting older adults.** Chair Peters provided an update on this item, including an overview of the presentation provided with the materials. The Committee discussed with no action taken.

II. **Federal Regulations and Executive Orders.** There was no update provided on this item, so the Committee did not take it up at this meeting.

B. State Legislative Issues

I. Administrative Rules & Governor's Taskforces.

- a. **Assembly Task Force on Elder Issues:** Emily provided an update on the recommended legislation arising from the Task Force. The Committee discussed the legislation, which included regulation of virtual currency kiosks, economic support specialists, and funding for falls prevention programs, and decided to support these items.

MOTION: To support the legislative recommendations of the Assembly Task Force on Elder Issues and communicate the position to legislators.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Sucheki moved, Banda second).

II. State Budget & Legislation

- a. **Review State Legislation Tracker.** Emily provided an update on this item, including other legislative items that are moving forward related

to older adults. These include bills on memory care facility designations, funding for home-delivered meals, and a Medicaid workgroup. The Committee discussed the legislation and decided to support these items.

MOTION: To support AB-984, LRB-6090, LRB-6092, and LRB-6088.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg moved, Conrad second).

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

- II. Aging Items of Interest.** The Committee discussed the possibility of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in Milwaukee County and how Milwaukee County Aging can prepare to adjust service delivery to accommodate older adult residents that are either undocumented or unable to leave their homes. The Committee asked that Emily elevate this issue to Milwaukee County Aging leadership (completed on 2/9/26). Emily suggested that Chair Peters could bring this discussion to the Executive Committee for review by the Commission on Aging at a future meeting.

VI. 2026 POLICY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

- A. Review 2025 Policy Priorities Document and discuss proposed changes for 2026.** The Committee reviewed the feedback gathered from the public at the January 2026 listening sessions and determined what to incorporate into the final document. Chair Peters requested a clean version for review and adoption at the March 2026 Advocacy Committee meeting.

VII. 2025-2027 AGING AREA PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS REVIEW

- A. Review 2025 Quarter 4 progress report.** The Committee reviewed the attached documents with no action taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m. The next Advocacy Committee meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager