



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

Commission for Persons with Disabilities January 8, 2024

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, January 8, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Allison Caudill
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson, B.A.
Leon Todd

Milwaukee County Staff

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Shanika Baldwin
Fran Musci

Commissioners Excused:

Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Damian Buchman

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Mike Bonk, Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities took roll. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023 AND DECEMBER 11, 2023, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve November 13, 2023 & December 11, 2023, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Todd moved, Mickelson Second)

III. SPECIAL REPORT

- A. Informational Item, Transit Plus- Director Fran Musci Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS):** Director Musci reported on the December ridership, there were 27,011 rides, which was lower than November's

numbers. The total annual ridership for 2023 was just under 351,000 trips, an improvement over 2022 but still at 80% pre-COVID numbers. Director Musci shared Transdev service in December was abysmal, they did not hit their KPI. To escalate the poor service issues, they involved their regional vice president and their national Chief Operating Officer to have resources directed to Milwaukee County. Since then, additional drivers from other contracts have been brought in. They have also hired additional local drivers. They have adjusted their attendance policy, to address those who are no call no shows. Transdev has seen significant change, they have maintained on time performance over 90%. Director Musci shared Transdev drastically underestimated the numbers of drivers needed on the contract to provide service when they placed their BID on the RFP. They anticipated 108 drivers, to meet demand their new target for drivers is between 140-150 new drivers. Phone issues have also been addressed. The call volume has dropped; staff can log into the phone system to assist with incoming calls. Messages will be emailed to management to be addressed on a timely manner.

The Milwaukee County Taxi Task Force will be meeting January 18, 2024
No current updates.

Director Music informed the Commission; the Transit Plus Advisory Council (TPAC) is seeking new members. TPAC represents and serves as advocates for consumers of the Milwaukee County paratransit. These individuals will meet regularly act as advisors to Director Musci and other transit plus administrative staff, serve as advocates for MCTS and transit plus. To be considered for membership this individual must be a transit plus rider or their family member or guardian. The Transit Plus Advisory Council is a 13-member council currently there are about 8 or 9 members. This is a two-year term; meetings are hybrid either on TEAMS or in-person. They are held at the MCTS Admin building on 17th and Fond Du Lac on the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00. Anyone who is interested can contact either Director Musci or Lisa Walters to request an application at 414-343-1703. Chair Falk-Palec asked if there is a flyer for recruitment. Director Musci stated they are currently working on something to promote recruitment.

- B. Informational Item, Recreation Update,** Jacqueline Formanek, Recreation Services Manager, Office for Persons with Disabilities: Ms. Formanek informed the Commission the Winter Recreation program is active and will run through February. Spring People program will begin the first week of March and will end the last week of May. They are offering new recreational opportunities such as gardening and sports (Pickleball, basketball, and soccer). All sports are adaptable for all abilities, everyone is welcomed. Lastly Easter Seals Summer Respite camp, registration starts January 15, 2024. They are currently promoting at schools and communities for a

positive outcome. Ms. Formanek will share both flyers. To access the Easter Seals Summer Respite Camp registration there are two ways; there is a QR code on the flyer, but one can also access their website to register. Director Bonk commented they also partner with members and employees within Aging and Disability Service. The outreach staff member has also shared the recreational guided and summer camp opportunities with the community, she has attended over 100 events just last year. Chair Falk-Palec suggested Ms. Formanek if interested to present at a future Milwaukee County Transition Advisory Board (MCTAB) meeting to share information to teachers, representatives from various agencies that serve people with disabilities. Ms. Formanek agreed to present, possibly at the February meeting to promote the summer camp.

- IV. Informational Item, Social Story Mitchell Airport**, Chairwomen Deb Falk-Palec: Chair Falk-Palec apologized for not sending out this out back in November. The Social Story Mitchell airport will be shared by Director Bonk. She is requesting feedback once members view it. Director Luster questioned if they are looking to provide a success story or looking to pass on stories that have already been created to run on the TVs within the airport. Chair Falk-Palec shared the story is a pictorial story taking you through all the steps all the way into getting on an airplane. The Social Story is to make people more comfortable with the experience. Commissioner Kearney suggested they should reach out to the Facilities Committee to obtain comments. She also requested to create some criteria so people can give back valuable feedback. Commissioner Mickelson stated that she uses social stories for her daughter, she is interested in looking at the social story being developed and giving feedback as a parent. Chair Falk-Palec would like to set this on the agenda to discuss, February 12th. The Social Story Mitchell Airport draft will be sent out to members of the Facilities Committee, Commissioner Haupt, Mickelson, Perkins and Todd. Commissioner Caudill also agreed to provide feedback. Commissioner Kearney suggested a FAQ sheet to incorporate information on how it can be personalized it and be used for.

Chair Falk-Palec shared they had the Deputy Director from the Housing Division back in September. He had mentioned applications would be available to distribute, for the homes that were built with public dollars then sold to people at affordable rates. Chair Falk-Palec would like to know how application and information has distributed to the community; particularly persons with disabilities for them to have the opportunity to apply. Director Bonk will reach out to Eric Collins, there is a company helping with this process. Once he receives this information, he will forward it to the Commission. Commissioner Mickelson requested clarification on the Social Story, and if the airport is focusing on an obtainable social story for riders. Or are they looking into Director Luster's idea as well. Chair Falk-Palec could not clarify but did say the Administrator are open to ideas. She suggested to extend an invitation for the February 12th meeting. Director Bonk will reach out to them to see if they are available.

Director Marietta Luster shared one of the goals for Aging and Disability Service is for all the governing boards and DHHS governing boards to meet & greet each other within the first quarter. She asked if this were something that would interest them, she stated some of the boards are working on the same goals and they could collaborate. Chair Falk-Palec spoke on behalf of the Commission, she thought it was a great idea and would be interested.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Other Matters by the Public: None

b) Other Commission Business:

- i. Recommendation of Shaneika Baldwin: Chair Falk-Palec shared Ms. Baldwin had submitted her application for consideration for commission membership. Director Bonk chimed in; they were not able to vote due to not having a quorum. The Commission went into close session to vote.

MOTION: To move to close session for recommendation of Shaneika Baldwin to Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Caudill moved, Kearney Second)

MOTION: To move forward for consideration for membership for the Milwaukee County Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Leigh moved, Todd Second)

Chair Falk-Palec shared the process of forwarding the recommendation of the Commission to move Ms. Baldwin forward to the Executive Council. Once the Executive Council decides to move forward it will move forward to the Full Commission.

- ii. Review of Committee Goals: Chair Falk-Palec requested updates whether the three committees had been able to identify their goals. Commissioner Leigh, chair of Program Access Committee, Commissioner Haupt, chair of Facilities Access Committee and Wil-O-Way Access, Supervisor Johnson goals were discussed. Director Bonk shared the Facilities Access Committee members had discussed overseeing the ADA inclusive restroom project that is continually to go on through Milwaukee County. The Program Access Committee members spoke on evaluating informing and advocating for affordable and accessible housing and partnership

with other community agencies. The Will-O-Way Access Committee members goals are improving accessibility to the Will-O-Way grounds and facilities. Designing and upgrading accessible facilities and grounds to help reduce barriers, increase independence and provide a sensible longing to individuals with disabilities.

Commissioner Leigh shared she is a member of Common Ground; they are working on the issue of affordable housing from the County. Chair Falk-Palec requested quarterly updated from the Committees, Director Bonk will be assisting so members can connect. Director Bonk shared he will forward the memorial celebration information for Commissioner McGrath, January 20th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Todd moved, Haupt Second)

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING MONDAY, February 12, 2024, AT 1 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado
Executive Assistant