



## **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 2, 2024**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advocacy Committee convened virtually on Friday, August 2, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting virtually and by conference call.

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*  
Harold Oemig, *Vice-Chair*  
Maureen Conrad  
John Griffith  
William Meunier  
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.  
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

### **Members Excused:**

Commissioner George Banda  
Sopheya Farrell  
Trina Koch  
Gary Mikolajczyk

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Claire Enders, *DHHS*

### **Milwaukee County Staff Continued...**

Jill Knight, *DHHS*  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Bailey Knutson, *DHHS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Clare O'Brien, *DHHS*  
Migdalia Pacheco, *DHHS*  
County Supervisor Kathleen Vincent  
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Paulette Maclin  
Rene Smith  
Paula Penebaker  
Jill Krenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*  
Jen Hayes, *ASL Interpreter*

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Emily Petersen, AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, took the roll call. A quorum was not present at the time the roll was called but appeared shortly thereafter.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 7, 2024, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes approved upon the correction of the interpreter names listed in attendance.

MOTION: To approve the June 7, 2024, Advocacy Committee meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Oemig Second)

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Area Aging Plan Public Hearing:** The Advocacy Committee is rescheduling the Area Aging Plan Public Hearing for a later date in October this year at Washington Park Senior Center—more information to come.
- **Fall In-District Advocacy Event:** The Advocacy Committee will hold another in-district Advocacy event this fall. The Committee is working on the location, date, and time. The Committee plans to hold the event on the north side of Milwaukee County.

The Advocacy Committee provided feedback on improving the hearings and advocacy events. To have more public announcements about the senior centers, more city elected officials attend events, higher elected officials at higher levels attend, and include signage on the tables to make it easier for people to know their district and who is representing their districts. The Advocacy Committee needs a concise list of priorities (top central 5) to present their focus at the events.

#### IV. UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Communication to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services regarding Family Care and Family Care partnership Waivers:** The Advocacy Committee sent a letter to address Family Care and the Family Care Partnership waivers, one of the State's long-term care programs through Medicaid (a copy of the letter is attached).
- c) **Communication Regarding 2025 County Aging Budget Requests:** The Advocacy Committee sent a letter regarding the Advocacy Committee's 2025 County Aging Budget Priorities Request, which the Commission on Aging accepted/adopted (the Adopted 2025 County Budget Priorities letter is attached). Matt Fortman, DHHS CFO, confirmed that he submitted the 2025 budget priorities to the County Executive office as part of the budget process.
- d) **Communication of Federal Legislators regarding Reauthorization of the Older American's Act:** The last letter the Advocacy Committee sent was to Senator Baldwin regarding the Older Americans Act Reauthorization. The letter addressed the draft bill that came out two weeks ago. Ms. Petersen received a response from Senator Baldwin's office. The Senate approved the bill with many of the provisions that the Advocacy Committee had addressed in its letter; in the bill, there was an increase in authorization spending levels, a 20% increase in funding the Older American Act programs and services for the next five years, including the request about nutrition flexibility and funding. Also included in the bill is the provision that grab-and-go meals can be picked up anywhere, not just congregate meal sites, and that 3D programs are to be evidence- informed and evidence-based.

#### V. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICE UPDATES

##### A. Federal Aging Policy

## I. Federal Budget and Issues

- a. **FY2025 Budget Update:** They are still working through the spending bills for the FY2025 Federal Budget, which runs from September-to-September cycles, which means the FY2025 budget starts in September of this year. The House will not adopt the FY2025 Federal funding until after the election. However, the House did work on the bill that has the Administration for Community Living, which includes the Older Americans Care Act programs and services. Ms. Petersen discussed the increase in funding for caregiver support programs but has yet to see any increases in nutrition programs, adult protective services, or evidence-based long-term care ombudsman programs.
- b. **US Aging Annual Conference Verbal Report:** Ms. Petersen reported on the US Aging Annual Conference held in Tampa, Florida. Several County staff attended the meeting and learned how other Area Agencies on Aging across the Country run their programs and services and different ways to run activities. It also provided an opportunity to learn about the Older Americans Act programs and services and get updates on national legislation. There were also advocacy sessions and activities. It was a great opportunity to learn about what other areas are doing about advocacy in different events that other units run and host.

## II. Federal Regulations and Executive Orders

No report.

## B. State Legislative Issues

### I. State and Budget Legislation

No Report.

### II. Administrative Rules and Governor's Task Forces Issue

- a. [Governor's Task Force on Healthcare Workforce](#) meets for the final time on August 8, 2024, in Madison. To review the recommendations received on the healthcare workforce and the information that is going to be on the website. Feedback relative to the work of this group should be submitted directly to [ltgovernor@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ltgovernor@wisconsin.gov). The Advocacy Committee will review the final recommendations that are posted and then send a response on their final recommendations.

## C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

### I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation - No Report

**II. Aging Items of Interest - No Report**

**VI. POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

- a) **2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Goals:** Chair Peters reviewed the 2022-2024 Advocacy Committee's goals for the current Area Agency on Aging Plan with the Committee to view their progress with the goals to decide, create, and draft what the following Area Agency on Aging goals should be for the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Goals for the Advocacy Committee. The Chair explained the processes for creating the Area Agency on Aging Plan Goals. Today, they will brainstorm new goals for the new area aging plan (Included in today's meeting packet were the 2022-2024 goal sheets).

Chair Peters discussed the next steps. He would like staff to type up the ideas that the Committee came up with today and assign some metrics for the Committee to review at their next meeting. Then, they can vote on the goals. The deadline for the final goals will be at the September meeting.

- b) **Feedback on the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Health Aging and Age Friendly Communities Strategic Framework for National Plan on Aging**” The Administration for Community Living, a federal agency responsible for administering the Older Americans Act programs and Services, put together a framework for a National Plan on Aging. They are looking to create a plan for healthy aging and age-friendly communities and are seeking public feedback on their plan. Ms. Petersen has included this information in today’s Advocacy Committee’s packets for review. The deadline for submitting correspondence is mid-September. They have four domains that they are planning for the Age-Friendly Communities: coordinating housing, supportive services, access to long-term support, and healthcare supportive services.

**MOTION:** Submit a public comment in support of the Strategic Framework for the National Plan on Aging.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Wilberg Second)

**VII. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:36 a.m.**

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Oemig Second)

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant