



**Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2024**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in person at Washington Park Senior Center, with a virtual Zoom videoconference option on Friday, January 26, 2024.

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Excused:

Terrance Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*
Cherie Swenson

Milwaukee County Staff:

County Executive David Crowley
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, *DHHS*

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
John Mack, *IMSD*
Keshawn Williams, *County Board*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Domonique Klett, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Claire O'Brien, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

James Kimble
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Roxanne Ramsey
Kaisa Kerrigan

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller called the roll; A quorum of the Commissioners was present. Chair Wilberg welcomed County Executive David Crowley to the Commission meeting and thanked him for helping to set the tone for this new year and his vision for older adults.

II. GUEST REMARKS, STATE OF THE COUNTY FOR OLDER ADULTS, HONORABLE DAVID CROWLEY, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Crowley thanked Chair Janice Wilberg and the Commission on Aging for their work. The County Executive shared the work that Milwaukee County has conducted for the past three years and the challenges that Milwaukee County is facing. The County has worked on having a better financial path. This year, with the passage of the sales tax legislation, Milwaukee County had a surplus of tax revenue. The County Executive commented on the following topics:

- Economic justice
- Investments (15 million in housing investments)
- Milwaukee County Vision (Making Milwaukee County the Healthiest County in Wisconsin, the No Wrong Door)
- Public Health (Safe and Affordable Housing, green spaces, mental health)
- Removing Barriers, improving services
- New Human Services Building under construction
- Mental Health Emergency Center (70% of people served live in the King Park neighborhood; more than 7,000 people experience mental health or substance abuse crises)
- Harm reduction vending machines (Tool to combat the opioid and gun crisis)
- New senior home repair program
- Parks Department (Creating 18 new jobs, investing 23 million in parks projects)
- Time partnership and commitment.

Commissioner Amber Miller asked the County Executive if additional funds could be used to build other bus shelters, primarily around the center centers and meal sites. The County Executive explained that the bus shelters are costly, costing the County around **\$ 10,000 per shelter**.

Chair Wilberg encouraged the administration to also use an age lens to examine policies and programs. Milwaukee County's vision used to guide the government in looking at programs and services through a racial equity lens. The role of the Commission to look at programs and services through an aging lens.

The County Executive then took pictures with the Commission on Aging.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2023, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

The December meeting minutes were unavailable for review and are tabled for the February 23, 2024, meeting.

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

Deputy Chief of Staff Tim Schabo didn't report today as County Executive Crowley provided a report.

V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS:

Senior Center Committee, Chair Eugene Guskowski: Commissioner Guskowski reported that the Senior Center Committee has been meeting regularly at different Milwaukee County senior centers. They have been learning about program outcomes and have put together presentation materials based on the final report of the Select Committee on Senior Centers that they would like to share with the full Commission in the next few months. The committee is growing as a few new members join it.

Advocacy Committee, Chair Brian Peters: Brian Peters, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, informed the Commission that he recently chaired his first Advocacy Committee meeting. They are looking to recruit more members to the committee. Commissioner Peters asked meeting attendees to contact their legislators about AB418 (details are in the Advocacy Newsletter) to support Healthy Aging grants. The Advocacy Committee has reached out to Representative Reimer about this bill. He also noted that the Committee did not support AB578, relating to the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, because the bill grants too much discretionary authority to financial institutions. He emphasized that everyone should contact and write a letter to their representatives opposing that bill. The following Advocacy Committee meeting will occur at Wilson Park Senior Center in February.

Nutrition Council, Chair Cindy Van Vreede: Cindy Van Vreede, the new Chair of the Nutrition Council, informed the Commission that they didn't have a quorum at their meeting, so they could not approve their October 24, 2023, meeting minutes. Also, there were no action items to discuss at this meeting. Most of their meeting was discussing changes in the structure of the Council. Their next meeting **on April 23, 2024**, will be virtual.

Service Delivery Committee, Chair of the Service Delivery Committee Amber Miller: Amber Miller, Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, informed the Commission that the Service Delivery Committee would hold vendor presentations on February 19, 2024, and February 21, 2024, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., from their vendors who service Milwaukee County's Aging programs and services. There are about 25 vendors. She encouraged new Commissioners to attend those meetings. Commissioner Mark Behar asked about vendor accountability. What happens to a vendor if they don't meet expectations? Director Idzikowski stated that the vendors have performance metrics on which they report monthly. If there is a deficit in meeting the metrics, the program coordinator meets with them regularly to address the issue. Critical incidents are reported to DHHS contract management.

Wellness Committee, Chair Gloria Miller: The Wellness Committee met on January 17, 2024, to discuss the remaining ARPA Wellness funding and the best investment for strengthening and growing the Wellness Programs. The Committee plans to invest in workshop supplies, facilitator training, retention, and promotion, and workshops marketed primarily within communities of color. The Wellness Committee meets every two months and will offer virtual and in-person meetings. All meetings start at 1:30 p.m. The following Wellness Committee meeting is **on** March 20, 2024, at the Greendale Health Department.

Advisory Council, Chair Denise Callaway: Chair Callaway reported that Commissioner Amber Miller presented on AARP Livable Communities, which was very helpful. Most of the meeting discussed the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan. It is a significant responsibility of the Advisory Council, and they are moving forward with working on the plan. The Advisory Council will discuss this item later in the agenda.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee meeting minutes (November 6, 2023, and November 29, 2023)
- b) The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (November 6, 2023, and November 29, 2023)
- c) Advisory council meeting minutes (December 13, 2023)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda

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

(Post-meeting, an error was discovered with the consent agenda minutes. The Commission will review them again at the next COA meeting scheduled for February 23, 2024.)

VII. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item, Consideration of a Review of the commission on Aging Bylaws relating to quorum requirements and the composition of the Executive Committee, Commission Chair, Janice Wilberg:** Two proposed COA Bylaw changes were submitted to the Commission as informational items to be taken up at the next COA meeting. The first change would be to define the composition of the Executive Committee. The second change would be to bring the quorum requirement for standing committees in conformance with the quorum requirements for the Commission and Advisory Council.

The Chair provided background information on the formation of the Executive Committee, which for some time has consisted of the COA Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Legislative Officer. The current Commission on Aging bylaws do not state who is supposed to serve on the Executive Committee. At one point, the Executive Committee was comprised of Committee Chairs. The Executive Committee decided that there needed to be a concrete definition of who should serve on the Executive Committee. So, the Executive Committee developed a recommendation to define that the Executive Committee consist of the Commission Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Legislative Officer, and one member at large elected by the body would be the Executive Committee members.

Second, the Chair mentioned that the Executive Committee discussed that the current quorum requirement for standing committees is only three members. The Executive Committee would like all the Committees and Councils to conform with the full Commission quorum requirements. So, the new quorum requirement for Committees and Councils would be 50% plus one. The Chair stated that the two items discussed today are just informational items; however, they will be action items at the next COA meeting. See the attached "COA Bylaws 2023 Rev" document for more information.

b) Action Item, Confirm the Appointment of Maureen Conrad to the Advocacy Committee, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Brian Peters:

Commissioner Peters moved the Commission to confirm Maureen Conrad's appointment to serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee.

MOTION: To confirm Maureen Conrad's appointment to the Advocacy Committee

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters moved, Van Vreede second)

c) Discussion Item, Formation of the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan, Chair of the Advisory Council, Denise Callaway: Denise Callaway, Chair of the Advisory Council, informed the Commission that the main task of the Advisory Council this year will be to develop the 2025-27 Area Aging plan. At the last Advisory Council meeting, Bekki Schmitt, Community Program Supervisor, presented an outline of the AAA area plan process. Commissioner Amber Miller gave a presentation on Livable Communities, which the Council will try to implement into the area plan along with the topics of Social Isolation and Chronic Heart Disease from last year's Advisory Council focus. The first step is to gather public input and engagement through surveys, public hearings, and focus groups. Commissioner Callaway ask for input from commissioners on groups they may want to be involved in, requesting commissioner participation in collecting input, sharing information, and being involved with the focus meetings by volunteering to chair or co-chair a meeting. Carrie Voss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator,

will also be working with the Advisory Councils on data collection. For more information, please refer to the "Timeline for 2025-27 MC Area Plan" document and the MKE County Aging Advisory Council".

- d) Discussion Item, AARP Livable Communities in Milwaukee County, Amber Miller:** Commissioner Miller is the Associate State Director of Community Outreach for AARP Wisconsin. She informed the Commission that Milwaukee County has a committee exploring participation in the AARP Livable Communities Initiative. It will be the first county within Wisconsin to commit. Commissioner Miller provided a slide presentation on the AARP Livable Communities initiative. The program educates local leaders and elected officials, engages residents on street safety (walkability, pedestrian safety, affordable housing, access to transportation), and seek to help make the community age-friendly for people of all ages. For more information, please see the "NAFSC Intro Handout-singles 2023" handout.

VIII. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, DHHS AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES, AGING UNIT DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI

AAA Aging Director Daniel Idzikowski first recognized his staff who were present. He provided a few highlights from his January 2024 report. They were:

- Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative
- Emphasized Wellness regarding social isolation and loneliness.
- Discussed significant challenges with the older adult transportation system
- The hiring of a new AAA Transportation Coordinator
- Nutrition Services caterer changes (Aramark Corrections and Davians)
- Milwaukee County Senior Center signs, repairs, and remodeling
- American Heart Association's partnership with AAA on Chronic Heart Disease program will provide free blood pressure monitors to seniors.

For more information, please see the attached documents titled "USAging ADVC Milwaukee County Narrative Report" and the "2024 Jan AAA Director's Report".

IX. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, LAURA LANGER

Laura Langer for the State Office on Aging reported on the following:

- The State Office on Aging is finalizing the instructions for the Aging plan; the focus will be on person-centered activities.
- Health Equity and Emergency Management from ACL suggest preparing for another pandemic and what we learned from the previous one.

- The State is conducting outreach to tribal members and will work with Milwaukee County to create partnerships with their tribal members.
- The State is scheduling meetings with all the AAAs throughout the State regarding the Aging Area Plan. The Department of Health Services is offering one-time funding. There are no updates currently on this program; more information is forthcoming.
- The State Office on Aging will hold an Aging and Disability and Independent Living Network Conference from April 23 – April 25, 2024 in La Crosse.

X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Taylor reported that her office is sending out the agenda to other county board supervisors to bring awareness of the meetings and asking for assistance and input on finding people available to attend and or become a member. She informed the Commission that the County Board meets the last Thursday of every month.

XI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Wilberg asked Commissioner Mark Behar, PA-C, MPAS, to introduce himself to the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Behar is a Physician Assistant who currently volunteers at the Repairs of the Breach Medical Clinic and also Bread of Healing Eastbrook. He also serves on the Older Adult Member Advisory Committee of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The Commission on Aging welcomes Commissioner Behar to the Commission.

Chair Wilberg mentioned she provided public comment to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board last night. The Chair provided copies of her remarks to the Commission. She encouraged all Commissioners to represent the Commission in these types of venues. She envisions the livable communities initiative and the AAA Area plan as the two significant areas of emphasis for this Commission this year, which means all hands-on deck. She's working on making the Commission on Aging a visible instrumental entity in the community.

She announced that today, Administrator Marietta Luster has arranged for a photographer to take the Commissioner's photographs individually to include them on the DHHS Aging Website.

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

There were no announcements from the public or the Commission.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:05 A.M.

MOTION: To adjourn

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

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, February 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant

OPTIONAL, TOUR OF WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER

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