



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2024**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at the West Allis Senior Center on Friday, October 4, 2024. Members and attendees also joined the meeting virtually and by conference call.

Members Present:

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*
Harold Oemig, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner George Banda
Maureen Conrad
Sopheya Farrell
Paulette Maclin
William Meunier
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Members Excused:

John Griffith
Trina Koch
Gary Mikolajczyk
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

Milwaukee County Staff

Claire Enders, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*
Bailey Knutson
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Commissioner Mark Behar
Joseph Crivello
Kimberly King
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*
Rene Smith
Commissioner Crocker Stephenson
Kimberly Woods
Stephanie Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Emily Petersen, AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, took roll call. As a quorum was absent, the committee reviewed informational items until they reached a quorum.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2024, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Brian Peters requested that the minutes be amended to reflect the correct spelling of ASL Interpreter Jill Kenehan-Krey last name.

MOTION: To approve the September 6, 2024, Advocacy Committee meeting minutes with the identified correction made.

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

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Area Aging Plan Public Hearings in October: This month, there will be three public hearings on the 2025-2027 Area Agency on Aging Area Plan Goals, providing a significant opportunity for the Community to give feedback on the goals the Commission on Aging's (COA's) Committees and Councils have developed. Chair Peters plans to attend two meetings (October 8 and October 9, 2024). He encourages the Advocacy Committee members to attend at least one of the three meeting (See flyers in meeting packets for more information).

- October 7, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. On Zoom
- October 8, 2024, from 9 p.m. – 10:30 a.m. at Washington Park Senior Center
- October 9, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Franklin Public Library

Lunch and Learn Panel: The Advocacy Committee is holding a Lunch and Learn Panel meeting on October 17, 2024. This meeting will allow the Advocacy Committee and attendees to talk with three of their legislators about the Advocacy goals and the 2025-2027 Area Agency on Aging Plan Goals. There will be a Q & A session after the discussion.

- **Advocacy Lunch and Learn Panel**, October 17, 2024, from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. at McGovern Senior Center

County Board Public 2025 Budget Hearing: The County Board is holding its public hearing this month. Ms. Petersen included a press release about the event in today's meeting packet. She will also email a flyer to everyone who was not able to attend today's meeting. Chair Peters encouraged everyone to attend and provide advocacy for the \$283,000 supplement to the AAA budget that was not included in the 2025 County Budget.

- **Milwaukee County Annual Budget Hearing**, Monday, October 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. An in-person (Milwaukee County's Zoofari, 9715 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53213) and hybrid meeting.

IV. UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS

- A. Comment on the Strategic Framework for a national Plan on Aging:** This topic was discussed at the Commission on Aging's August and September meetings and adopted by the Commission on Aging (COA). The final comments were added to today's meeting packet.
- B. Comment on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's ADA Transition Plan:** This topic was discussed at the Commission on Aging's August and September meetings and adopted by the Commission on Aging (COA). The final comments were added to today's meeting packet.

C. Comment on the Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce

Recommendations: The Advocacy Committee discussed this agenda item last month, but the Commission on Aging (COA) must still address the comments, as the COA didn't list them on last month's agenda. The Commission on Aging will vote on these comments at the October meeting.

D. Comment on the Growing MKE Initiative: The Advocacy Committee discussed this agenda item last month, but the Commission on Aging (COA) must still address the comments, as the COA didn't list them on last month's agenda. The Commission on Aging will vote on these comments at the October meeting.

V. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICE UPDATES

A. Federal Aging Policy

I. Federal Budget and Issues

a. FY2025 Budget Update: The current 2024 Fiscal Federal budget ended on September 30, 2024. Due to the November elections and the uncertainty surrounding them, the 2025 fiscal federal budget is under a continuing resolution. Therefore, all the budget levels are set at the 2024 funding levels. After the elections, funding negotiations will continue to set the final 2025 Fiscal Federal Budget.

II. Federal Regulations and Executive Orders

a. U.S. Access Board Proposed Rule on ADA Compliance of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Comments due November 4, 2024: The US Access Board has proposed accessibility standards for electric vehicle charging stations. New funding has been provided to increase the number of charging stations throughout the US, including a significant number in Milwaukee County, which will impact the populations that Milwaukee County serves. Today, the Advocacy Committee is reviewing the current accessibility standards to identify any missing standard items in the guidelines. If any items need to be included, the Advocacy Committee will then draft a comment letter to the US Access Board. This letter will include the items they believe should be added to the current guidelines, along with a detailed explanation of why these items are important.

MOTION: To approve sending a comment on the U.S. Access Board Proposed Rule on ADA Compliance of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

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

B. State Legislative Issues

- I. State Budget & Legislation:** Currently, no updates.
- II. Administrative Rules & Governor's Taskforces Issue:** Currently, no updates.

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

- a. Presentation on the County Executive's 2025 Recommended Budget Joseph "Joe" Lamers, the Director of Milwaukee County's Strategy Budget and Performance Office:** Director Lamers provided an overview and updates on the County Executive's 2025 Recommended Budget, including revenues and expenditures, structural deficit, Act 12 impacts, and 2025 budget details. He also shared information about a grant (SBP-PMO Grants Support, Aging Services Grant Activities 2022-2024) that his office is working on in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). After the presentation, there was a Q&A session.
- b. Milwaukee County Supervisors Budget Hearing:** The County Supervisors have started holding 2025 budget hearings in their district. For more information, contact your supervisor's office or look on CLIC for the meeting dates, times, and locations.

II. Aging Items of Interest

VI. POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- **Voting - November Elections:** Chair Peters encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:27 a.m. The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant