



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

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2026**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at the Marcia Coggs Human Services Center at 1230 W Cherry Street, Milwaukee, WI 53205. 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
Gary Mikolajczyk
Kathy Scott
Tom Suchecki
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Members Excused

William Meunier

Milwaukee County Staff

Clare O'Brien, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Rene Smith
George, *ASL Interpreter*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. The AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, Emily Petersen conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2025 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the November 7, 2025 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.

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

III. ELECTION OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Commissioner George Banda nominated Gary Mikolajczyk for Vice Chair. Mikolajczyk accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: To approve Gary Mikolajczyk as Advocacy Committee Vice Chair.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- A. 2026 Policy Priorities Listening Sessions**
- B. 2026 Alzheimer's Association 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 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. State Budget & Legislation

- a. Review State Legislation Tracker:** Emily reviewed the updated items on the State Legislation Tracker document. The Committee discussed with no action taken.

II. Administrative Rules & Governor's Taskforces

- a. Speaker Vos Task Force on Elder Issues.** Emily provided an update on this item. The Committee discussed with no action taken.

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

II. Aging Items of Interest.

VI. 2026 POLICY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

- A. Review 2025 Policy Priorities Document and discuss proposed changes for 2026.** The Committee reviewed the 2025 document and discussed potential updates and changes for 2026. The Committee also discussed incorporating

input from the listening sessions occurring in late January. The Committee will decide on final changes at the February 2026 meeting. No action was taken on this item.

VII. 2025-2027 AGING AREA PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS REVIEW

A. Review 2025 Quarter 4 progress report. The Committee did not take up this item and it will be reviewed at the February 2026 meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m. The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager