



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 Susecki  
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

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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 (Susecki 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