



**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in person at Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, 1220 W. Vliet St., with a virtual Zoom option on Friday, September 27, 2024.

**Commissioners Present:**

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Terrence R. Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*  
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*  
Amber Miller, *At Large Member*  
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*  
George Banda  
Denise Callaway  
Eugene Guskowski  
Marni King  
Paula Penebaker  
Jacqueline Smith  
Crocker Stephenson  
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor  
Cindy Van Vreede

**Commissioners Absent**

Mark Behar

**Milwaukee County Staff:**

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Claire Enders, *DHHS*  
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*  
Kaisa Kerrigan, *DHHS*  
Debra Horton, *DHHS*  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Migdalia Pacheco, *DHHS*

**Milwaukee County Staff Continued...**

Baily Knutson,  
Jill Knight, *DHHS*  
Julie Lara, *DHHS*  
Jonathan Matte, *DHHS*  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, *DHHS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Timothy Schabo, *County Executive's Office*  
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*  
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*  
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*  
Nina Yang, *DHHS*  
Deidra Williams, *DHHS*

**Attendees from the Public**

Christie Carter, *LGBT Ctr of MKE*  
John Griffith  
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*  
Lisa Hassenstab, *Disability Vote Coalition*  
James Kimble  
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*  
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ACL Interpreter*  
James Sheridan  
Mary Till, *Life Navigators*  
Stephanie Zito, *ACL Interpreter*  
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

**MINUTES**

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

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller took the roll call; A quorum of the Commissioners was present.

## II. VOTER REGISTRATION AND PROMOTION, LISA HASSENSTAB, DISABILITY VOTE COALITION, PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER

Lisa Hassenstab, the Public Policy Manager for the Disability Vote Coalition, outlined the Coalition's focus leading up to the November 5, 2024, election. Their goal is to educate voters with disabilities about their rights and dispel myths about voting restrictions. They are committed to ensuring accessibility to polling places and providing information about absentee ballots and voting options for individuals with disabilities. The Coalition operates a voter hotline and "Election Protection" hotline, offering translation services in Spanish, Arabic, and several Asian languages.

## III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 23, 2024, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

Upon the following corrections: Correct the spelling of Commissioner Moore's last name and add Commissioner Jacqueline Smith to the attendance list.

MOTION: To approve the August 23, 2024, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

## IV. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Commissioner Brian Peters, Chair of the Advocacy Committee**, reported to the commission that the Committee had recently met to review its eight goals and metrics for the 2025-2027 Area Agency plan.
- **Commissioner Amber Miller, Chair of the Service Delivery Committee (SDC)**, informed the commission that the SDC had discussed the 2025 staff funding recommendations and reviewed their goals and metrics for the Area Plan in their recent meeting.
- **Commissioner Gloria Miller, Chair of the Wellness Committee**, gave an overview of the May and September Wellness Committee meetings. They presented the Living with Chronic Conditions program, a significant initiative, and conducted outreach to communities of color through InPower marketing.
- **Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair of the Advisory Council**, information on their work in the agenda when discussing the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan.
- **Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede, Chair of the Nutrition Council**, did not provide a new report.
- **The Chair of the Senior Center Committee (SCC), Commissioner Eugene Guskowski**, along with COA Chair Janice Wilberg, Commissioner Crocker Stevenson, and Mark Behar, presented the Committee's work to the County

Board of Supervisors subcommittees on Finance and Health and Human Needs. They also focused on setting their goals for the next Area Aging Plan.

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee meeting minutes (August 9, 2024)
- b) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (August 2, 2024)
- c) Senior Center Committee meeting minutes (August 2, 2024)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda items listed above.

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

## VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item/Discussion, Non-Commission Committee Member Nomination to the Advocacy Committee, Paulette Maclin, Commission Brian Peters, Chair, Advocacy Committee:** Commissioner Peters summarized candidate Paulett Maclin's resume for the Commission. After reviewing it, Commissioner Peters motioned to approve Ms. Maclin's appointment to serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee.

**MOTION:** To approve Paulette Maclin membership to the Advocacy Committee

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

- b) **Action/Discussion Item, Comments on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation' ADA Transition Plan, Commissioner Brian Peters, Chair, Advocacy Committee:** The State of Wisconsin is required to develop an ADA transition plan every two years to ensure sidewalk curb cuts are accessible and and that they include detectable warning fields for the vision impaired. The Advocacy Committee is seeking the Commission's approval of the comment letter that the Committee wants to send to WisDOT (included in today's packet).

MOTION: Send a comment letter to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding their ADA Transition Plan.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters Moved, Van Vreede Second).

- c) **Action/Discussion Item, 2025 Administrative Renewal Allocations and Vendor Contracts, Commission Amber Miller, Chair, Service Delivery Committee:** Commissioner Miller reviewed the 2025 Administrative Renewal Allocations and Vendor Contracts with the Commission and provided explanations on variances on funding between 2024 and 2025. Commissioner

Miller is seeking approval from the Commission on the 2025 Administrative Renewal Allocations and Vendor Contracts.

MOTION: To approve 2025 Administrative Renewal Allocations and Vendor Contracts as presented in handout.

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

- d) Informational Item, 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Preliminary Goals Update, Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair of the Aging Advisory Council:** Commissioner Callaway informed the Commission that today's Advisory Council item regards the next steps for the preliminary goals for the Area Aging Plan. The Advisory Council scheduled three more public hearings for the first week in October to gather feedback from the public. Commissioner Callaway included the Area Aging Plan draft goals in today's meeting packet for review. The next Advisory Council meeting will be on October 16, 2024 and will be open for questions and comments on any changes to the preliminary goals. The Chair encouraged the Committee and Council members to attend the October Advisory Council meeting.
- e) Informational/Discussion Item. "No Wrong Door, Aging integration into DHHS", Emily Kenney, DHHS Director of Strategic Initiatives:** Emily Kenney, LCSW, Strategic Initiatives and Transformation Director, is updating the DHHS Strategic Plan for the "No Wrong Door" and working on an implementation update for 2025-2027. The plan aims to include improved access to services for older adults. Ms. Kenney presented data analytics on how individuals aged 60 and above access services across DHHS, focusing on AAA, Housing, Behavioral Health, and the ADRC. The data revealed significant increases in accessing Aging and Disability Services and Behavioral Health services, signifying a positive trend in service access. For more information, refer to the "NWD Commission on Aging Presentation 2024" PowerPoint.

## **VII. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Idzikowski provided some key points from his report: ACL granted funds to Milwaukee County's Adult Protective Services and Housing Services Division for shelter and emergency response for older adults. He recognize the valuable contributions of AAA staff members: Claire Enders, Transportation Coordinator, Jill Knight, Program Coordinator, Kayla Steinke, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Emily Petersen's, Advocacy and Policy Manager and Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator. For more, refer to the "2024-09 AAA Director's Report."

## **VIII. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT**

Laura Langer, Program Coordinator for the State Office on Aging reported that the Office on Aging is working on its State Aging plan, due March 2025. The State Office on Aging's goals will include implementing some of the new Older Americans Act regulations. For example, Title IIIC1 funding for Congregate Meals Program allows

funds to provide meals to unhoused individuals who cannot get to a meal site. Another change will be to the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP). Currently, to be enrolled in this program, you must have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or dementia and be income qualified. The State is in the process of changing the Wisconsin statutory language so that a person no longer must be diagnosed with Dementia or Alzheimer's and will not have to be income qualified, which will allow more people to access the program. The new program will be called the Wisconsin Family Caregiver Program and then be able to be used as match for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP).

DHS was awarded a Family Caregiver Support Grant of \$250,000 a year for two years. This funding will partly go to the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin for respite care to partners throughout Wisconsin. Lynn Gall administers all three programs in the State Office. If you have any questions, you can contact Lynn Gall or Laura Langer.

#### **IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Taylor has announced that the County Executive will deliver his budget address on October 1 at 4 p.m. Following the address, the County Supervisors will review and make decisions. The County Supervisors have begun holding their district town hall meetings to ensure that all voices are heard. You can find your County Supervisor's town hall meeting schedule on their supervisor page or social media (Facebook). If you need help finding your supervisor's town hall meetings or identifying who your supervisor is, you can contact Supervisor Taylor's office for assistance.

Supervisor Taylor encouraged the Commission to submit any budget items they want to propose to the entire County Board to ensure that all supervisors are aware of their request. The Commission's role in the budget process is crucial. The county budget will be finalized on November 1, 2024, and it is past its fiscal cliff. In conclusion, she asked the Commission to promptly inform her if they had any specific budget requests.

#### **X. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

County Executive David Crowley will be introducing his 2025 Recommended Budget next Tuesday, October 1st at 4pm with an address to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. This event is significant as it marks a crucial step in our journey towards financial sustainability. Since taking office in 2020, County Executive Crowley has been dedicated to this cause, and it's thanks to your support and collaboration that we have made significant progress despite ongoing fiscal challenges. In June 2023, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed Wisconsin Act 12 to reform the state's local revenue-sharing structure for the first time in over two decades. This legislation allowed Milwaukee County to reform its pension system, generating millions of dollars in to address unfunded pension liabilities and free up some revenue for program sustainability. For more information, see "COA CEX Office Report September".

## **XI. COMMISSION ON AGING CHAIR REPORT**

Janice Wilberg, Chair of the Commission on Aging invited the Commission to consider the impact of their advocacy efforts in the field of behavioral health and AAA's staff work, which has led to a significant focus on the unique needs of individuals over 60. The Chair praised the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and AAA staff for their diligent work in training, outreach, and improving access to behavioral health services. She acknowledged the work of the AAA Director and staff for their successful organization of the 2024 Aging Network Summit. Chair Wilberg, in partnership with the AAA Director, is actively involving the Commissioners in the planning of upcoming events and ensuring they have the necessary support, fostering a sense of inclusion and shared responsibility.

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

There were a few comments from the public and commissioners listed below in summary.

- The Commission needs to consider the growing number of seniors living alone in Milwaukee County when discussing policies. It's important to address the specific needs of minority populations. Remember to vote and show appreciation for poll workers during the election season. Commissioner Van Vreede is hosting a **Debate Watch party on October 1, 2024**, at the LGBT Center, there will be refreshments and beverages. There are issues with the Milwaukee County Housing Division returning calls for assistance for the homeless, mainly folks from the "Park and Ride".

## **XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION: To adjourn to go into closed session

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

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Terrence R. Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*  
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*  
Amber Miller, *At Large Member*  
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*  
George Banda

Denise Callaway  
Eugene Guszowski  
Marni King  
Paula Penebaker  
Crocker Stephenson  
Cindy Van Vreede

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: To adjourn meeting

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (King Moved, Pennebaker Second)

Meeting Adjourned At 11:04:A.M. The Next Commission on Aging Meeting will be Friday, October 25, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant

DRAFT