



Milwaukee County Meeting Minutes

Milwaukee County Youth Commission Committee of the Whole

Co-Chairs- Marianna Taylor & D'Mario Cockfield, Sarah Bruett (1st), Victor Essoka (2nd), Augie Baum (3rd), Kennedy Slaastad (4th), Jhuablai Thao (5th), Brody Kaminski (6th), Ezran Anastas (7th), Jayden Maholmes (8th), Abhi Ghelani (9th), Keith Neely (10th), Ansh Paranjyia (11th), Vacant (12th), Kyree Dunn (13th); Ben Elko (14th), Sean Libal (15th), Bradley Rhode (16th), Zenia Shaker (17th), and Eva Vang (18th).

Adult Advisors

Nicolasa Alamilla, Deon Canon, Ald. Sharlen P. Moore, Nichole Todd, Sup. Kathleen Vincent

Administrative Coordinador

Julia Balestrieri

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

5:30 PM

Room 203-R & Microsoft Teams

HYBRID MEETING

HYBRID MEETING This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: [Milwaukee County - Milwaukee County Youth Commission \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com)

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call at 5:33PM

- **Present- 13 -Bruett, Dunn, Elko, Essoka, Ghelani, Kaminski, Libal, Maholmes, Neely, Paranjyia, Vang, Cockfield, Taylor**
- **Absent- Anastas, Baum, Rhode, Shaker, Slaasted, Thao**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office to provide an overview of Robert's Rules of Order and other meeting procedures (Information Only)

Presented By: Stefan Dostanic

- 📌 **Types of Motions**
- 📌 **Precedence of motions**
- 📌 **How to make a simple motion**
- 📌 **Chair can not make a motion only answer a question**

RESOLUTIONS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

From the Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation:

2. Microgrants- Authorization and revised timeline (Action Item)

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the process, evaluation criteria, eligibility, restrictions, and issue and submission dates of the Milwaukee County Youth Commission 2025 Microgrants Application pending review and approval by the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC).

Process:

Application will be posted on the Youth Commission website; proposals to be scored by the members of the Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation; awards to be announced during the Committee's meeting on September 17, 2025; funds must be spent by December 31, 2025; final report due on January 31, 2026. Evaluation Criteria: See application for final evaluation criteria.

Eligibility:

Non-profit organizations or high school-based student organizations located in Milwaukee County that directly serve or benefit youth ages 14-18. *Individuals or for-profit, religious, partisan, and political (C4) organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE.*

Restrictions:

- 1) Award ceiling of \$5,000; and
- 2) the same organization will not be awarded more than once within a calendar year.

Issue (post) Date: April 30, 2025.

Submission Date (deadline): May 31, 2025.

Action Item motion is needed:

Commissioner Elko I move to adopt the motion

Commissioner Libal 2nd

Chari: Taylor, it has been probably moved and 2nd to adopt the motion are there any questions? Seeing none we will now vote: 19 Ayes 0 against

Motion Passes

Commissioner Anastas hand raise Co-Chair Cockfield acknowledged Commissioner Anastas:

Commissioner Anastas "I just want the record to reflect that I am present." Co-Chair Cockfield Thank you it is noted; I see others online with their hands raised is that what you wanted to state as well? Commissioners online in unison "YES"

Nikki Todd Madam Chair: Chair acknowledged Ms. Todd: Can we have those online please turn their cameras on if they are able to please. Co-Chair repeats statements to those online. Voting continues:

Nikki Tood Madam Chair: Chair acknowledges Ms. Todd: Are we able to re-do roll call as the commissioners online were not present during roll call due to technical issues. Chair response yes.

Chair begins new roll call 6:08PM

Present 19- Anastas, Baum, Bruett, Dunn, Elko, Essoka, Ghelani, Kaminski, Libal, Maholmes, Neely, Paraniyiya, Rhode, Shaker, Slaasted, Thao, Vang, Cockfield, Taylor

Absent 0

3. Non-monetary “Excellence in Youth Impact” Awards- Authorization and revised timeline (Action Item)

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the process, evaluation criteria, eligibility, and issue and submission dates of the (non-monetary) 2025 Excellence in Youth Action Awards as follows:

Process: Application will be posted on the Youth Commission website; applications to be scored by the members of the Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation; awards to be presented during the Committee’s meeting on June 11, 2025.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Work is directly related to one of the three priority areas (youth homelessness, youth mental health, and youth civic engagement);
- 2) Work has had a measurable positive impact on Milwaukee County youth ages 14-18; and
- 3) Organization or group has demonstrated a commitment to racial equity and/or racial justice.

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations or high school-based student organizations located in Milwaukee County that directly serve or benefit youth ages 14-18. *Individuals or for-profit, religious, partisan, and political (C4) organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE.*

Issue (post) Date: April 30, 2025.

Submission Date (deadline): May 31, 2025.

Action Item Motion is needed:

Commissioner Bruett I moved that we adopted this motion Chair: Is there a 2nd? Commissioner Kaminski 2nd. Chair: Is there any debate? Seeing none: Commissioner Cockfield take vote:

19 Ayes

0 No

Motion passes

4. 2025 Day of Advocacy Items- Authorization (Action Item)

The Youth Commission hereby approves the following action items for the 2025 Day of Advocacy, which will be held at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison on Wednesday, April 9, 2025:

Youth Homelessness

- Expand the [McKinney-Vento Act's](#) implementation in Wisconsin by creating connections between schools and community programs to support homeless youth who are not attending school. Currently the McKinney-Vento Act in effect only supports students who are attending school, but many homeless youths may not be attending school regularly. This expansion ensures that these youth can access housing, healthcare, and re-enrollment services through partnerships beyond the education system.

Youth General Health & Wellbeing (please note that one of these three items will be selected based on feedback from subject matter experts)

- Reduce the student-to-psychologist ratio in Wisconsin from 500:1 to 250:1 over a period of eight-ten years to match the ratio for guidance counselors and social workers and allocate funding to sustain this ratio long-term. [The current student-to-psychologist ratio in Wisconsin is 500:1](#), which is insufficient to meet the needs. Funding would include providing grants to school districts for hiring qualified psychologists and offering incentives for mental health professionals to work in underserved areas.
- Ensure that every student in Wisconsin public schools has the option to meet with a school-based psychologist, social worker, or guidance counselor at least once per academic year. This would help schools to facilitate early identification of mental health needs and prompt intervention, reduce stigma, identify issues that are affecting more than individual students, and address issues that may otherwise go unnoticed.
- Require all Wisconsin public schools to offer a unit on wellbeing as part of their physical education curriculum for students ages 4th grade and higher. The unit would cover mental health awareness, stress management, and strategies for maintaining a healthy school-life balance, including mindfulness, yoga, and other self-care activities.

Youth Civic Engagement

- Require all Wisconsin public high school students to complete a set number of hours of civic engagement experiences and direct school boards to provide adequate resources for them to do so. Students could fulfill this requirement by participating in civic activities, such as attending local government meetings or volunteering for (non-political, non-partisan) civic organizations.

Chair this is an action item a motion is needed: Commissioner Libal I move that we adopt this motion: Chair: Is there a 2nd? Commissioner Paranjyia 2nd.Chair any questions? Commissioner

Commissioner online had a question however he was to low and tech wasn't clear could only hear half of the statement which basically asked about the coordination of the day of Advocacy.

The chair acknowledged Nikki Todd who explained that the GFE committee formed an AD HOC committee that will work on the details of that day so no one team would be doing all the work on that day.

Commissioner Elko- So this question is to the chair so, the mental health act we are going to lobby the state government for, that but like that act is on the federal government level, so, like what are you going to do about that or like what are we looking to do on a state level?

Chair: Well on the state level maybe, like re-evaluate what is being offered in school, to ensure there is more offered.

No More questions: Commissioner Cockfield start votes:

19 Ayes

0 No's Motions passes

5. Open Forum

Commissioner Kaminski, I want to say welcome and good luck to all the new commissioners.

Commissioner Libal- Are we able to go over what the Ad HOC committee is and what they do? Yes, the committee will work on the details of the day for the day of Advocacy making sure everything is done and in order for that day that it runs smoothly.

Commissioner Bruett- I am working with the committee of engagement to work on creating like each month we highlight a person, so for example for Black History month we highlight someone important and then for March women's month we highlight a woman I was wondering if any of you had any people in mind?

- **Ms. Nikki Todd – wanted to provide clarity for the day of Advocacy, it is April 9th the expectation for the Commissioners is as follows:**
- **2 representatives from each district, you will be expected to be there for the day, and it will be an all-day event. It will be a long day so be ready.**

Ms. Julia Balisteri please be sure commissioners to pick-up your shirts tonight they are from the OCC-Office of Corporation Counsel.

Alderwoman Moore-Please check your e-notified as I will still provide information through that platform. Please know this is a platform where you can find out everything from when your garbage pick-up day and so many other things, its really a great tool to engage our residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair is there a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Libal, I move to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Cockfield 2nd

All those in favor say Aye 19 all those oppose say No: 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM