



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

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2025**

The Milwaukee County Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at Independence First on Friday, October 3, 2025. Members and attendees also joined the meeting virtually and by conference call.

Members Present

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*
Commissioner George Banda, *Vice-Chair*
Maureen Conrad
Sopheya Farrell
Kimberly King
Trina Koch
Paulette Maclin
William Meunier
Kathy Scott
Tom Suchecki
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Members Excused

Gary Mikolajczyk
Harold Oemig

Milwaukee County Staff

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

Attendees from the Public

Veraunica Ruffin, *Eras Senior Network*
Rene Smith
Brook Stanley, *Milwaukee LGBT Community Center*
Andrew T. Steward, *UWM*
Steph Zito, *ASL Interpreter*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, Emily Petersen conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the September 5, 2025 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda Moved, Suchecki Second)

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Chair Peters highlighted several upcoming events (For more information, see attached flyer):

A. Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Annual Public Hearing on the Budget: This item was discussed by the Committee with no action taken.

B. AARP Wisconsin's Fall Advocacy Summit: This item was discussed by the Committee with no action taken.

C. Lunch and Learn Advocating for Caregivers and Individuals Living with Dementia: This item was discussed by the Committee with no action taken.

IV. PRESENTATION ON AGEISM AND AGING TOGETHER BY ANDREW STEWARD, P.D., LCSW

Dr. Steward provided a presentation titled "Ageism and Aging Together." 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.

b. LRB-4509: proposed legislation relating to income tax credit for property tax credits paid by certain senior citizens. The Committee discussed this item and asked for more information about the bill from the sponsor. There was 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 which of its current policy priorities should be elevated with the Task force, which included senior nutrition, transportation, caregiving, and elder benefits specialists. There was no action taken.

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

- a. Milwaukee County 2026 Budget update.** Emily provided an update on the 2026 Milwaukee County Budget process. The Committee discussed with no action taken.

- II. Aging Items of Interest.** There was no update provided on this item, so the Committee did not take it up at this meeting.

VI. 2025-2027 AGING AREA AGENCY PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS REVIEW

- a. Review 2025 Quarter 3 Progress Report.** The report was not ready by the time this meeting occurred so the Committee will review this item at the November meeting. There was no action taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.. The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager