

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: 4/17/2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Scott F. Brown, Corporation Counsel

Subject: The Office of Corporation Counsel 2024 Annual Report

File Type: Informational Report

This informational report provides a report on how the Office of Corporation Counsel set and achieved its 2024 goals.

POLICY

This report aligns to Chapter 108: Achieving Racial Equity & Health.

Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 108: Achieving Racial Equity & Health
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ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

Alignment to the above strategic goals is articulated in responses to the questions below.

BODY

The OCC strives to be a valued, inclusive partner to our County clients and stakeholders through:

- Fostering sound decision making with an eye toward equity and inclusion.
 - Providing outstanding service that is accurate, clear, pragmatic, and representative of the highest standards of integrity and attorney ethics.
 - Reducing the County's legal risk.
 - Implementing best-in-class policies and procedures.
 - Helping clients achieve operational efficiencies.
 - Establishing internal priorities that drive the efficient allocation of limited resources while meeting client expectations.
 - Managing and retaining OCC's talented employees to ensure effective and efficient client service while also recognizing the individual contributions of our team members and supporting each team member's individual professional growth.
1. Please submit your Scorecard Report along with this report, to show progress on your Department/Office's top goals in 2024. If you would like to add any additional information about the extent to which you accomplished your goals, please do so here.

In 2024, OCC experienced significant change given the departure of former Corporation Counsel Margaret Daun and the elevation of current Corporation Counsel Scott Brown. Despite the many challenges change of any kind brings to an organization, OCC continued its progress toward achieving its top goals and remains committed to doing so in 2025.

2. What key factors *enabled* progress toward accomplishing these goals?

The OCC team shares in the County's mission and vision and is committed to excellence. It is because of our team's engagement with each other and with County stakeholders that we have been able to make progress toward accomplishing our top goals. We have continued to meet regularly to discuss our progress and keep these discussions top of mind to ensure accountability in achieving our goals.

3. What key factors *hindered* progress toward accomplishing these goals?

As already mentioned, 2024 brought significant change to OCC. Throughout much of 2024, we were not fully staffed due in large part to Scott Brown becoming Interim/Acting Corporation Counsel then Corporation Counsel and William Davidson serving as Interim Deputy Corporation Counsel then Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Because we were not fully staffed, we were unable to devote the time necessary to succeed in achieving our top goals to ensure we could continue to provide high quality day-to-day advice and legal services to our County partners. As we have begun 2025, we have successfully recruited an attorney experienced in much of the mental health work OCC performs daily to serve as Deputy Corporation Counsel devoted to supporting and leading OCC's Mental Health team and are presently recruiting two additional Assistant Corporation Counsels to join our team. With these positions now being filled, OCC leadership anticipates having more time to devote to mid and long-term planning, which includes ensuring we move swiftly to achieve our top goals in 2025.

4. If any goals are changing, please list your Department/Office goals for 2025. (Please put "N/A" if your goals will remain the same.)

Recognizing the importance of developing and then maintaining a consistent process for recruiting new employees, OCC is determined to establish by July 1, 2025 our new recruitment process. In doing so, OCC will ensure that we reach a broader audience of potential applicants and that candidates will have a clear understanding of what to expect during the recruitment process and what their responsibilities will be if selected to join our office.

FISCAL EFFECT

The report is informational only and there is no fiscal impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

PREPARED BY:

Scott F. Brown, Corporation Counsel;
William G. Davidson, Deputy Corporation Counsel;
Karen L. Tidwall, Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED BY:

ATTACHMENTS:

OCC Scorecard

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk