



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CORY MASON

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY

November 16, 2016

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 9th St, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chair Lipscomb and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors:

I write today to express my enthusiastic support for Holly Davis to serve as the next Director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging – Older Adults. Ms. Davis is an outstanding administrator and a skilled advocate for critical challenges faced by Wisconsin's children and seniors.

I have had the privilege to know Holly Davis both personally and professionally for nearly thirty years. During Ms. Davis's tenure at Next Generation Now in Racine, I saw her consistently implement bold, progressive approaches to what became Wisconsin's YoungStar child care rating system from the program's inception. Ms. Davis's ability to rapidly adapt to the new regulatory environment proved invaluable to both the providers and parents in my district. Without the assistance of Holly Davis, it would have been significantly more difficult to quickly and correctly advise my constituents on how best to navigate the new YoungStar system.

For the past six years, Ms. Davis served as director of the Milwaukee Early Care Administration (MECA), Department of Children and Families. In that time, she successfully reduced wait times for child care authorizations by implementing new, rapid solutions to long-standing backlogs. Child care authorizations that once took several days, or even weeks, were consistently completed on a same-day basis thanks to new approaches conceived and executed by Ms. Davis. Her work with providers and other stakeholders to improve best practices would be a tremendous asset to the Milwaukee County Department on Aging – Older Adults.

Ms. Davis is an extremely talented administrator with significant experience in the particular challenges faced by Milwaukee County and southeast Wisconsin. Holly always strives to put the needs of southeast Wisconsin's most vulnerable citizens first. I have the utmost confidence that Ms. Davis' record of collaborative and creative accomplishments in public service administration will continue with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about Ms. Davis's experience and qualifications.

Sincerely,

Cory Mason
State Representative
66th Assembly District



201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

November 11, 2016

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Dear Board Members:


I write to provide my highest recommendation for Holly Davis as the director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging - Older Adults. I have had the opportunity to observe Holly's performance for the past six years and she is an exceptional manager focused on effectively and efficiently delivering services to the community.

Holly Davis joined DCF in November 2010 to manage the Milwaukee Early Care Administration (MECA), a unit of the department providing direct service to Milwaukee County residents. During her almost six years managing MECA she improved customer service, reduced wait times for child care authorizations and worked closely with the child care provider community to ensure payments were processed timely.

When Holly began at MECA parents were waiting days, and sometimes weeks, to get a child care authorization. Holly quickly identified solutions that reduced the wait time and began putting reporting processes in place to provide information that would support process improvement. She ultimately revamped the authorization process so that a parent who had been determined eligible for child care would receive an authorization on the same day they contacted MECA. She applied a similar approach to smoothing out the reimbursement process for child care providers. Most providers submitted billing documents in the first week of each two week period. This caused delays in processing payments and left the staff underutilized during the second week. She took steps to balance the billing and payments over each week of the period resulting in faster, more efficient processing of payments for providers.

These two examples, and there are more, highlight Holly's strengths as a manager in a public sector service based organization. She constantly looks for opportunities to improve customer service. She develops good data and uses it to make informed decisions and hold subordinate managers accountable. She discussed ideas for process improvement with stakeholders and customers so they can understand the changes and provide feedback or suggestions. She implements improvements and continues to evaluate them to look for new or additional opportunities to improve service delivery. Her constant drive to improve the organization and the services provided to the community will serve her well in her new position in the County.

Sincerely,


Eloise Anderson
Secretary

November 18, 2016

Mr. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Chairman, Milwaukee County Board Supervisors
901 N. 9th Street Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairman Lipscomb,

I am writing to ask you to confirm Ms. Holly Davis as the next Director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging.

Due to vacancy it have been a long time since Milwaukee County Department on Aging have had top leadership in place. Even though the staff are trying to do the best they can, There are some things the regular staff can't do.

As you know I am a grass-roots community person, and a advocacy for the people. I have spent 50years of volunteering for their needs, concerns and quality of life.

That is why I feel the needs of people Milwaukee County Department on Aging are serving should always be in the top priority, so we really need to move forward.

The longer we wait to fill the Director position the harder the burden is on the staff. With this election and the aging population is growing, this is a critical time for all.

I served on one of the interview panel for the Director position of M.C.D.A. and got a chance to asked questions as well as how fast the candidates can think on their feet Even though I knew they all had top Administrative Management skills which very good, I also wanted to know about people skills and improving relationship with the community. My 6 years on the Commissioner's Board gave me the opportunity to visit meal sites, all the senior centers, and all people alone the way who did not know anything about MCDA and the programs that were available that would be beneficial for them.

Since September I have observe how Holly have been committed to her work with energy and passion, meeting with agencies and community. The staff that I have spoke with is happy to have her on board and are willing to work with her in bringing awareness to the community and meeting the needs and implement all the services that MCDA provides.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Ms Vi Hawkins

Ms. Vi Hawkins,
6402 W. Keefe Ave PKWY
Milwaukee, WI 53216
(414) 442-2266

Cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors



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November 18th, 2016

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
901 N. 9th St. – Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairman Lipscomb:

As the state director of AARP Wisconsin, I'm writing this letter to provide input on the appointment of Holly Davis as Director of the Department on Aging and affirm our commitment to the partnership we have developed with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA).

I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Davis recently to discuss the successful collaborations that AARP has forged with MCDA as well as providing a road map of priority issues that AARP is pursuing in Milwaukee County. As you may know, the mission of AARP is to improve the quality of life and lead positive social change for individuals over age 50. With a membership of nearly 38 million people nationwide, over 840,000 in Wisconsin, and over 100,000 in Milwaukee County, AARP focuses on those issues that affect peoples' financial resilience, health security, and personal engagement in their community. The AARP Wisconsin and MCDA partnership has allowed both organizations to develop some creative and innovative engagement models in Milwaukee County, including financial security seminars, volunteer recruitment for local non-profit agencies, community service projects for caregivers and isolated seniors, and many others that have had direct impact on the well-being of the county's 50+ population.

I was heartened to hear that Ms. Davis also sees the value of continuing this partnership and the opportunity it brings to develop even more innovative solutions for the challenges older adults face from caregiving to transportation to housing to staying connected to local resources that keep them socially included in their neighborhood, their city, and their county. Much of this work, contained in the Livable Communities agenda for AARP, has great potential in Milwaukee County and we seem to share some of those same interests with Ms. Davis as she looks to develop a new, long-term vision for the work of MCDA.

I wish you the very best in making your decision on the future leadership of MCDA and please know that AARP Wisconsin remains a ready and willing partner in the work of Milwaukee County now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Wilson'.

Sam Wilson, State Director
AARP Wisconsin

cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
901 N. 9th St.-Room 201
Milwaukee, WI. 53233

Dear Chairman Lipscomb.

I am writing this letter regarding the status of the Department of Aging, especially for the consideration of appointing a permanent Director.

I have met the Interim Director, Holly Davis, on several occasions since last September, and she was very gracious about my interest in her position.

Qualifying for part of the definition of the "old, frail, vulnerable etc." I wanted to know more about how Mrs. Davis would see herself in the transition from her earlier experiences which did not include "old, frail, etc."

Mrs. Davis shared some of the activities she and staff from the department were involved.

Having been a former Commission on Aging member and now a volunteer, I have sincere feelings for the department. The staff people I have met are some of the most qualified, and hard workers I have ever known. The department has a great reputation, something the County Board of Supervisors can be very proud of.

Sincerely

Barbara Bechtel

Barbara Bechtel,BSN,RN
9251 N. 67th St.
Brown Deer, WI..

November 18,2016



CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

November 21, 2016

Milwaukee Board of County Supervisors
901 N. 9th St., Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisors,

As a Commissioner with the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, I participated in the selection and interview process for the Director of the Department of Aging. I am writing to advocate for the appointment of Holly Davis as the permanent director.

I encouraged the Milwaukee County Executive to include Commissioners in the selection process and the voice of at least three Commissioners where involved in the interview process including final candidate interviews. I participated in the final candidate interviews and had the opportunity to meet all finalists. The interview process was sound, with interview protocols followed, group discernment held and consensus arrived at to determine a rank ordered list of candidates for the County Executive to consider.

With this in mind, Ms. Holly Davis emerged as the clear candidate of choice over all other finalists. I found her to be an experienced public servant and manager who has led large and complex organizations. *Holly's track record of service to the underserved and vulnerable populations is applicable to serving our seniors and leading the Milwaukee County Department on Aging.* Moreover, her skills and expertise in the areas of budget management, employee coaching and mentoring, fundraising, and performance management, will be an asset to the department as she carries out the role of the director.

I join my fellow Commissioners in stressing the need for permanent leadership of the department to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Not appointing Holly Davis as the Director of Aging would be detrimental to the department and our community's seniors. They deserve stable leadership.

Please know how deeply I appreciate your service to the people of Milwaukee County. As a Commissioner engaged in the selection process of Holly Davis, It is my sincere hope that you will appoint her, let her lead and then evaluate her.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Holbrook, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Resource Center Oversight Committee
Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

President & CEO Cream City Foundation
Mobile: 414.559.8001



Milwaukee County



Department on Aging

Holly Davis
Interim Director
(414) 289-6010

*Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging*

Sylvan Leabman
Interim Chairperson

Debra J. Jupka
Vice Chair
Chair, Resource Center
Oversight Committee

Barbara Wyatt Sibley
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Vice Chair, Resource Center
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Gladys Carroll-Weathersby

Maria Castrejon-Pérez

Daisy Cubias

Patsy Delgado

Elizabeth Meyer-Arnold, R.N., M.S.

Gary Mikolajczyk

Bettie Rodgers, J.D.

Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.

Gwen T. Jackson
Commissioner Emeritus

November 21, 2016

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
901 N. 9th St., Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, I am writing to advocate for a permanent Director in the Department on Aging.

At our November 11th Commission on Aging meeting, we were informed of the upcoming confirmation of the current Interim Director. The Commission as a whole unanimously approved a motion to stress the need for permanent leadership of the department to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

The Department on Aging provides critical services to Milwaukee's seniors. From elder abuse investigations to meal sites to recreational opportunities at our senior centers, the Department on Aging plays a central role in the health of our senior community. Such an important department deserves permanent leadership and a steady hand at its helm.

For over a year, the Department on Aging has been led by an Interim Assistant Director and an Interim Director for the past three months. While the department's staff have done an admirable job in keeping the department running, the Commission believes that it is time for the department to have a permanent director. It would be detrimental to the operation of the department to not have permanent leadership. Work at the department would likely slow as yet another transition of authority to another interim director would occur. Moreover, the Commission believes that continuation of interim leadership would be detrimental to the seniors of Milwaukee County who depend on steady delivery of the County's services.

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people – particularly the seniors – of Milwaukee County. In the shared spirit of service, the Commission on Aging respectfully requests your confirmation of a permanent Director of the Department on Aging.

Sincerely,

Sylvan Leabman
Interim Chair, Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

1220 West Vliet Street | Suite 302 | Milwaukee, WI 53205

Aging Resource Center: (414) 289-6874 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-229-9695 | TRS: 7-1-1 | www.county.milwaukee.gov/aging

The mission of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging is to affirm the dignity and value of older adults in this county by supporting their choices for living in, and giving to, our community.

Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

2432 North Teutonia Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53206

Phone: 414-562-1110, Fax: 414-562-1227

Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr., D.Min

November 22, 2016

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street,
Milwaukee, WI. 53233

Dear Milwaukee County Supervisors:

I am respectfully requesting the confirmation of Ms. Holly Davis for the position of Director for the Department on Aging. The selection process has been completed; interviews were accomplished by unbiased and capable Commissioners; and the County Executive, Mr. Chris Abele has recommended her for the position.

Due to the urgency of filling this position, on a permanent basis, we must take into consideration what has led us to this point. I feel that she is well-prepared to undertake this position as a successful leader based on past management positions and past accomplishments from previous organizations. According to her resume, she has held several positions that required her to be results-driven and astute in program and budget development and administration, and systems change. In my short time working with Ms. Davis, I have noticed a professional work ethic, an engaging personality, and she is an excellent communicator. I sincerely believe that she will be a valuable addition to the Department on Aging.

Thank you for the time and opportunity for this correspondence. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed at 414-562-1110 or clyde2white@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Johnny C. White, Jr.
Senior Pastor &
Commissioner Dept on Aging

"In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him and He Shall Direct Thy Paths."

Proverbs 3:6