

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), providing an informational update on the County and Cities Housing Committee

File Type: Informational Report

BACKGROUND

In March of 2024, under File 24-252, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a joint County and Cities Housing Committee. The Committee includes members of the community, legal housing experts, and landlords who work in conjunction with municipalities to aid the County's strategic plan to address housing insecurity, eviction prevention, and combat homelessness. Further, to provide a more comprehensive view of housing issues, the resolution included the City of Milwaukee and representatives of other local municipalities as these entities have different roles, responsibilities, and authorities related to housing issues compared to the County.

The creation of a County and Cities Housing Committee would allow community members who are on the frontlines of housing insecurity issues to exchange information with local government officials and offer recommendations. This process is intended to assist the County and other local entities in making more effective and equitable decisions related to housing issues.

The City of Milwaukee Common Council approved a resolution in July of 2024 pledging its participation in the joint committee.

Per File 24-252, the Milwaukee County Executive's Office shall appoint six community members subject to confirmation by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The community members shall each be appointed to a two-year term and may be reappointed for two additional terms. Vacancies occurring because of resignation or other valid reasons will be filled by appointment of a successor for the unexpired term of the vacated office.

Community members shall have a primary residence in Milwaukee County and possess a proficiency in housing related issues or have lived experiences with homelessness or eviction. At least one of the appointees of the Chairperson of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors shall have a primary residence in a community with a population less than 80,000 residents. The Milwaukee County Board Chairperson and City of Milwaukee Common Council President shall ensure no more than one of their respective appointments serve as a landlord or in a capacity that advocates for landlords or is a residential real estate developer.

Housing Services staff believes that the Committee could begin meeting in the spring of 2025. DHHS has identified existing staff to assist with the ongoing support needed for the Committee with the understanding the City of Milwaukee will also identify staff support. It is envisioned that the Committee will meet quarterly, with the initial meeting focusing on presentations from City and County ex-officio members discussing their roles and the various housing programs and policies they administer.

Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel has reached out to the City of Milwaukee regarding the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as outlined in the County Board resolution. The MOU is needed to formalize the Committee as well as its appointment process. The Committee cannot commence until there is a signed MOU between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.

The Milwaukee County Executive's office currently has appointments ready to be confirmed by the County Board. These appointments represent two individuals with lived experience, two non-profit providers, a real estate developer, and a member of a philanthropic organization. Housing Services has verified these potential appointments meet the qualifications from the resolution. These appointments will go for confirmation immediately upon the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action item aligns with strategic plan objectives 2A (Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity) and 3A (Invest upstream to address root causes of health disparities).

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
James Mathy, Housing Administrator

PREPARED BY:

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget & Management Analyst, SBP