



**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2026**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in-person at the Marcia P. Cogs Human Services Center and virtually by Zoom on Friday, March 27, 2026.

Commissioners Present:

Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Eugene Guskowski, M.Arch., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
George Banda, *Secretary*
Mark P. Behar, PA-C
Gloria Miller
Terrence R. Moore, Sr.
Paula Pennebaker, Exec Comm. at Large
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Cindy Van Vreede
Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez

Milwaukee County Staff:

Jill Knight, *DHHS-AAA*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS-AAA*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS-AAA*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS-AAA*

Attendees from the Public

Michael Vanblaricum, *Serving Older Adults*
Shannon Downey, *Serving Older Adults*
Veronica Ruffian, *Eras Senior Network*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Stephanie Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Secretary George Banda conducted a roll call. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

(Action Item).

MOTION: To approve the February 27, 2026, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously. (Behar Moved, Van Vreede Second).

III. PROCLAMATION OF SENIOR NUTRITION MONTH, Kyle Ashley, Director of Community

Outreach, County Executive's Office (9:10 A.M.)

DHHS Executive Director Shakita LaGrant McLain presented the County Executive's Proclamation of March as Senior Nutrition month and celebrating the three Senior Dining Dine-Out restaurants: Daddy's Soul Food, Orenda Café, and Rise 'N Grind Café.

IV. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT (Informational Item), Kyle Ashley, Director of Community Outreach, County Executive's Office (9:15 A.M.)

Director Kyle Ashley was unavailable, and this item was laid over until next month.

V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS (Informational Item) (9:20 A.M.)

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (Action Item) (9:30 A.M.)

A. Executive Committee minutes (February 13, 2025)

B. Senior Center Committee minutes (February 6, 2025)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Behar Moved, Penebaker Second).

VII. ACTION / INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS (9:35 A.M.)

A. Action Item: Confirm Appointment of Non-Commission candidates to Councils and Committees of the Commission on Aging, Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair

- **Aging Advisory Council**
 - Gloria Miller
 - Judith Amorsen
 - Michael Vanblaricum

- **Wellness Committee**
 - Gail Morgan

MOTION: To confirm the appointments of Gloria Miller, Judith Amorsen, and Michael Vanblaricum to the Aging Advisory Council and Gail Morgan to the Wellness Committee.

ACTION: Motion approved unanimously (Penebaker Moved, Van Vreede Second).

B. Action Item: Advocacy Items, Commissioner Brian Peters, Advocacy Committee Chair.

- **2026 Commission on Aging Policy Priorities**

Commissioner Peters provided an overview of the 2026 Aging Public Policy Priorities as developed by the Advocacy Committee. Commissioner Peters noted that the Advocacy Committee did not have a quorum at the last meeting to recommend approval, but the Executive Committee asked that they be included for approval at today's full Commission on Aging meeting. A robust discussion about the federal, state, and local policy priorities ensued.

MOTION: To approve the 2026 Commission on Aging Public Policy priorities as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Behar Moved, Banda Second).

C. Action Item: Commission on Aging Bylaw Amendments, Second Consideration, Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair.

Chair Callaway introduced the second reading of proposed amendments to the Commission on Aging bylaws related to: 1) defining a quorum within a meeting; 2) correcting the statutory reference to the appointment of Commissioners as constituting the governing board of the Area Agency on Aging, rather than the Advisory Council; and 3) clarifying that no Commissioner may serve more than two consecutive three (3) year terms.

MOTION: To approve the amendments to the Commission on Aging Bylaws as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Van Vreede Moved, Penebaker Second).

D. Discussion Item: 2026 WI-DHS Aging Allocations, Matt Fortman, Milwaukee County DHHS, Chief Financial Officer

DHHS CFO Fortman discussed the constraints placed upon the County by the State because the federal Administration for Community Living had not yet released the Notice of Funding Award for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Older Americans Act funds. Chair Callaway requested that DHHS notify the Commission prior to taking any actions to adjust or limit programming due to this issue.

E. Discussion Item: 2027 DHHS Budget, Matt Forman, Milwaukee County DHHS Chief Financial Officer

DHHS CFO Fortman discussed the prospect of a difficult 2027 budget due to expected reduced Older Americans Act funding, an anticipated county budget deficit constraining tax levy funding and within DHHS a potentially large increase in juvenile justice charges consuming available discretionary tax levy resources.

F. Informational: Report on progress on the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan and 2025 Area Agency on Aging Year-in-Review, Commissioner Paula Penebaker.

Commissioner Penebaker presented challenges and accomplishments regarding the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan and AAA Director Idzikowski presented on programmatic and partnership accomplishments in 2025 for the Area Agency on Aging.

G. Discussion Item: Milwaukee County Senior Center Developments, Vice Commissioner Eugene Guskowski, Vice Chair.

Commissioner Guskowski discussed the progress being made on the implementation of the MKE HUBS report including renovations at Rose senior center, work toward a new senior center in South Milwaukee, and the exploration of options to replace McGovern senior center.

VIII. Informational Item: AARP Livable Communities in Milwaukee County, Paula

Penebaker, Commission Liaison to the AARP Livable Communities Steering Committee.

Commissioner Penebaker noted that she had covered this report in her committee updates. In brief, the Livable Communities Steering Committee is now working on the transportation domain, specifically with respect to MCTS transit system and walkability.

IX. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, Laura Langer, WI-DHS (Informational)

Ms. Langer presented the State Office on Aging report, noting the delay in receipt of the NOFA for OAA funds, the successful transition to Peer Place and assistance from the Milwaukee County AAA staff, and inviting participation in the upcoming Aging, Disability, and Independent Living conference on April 29th in Waupaca.

X. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Daniel Idzikowski, AAA Director (Informational Item)

XI. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, Supervisor Juan Miguel-Martinez, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (Informational Item)

County Supervisor Miguel-Martinez left the meeting early and was not available to present the County Board report.

XII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, Commissioner Denise Callaway (Informational)

Commissioner Callaway noted the Commission's advocacy to ensure that the interests of older adults were included in the County's Future State Planning process. Chair Callaway emphasized the importance of the Commission on Aging and encouraged members to connect directly with their County Supervisors and state representatives to advocate for the interests of older adults in Milwaukee County.

XIII. COMMISSION ON AGING PUBLIC COMMENTS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Van Vreede second).

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Idzikowski
Director of Aging Services