



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

Commission for Persons with Disabilities February 12, 2024

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, February 12, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Allison Caudill
Felicia Clayborne
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson, B.A.
Leon Todd

Milwaukee County Staff

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Julie Lara, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Shanika Baldwin
Fran Musci

Commissioners Excused:

Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Damian Buchman

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., Mike Bonk, Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities took roll. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2024 COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

Minutes will be reviewed next Commission Meeting.

III. SPECIAL REPORT

Informational Item, Transit Plus- Director Fran Musci Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS): Director Musci reported on the December ridership, there were 26,313 rides, due to the extreme snow and cold weather. Time performance in January was 93.51%, significant

improvement over the month of December. She shared that Transdev has not meet the KPI, appointment drop offs and ride durations are still below acceptable levels. They have also hired additional local drivers. Additional drivers from other contracts have been brought in as well. They have adjusted their attendance policy, to address those who are no call no shows. The target is to hire 140 drivers, the RFP estimated only needing 108, but then realized they needed significantly more drivers than they had originally planned for. They are currently at about 129 drivers, hoping in the few weeks they will hit the 140 target.

Director Musci informed the Commission; there are two new rider amenities that are being launched in conjunction with Transdev Spring. One of them is the IVR, an interactive voice response system. Which will allow the phone system to call the riders the night before who have a ride schedule to remind them. But also call the rider when the van is 10 minutes away. The IVR will be launching in March. In May they will be launching a rider facing app, that will allow riders to go online either on a laptop computer or smartphone app all to look at their upcoming rides, get notifications by email or text. The app will so let people know when the van is coming, an hour out when their pickup time is scheduled. This will be available in English, Spanish, and screen reader friendly. This is an app that Transdev is providing at no cost to MCTS. Clients will be able to sign up with name, client ID and email.

The Milwaukee County Taxi Task Force will be meeting February 29, 2024. Milwaukee County Taxi Task Force is currently discussing program parameters, types of rides, number of rides, purpose of rides to be able to update the RFP and provide services in Milwaukee.

Commissioner Clayborne questioned if the App will capabilities of scheduling rides. Director Musci stated that the app is not setup for Milwaukee to be able to schedule rides on the app at this time.

- A. Informational Item, Wil-O-Way Facilities Update**, Michael Bonk Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities: Michael Bonk Informed the Commission: Director Bonk shared an update on the two Wil-O-Way sites; specifically, regarding the splash pads. Capital requests were made last year for each location Wil-O-Way Grant and Wil-O-Way Underwood. Set dollars have been set aside for this year, both Grant and Underwood have \$30,000. They will be contacting vendors soon, hoping construction then begin in 2025. Director Bonk shared they have been communicating with the Parks Department regarding Wil-O-Way Underwood, the park has been shut down for some time. The Parks Department has received capital design dollars to redesign the parkway. But mentions that the Parkway may have asphalt poured around the same time as the splash pad being worked on. He will be communicating with Parks to align their construction phases.

Director Bonk informed the Commission; Due to extreme thawing the Wil-O-Way facility Underwood has experienced structural damage, the large structural beams have cracked. The facility has been shut down; Goodwill has had to relocate. As of now the facility has 50-60 steel beams holding the roof up, to prevent it from collapsing. After having architects and engineers out to the property, they've found that all three beams would potentially have to be replaced. The project would take four months to complete. He states he is currently rescheduling close to 30 events and the private parties, reimbursing or relocating to other locations. He also shared that Wil-O-Way Grant had graffiti put on all four walls, last weekend sometime between 10:00PM- 10:00AM. They were able to secure a contractor in a short amount of time and should have it cleaned up by the end of the week.

Chairwomen Faulk-Palec asked Director Bonk if there is anything they can do, to please let them know so they use their voice to amplify the needs of the disability community. She also requested that the Grant and Underwood designs of the splash pads come to the Wil-O-Way committee, to have the ability to weigh in on the design.

B. Informational Item, Recreation Update, Jacqueline Formanek, Recreation Services Manager, Office for Persons with Disabilities: Ms. Formanek informed the Commission due to the Underwood problem there has been a few changes to some of their recreation and events. Friday Night Underwood dances have been moved to the Wauwatosa Adult Day Center located on Center Street. The Spring Sport class has been moved to the Grant location. The Spring Blooms class will stay at Underwood, as this class will be outside with raised garden beds and compost bins. The Pancake Breakfast to support the Wil-O-Way camps will be held at the Wauwatosa Adult Day Center. Ms. Formanek shared news regarding the summer camps, with all the promoting they currently have 15 new families and a total of 51 total campers. The location of the Underwood Summer Camp location has not been changed, hoping the facility will be complete. But they are looking at potential backup solutions. Ms. Formanek shared the Governing Board mixer, it will be held Friday, February 23, 2024 at the Washington Park Senior Center from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Director Marietta Luster encouraged everyone to come, as they can meet and possibly collaborate as they have some of the same goals. Ms. Formanek will be sending out flyers regarding everything she spoke on.

C. Informational Item, Social Story Mitchell Airport, Commissioner John Haupt, Chair of Facilities Access Committee: Commissioner Haupt shared the Commission met with Summer Hegranes who is the marketing and public relations coordinator for Milwaukee Mitchell Airport. Their plan is to incorporate a social story on their website. Covering a detailed visit of what to expect when visiting Mitchell Airport and taking a flight. She showed a PowerPoint and opened it up for suggestion from the Committee. The

Committee noticed one of the experiences that was not covered in full was going through security. They also suggested opportunities of getting to the airport and getting onto the plane. They discussed creating and distributing hard copies of the story as well. They suggested to meet again, as there were many unanswered questions. Director Bonk will reach out to the Facilities Access Committee Members, to make sure there is a quorum for next week at 12:15PM. Commissioner Haupt questioned if Summer Hegrans would be part of the meeting. Director Bonk stated she would, he would extend a meeting invitation to her. Commissioner Haupt suggested a meeting before to gather ideas and suggestions. Commissioner Todd stated, this upcoming meeting would be a brainstorming session. Commissioner Mickelson agreed that they should hold a committee meeting before meeting with Ms. Hegrans to brainstorm and prioritize the topic beforehand. Director Bonk suggested having two Facilities Access meetings back-to-back to discuss ideas and then invite Ms. Hegrans. Commissioner Caudill stated advocating the social story and obtaining feedback, prior to meeting with Ms. Hegrans would be beneficial. Chairwomen Faulk-Palec asked the Commission to view the airport website before the next Facilities Committee meeting, Director Bonk suggested having a page with links at the end of the social story. She also suggested to be cautious with distributing the social story as it's a draft.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Other Matters by the Public: None

b) Other Commission Business:

Chairwomen Faulk-Palec shared an incident that occurred this weekend. A gentleman crossing the street was struck and killed, kitty corner from Wisconsin Ave Park. This was reported by St. Camelia's, a resident there, but this is the third person to be struck and killed on Wisconsin Ave crossing within the last six years. She shared she was also involved with events with Miracle League families, she questioned the safety factors of the Wisconsin Ave street. She would like to explore the drawings proposed for the area to ensure they are advocating the highest level of safety. Director Bonk has not yet reviewed the plan with the Parks Department but can reach out. Safety topic will be put on the agenda to discuss further. Administrator Luster shared AARP may have possible funding and improvements of safety, she shared there is a representative on the Commission on Aging.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Todd moved, Haupt Second)

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING MONDAY, March 11, 2024, AT 1 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado

Executive Assistant