



COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in person at Marcia P. Coggs Human Health and Services Center, 1230 W. Cherry St., with a virtual MS Teams and video conference option on Friday, September 26, 2025.

Commissioner's Present:

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*
Terrence R. Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
George Banda
Mark P. Behar, PA-C
Denise Callaway
Eugene Guskowski, M.Arch
Marni King
Paula Pennebaker
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Cindy Van Vreede

Commissioners Excused:

Gloria Miller, *Secretary*
Supervisor Juan Miguel-Martinez
Amber Miller, *Exec Comm. at Large*

Milwaukee County Staff:

Kyle Ashley, *CEX*
Claire Enders, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jessica Kowalski, *DHHS*
Alexa Law, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DHHS*
Lottie Maxwell, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Darryl Anderson, *ERAS Senior Network*
Bard Meier
Neil Minogue, *WI-DHS*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*
Stephanie Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede conducted roll call, in place of Secretary Gloria Miller. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 22, 2025, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

A discrepancy in a funding figure listed under Action Item 6, Subsection C's title, the figure was missing a 1, The typo was acknowledged, and the minutes are accepted upon the correction.

MOTION: To approve the August 22, 2025, Commission on Aging meeting minutes as amended.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda Moved, Smith Second).

III. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE, KYLE ASHLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Ashley delivered a comprehensive report covering several key initiatives of the County Executive (See report titled "COA September CEX report"):

Commissioner Guszowski inquired whether municipalities could access FEMA funds. Mr. Ashley will follow up with the Commissioner with an answer.

IV. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

Committee and Council Chairs gave reports on previous or current meetings:

****Advocacy Committee Chair, Commissioner, and Legislative Officer Brian Peters**

- DHHS CFO Matt Fortman provided a budget update
- Discussed federal and state policy issues to be discussed later in the meeting under Action Items

****Service Delivery Committee Co-Chair, Commissioner Banda****

- Focused on evaluating contracts and tracking goals
- Contract votes are expected in October 2025

****Nutrition Council Chair, Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede****

- Final evaluations of the "Flavor Station" pilot program at Washington Park are still pending
- The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has discontinued its monthly meal service due to low participation
- The Muslim Community Health Center has launched a new food truck initiative, which Commissioner Smith praised for its creativity and accessibility

****Wellness Committee Chair, Commissioner Jacqueline Smith****

- At their last meeting, they did not have a quorum. Discussed strategies to reduce the number of inactive members and to recruit new ones

****New Advisory Council Liaison, Commissioner Paula Pennebaker****

- The first meeting of the new Advisory Council was held at the Clinton Rose Center, focusing on orientation and public meeting procedures

****Senior Center Committee Chair, Commissioner Eugene Guszowski****

Outlined four strategic focus areas his committee discussed:

1. Program enhancement and partnerships
2. Messaging and communication
3. Innovative senior spaces
4. Foundation development

Reflecting on the successful community engagement event at the proposed Kelly Senior Center site, commissioners praised the inclusive, feedback-driven format and emphasized the importance of designing for future generations.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee meeting minutes (August 11, 2025)
- b) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (June 6, 2025)
- c) Advisory Council meeting minutes (August 13, 2025)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda items listed above.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moore Moved, Van Vreede Second).

VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item, Appointments to the Commission's Committee and Councils, Wellness Committee, Commission Chair Janice Wilberg:** The Commission on Aging reviewed and discussed Julia Means appointment to the Wellness Committee. The Executive Committee approved her nomination.

MOTION: To confirm Julia Means' appointment to the Wellness Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar Moved, Peters Second)

- b) **Action Item, Advocacy Support Federal Programs Serving Older Adults, Commissioner, Legislative Officer, and Chair Advocacy Committee, Brian Peters:** Commissioner Peters conducted a review of the three letters approved by the Advocacy group.

- 1. **CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule** – Requesting CMS to add Evidence Based Wellness programs to the Physician Fee Schedule
- 2. **Older Americans Act Title V** – Urged reinstatement of the Senior Community Services Employment Program
- 3. **Fair Labor Standards Act** – Retroactive support for home health worker protections

MOTION: To approve all three advocacy items (letters) as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed, 1 abstention (Peters Moved, Banda Second)

- c) **Action Item, 2026 Administrative Renewal Allocations and Vendor Contracts, Commissioners and SDC Co-Chairs; Amber Miller and George Banda:** The agenda presented was an informational update rather than an action item. AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski provided the following updates regarding Requests for Proposals (RFPs):

- The refugee services contract with Hanan Refugee Services is finalized and is currently active.
- The Older Americans Act legal services, elder benefit specialist, and Medicare counseling RFP is under review after receiving five responses.
- The RFP for Programming in the Milwaukee County Senior Centers is currently open, with proposals due in late October.
- The RFP for Spanish-speaking senior center services will be released soon, along with a planned short-term extension for the current vendor.
- A future RFP will focus on programming in senior centers for Native American seniors
- The AmeriCorps Senior Companions program has been renewed through June 2027.

Goodwill Meals on Wheels Contract Adjustment: Director Idzikowski requested the authority to increase the Goodwill Meals on Wheels contract by \$27,500 due to rising costs if deemed necessary.

MOTION: To approve an increase of up to \$27,500 with a requirement for a six-month report on cost-saving strategies.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, Behar Second)

d) Discussion Item, Advancing Philanthropic Support of Aging Issues in Milwaukee County: The Commission discussed the United Way's withdrawal from funding services for older adults and expressed concern over this decision. In response, the Commission decided to initiate two actions:

1. A letter will be drafted and signed by all commissioners to express their concerns and request consideration of support for the Aging Network in future United Way funding decisions.
2. The AAA will convene a roundtable with philanthropic organizations and aging service providers to discuss funding gaps and explore future collaboration.

e) Discussion/Informational Item, Livable Communities, Commissioner Paula Penebaker: Chair Wilberg reported in place of Commissioner Penebaker that the Age-Friendly Milwaukee County survey is open until September 30, 2025. The steering committee is reviewing priorities for the coming year.

VII. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, NEAL MINOGUE

Neal Minogue, the Older Americans Act Program Supervisor at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, reported on three key items:

- **CSEP Program:** Facing funding and staffing challenges; DWD is now managing the program.

- **Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources Visit:** DHS state leadership will meet with ADRC and AAA staff and tour the new Milwaukee County Human Services building next week.
- **Federal Shutdown:** No immediate impact on aging services funding through December 31, 2025.

VIII. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI

****Closure of McGovern Senior Center: **** AAA Director announced the center is closed indefinitely due to unsafe mold levels that resulted from flooding. Environmental remediation efforts are currently in progress. Participants from the center were redirected to other nearby locations. Commissioners have stressed the importance of transparency and maintaining open communication with the public during this time.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISORS REPORT

Chair Wilberg postponed the County Supervisors' report until the next COA meeting.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Wilberg postponed her report until the next COA meeting.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

- Daryl Anderson, Executive Director of the Eras Senior Network, addressed the Commission to express concerns about funding reductions that are impacting services for older adults in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. He mentioned that although the organization will have the opportunity to apply for funding next year, discussions with United Way leadership indicate that their services may no longer align with United Way's current funding priorities. This presents a significant challenge, as Eras currently serves over 1,900 older adult clients. Anderson emphasized the urgent need to mobilize support to sustain these essential services.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Stephenson Moved, Peters Second)

The next Commission on Aging meeting is Friday, October 24, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant

DRAFT