



**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2026**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened virtually by Zoom on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Commissioners Present:

Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Eugene Guskowski, M.Arch., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
George Banda, *Secretary*
Paula Penebaker, *Exec Comm. at Large*
Mark P. Behar, PA-C
Gloria Miller
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Commissioners Excused:

Terrence R. Moore, Sr.
Cindy Van Vreede

Commissioner-Elect Not Present

Supervisor Juan Miguel-Martinez

Milwaukee County Staff:

Kyle Ashley, CEX
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS-AAA*
Kaisa Kerrigan, *DHHS-AAA*
Jill Knight, *DHHS-AAA*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS-AAA*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS-AAA*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS-AAA*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS-AAA*

Attendees from the Public

Jennifer Bliese, Aging Advisory Council
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 a.m. Secretary George Banda conducted a roll call. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2025, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the December 12, 2025, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Miller Moved, Peters Second).

III. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT

Kyle Ashley, Director of Community Outreach for the County Executive's Office presented the County Executive's Report. Commission discussed with no action taken.

IV. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

The chairs of the Commission on Aging's committees & councils provided an update on meetings during the past month.

- **Advocacy Committee: Brian Peters:** Holding public hearings on Advocacy Priorities after which the committee will recommend the 2026 priorities.
- **Service Delivery Committee: George Banda,** First meeting will be in March.
- **Nutrition Council:** Will meet next week Tuesday.
- **Advisory Council: Paula Penebaker,** Advisory Council received an update on the Age Friendly Steering Committee, worked on bylaws for the Council.
- **Wellness Committee, Mark Behar,** Julia Means was selected as vice chair, presentations on Wellness Outreach initiative and Medicare plan choice.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- A. Executive Committee minutes (November 14, 2025)
- B. Advocacy Committee minutes (November 7, 2025)
- C. Wellness Committee minutes (March 19, May 21, and September 17, 2025)
- D. Senior Center Committee minutes (December 5, 2025)

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Banda moves, Van Vreede second).

VI. ACTION / INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion Item: Select Committee on Community Engagement, Commissioner Janice Wilberg.

Commissioner Wilberg provides a brief report. The Select Committee began to craft a plan to conduct outreach based upon the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan. However, this effort was paused during the County budget process. Chair Callaway will review this work and determine whether to continue the work of the Select Committee.

B. Informational Item: Report on progress on the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan Commissioner Paula Penebaker.

No report. Item laid over to next meeting.

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

Commissioner Guskowski provided an update on the challenges facing the senior centers in 2026. Work will focus on developing a public-private partnership that advances the MKE HUBS vision, including continued facility improvements, a capital and operations campaign, a plan that garners support from the public and private philanthropy, and a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors.

D. Discussion Item: AARP Livable Communities in Milwaukee County, Commissioner Paula Penebaker.

Commissioner Penebaker provided an update on the ongoing work of the AARP Livable Communities initiative. The Steering Committee has selected Housing, Transportation, and Community Health as its focus areas and will use subsequent meetings to discuss each area more in-depth to determine opportunities to implement changes and improvements in Milwaukee County.

VII. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Laura Langer, from the WI-DHS Office on Aging provided a report noting:

- ADRC/Aging Policy Handbook chapters on Benefit Specialists and Older Americans Act Legal Services has been updated
- The National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) report for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 was transmitted to the federal Agency for Community Living (ACL), including data from Milwaukee County.
- ACL put out a call for innovative services addressing Social Isolation & Loneliness. Milwaukee County AAA responded with information on their Social Rx project.

VIII. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AAA Director Idzikowski provided a brief overview of his attached report. He deferred to Chair Callaway to provide additional updates on the work of the AAA.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, Supervisor Juan Miguel-Martinez Informational Item) (10:40 A.M.)

No Report.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, Commissioner Denise Callaway

Chair Callaway provided an overview of activities of the AAA and COA over the past month, including updates on the status of the McGovern Senior Center. The Commission discussed opportunities to be more engaged in the selection of an alternate site for senior center programming while McGovern is closed. Chair Callaway will work with Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Administrative Services staff to explore options for enhanced engagement.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Item was not taken up at this meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Guszkowski Moved, Penebaker Second).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Idzikowski
Director of Aging Services

DRAFT