



**Milwaukee County  
Meeting Agenda**

**Milwaukee County Youth Commission Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation**

**Chair- Sean Libal (15<sup>th</sup>); 1st Vice Chair- Sarah Bruett (1<sup>st</sup>); 2nd Vice Chair- Victor Essoka (2<sup>nd</sup>);**

**Members- D'Mario Cockfield (Co-Chair), Jhuablai Thao (5<sup>th</sup>), Ezran Anastas (7<sup>th</sup>), Jayden Maholmes (8<sup>th</sup>), Abhi Ghelani (9<sup>th</sup>), Keith Neely, Jr. (10<sup>th</sup>), and Kyree Dunn (13<sup>th</sup>).**

---

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
& Microsoft Teams**

**5:30 PM**

**Room 203-R**

**HYBRID MEETING**

HYBRID MEETING This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: [Milwaukee County - Milwaukee County Youth Commission \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com)

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

This meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format. In addition to in-person attendance in Room 203-R, per Section 1.01(d) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, this meeting is also being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Anyone who would like to speak to Committee members during a hybrid meeting is welcome to provide public comment by:

- Filling out a Public Comment Card in Room 203-R, or
- Visiting: [milwaukee.gov/PublicComment](https://milwaukee.gov/PublicComment) and following the instructions provided to participate via Microsoft Teams.

Individuals may submit a written eComment via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) at: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com>, upon publication of a committee agenda.

**ROLL CALL**

1. Action Plan Update (Information Only)

Question posed to chair by Nikki – Move to end of Agenda as Julia is out of the room

**Chair request approved.**

## **2. Microgrants- Authorization and revised timeline (Action Item)**

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the process, evaluation criteria, eligibility, restrictions, and issue and submission dates of the Milwaukee County Youth Commission 2025 Microgrants Application pending review and approval by the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC).

Process:

Application will be posted on the Youth Commission website; proposals to be scored by the members of the Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation; awards to be announced during the Committee's meeting on September 17, 2025; funds must be spent by December 31, 2025; final report due on January 31, 2026. Evaluation Criteria: See application for final evaluation criteria.

Eligibility:

Non-profit organizations or high school-based student organizations located in Milwaukee County that directly serve or benefit youth ages 14-18. *Individuals or for-profit, religious, partisan, and political (C4) organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE.*

Restrictions:

- 1) Award ceiling of \$5,000; and
- 2) the same organization will not be awarded more than once within a calendar year.

Issue (post) Date: April 30, 2025

Submission Date (deadline): May 31, 2025

Motion: Commissioner Cockfield I move to recommend Item 2

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Holmes

Floor open for discussion-None

**8 yes 0 No**

### **3. Non-monetary “Excellence in Youth Impact” Awards- Authorization and revised timeline (Action Item)**

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the process, evaluation criteria, eligibility, and issue and submission dates of the (non-monetary) 2025 Excellence in Youth Action Awards as follows:

Process: Application will be posted on the Youth Commission website; applications to be scored by the members of the Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation; awards to be presented during the Committee’s meeting on June 11, 2025.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Work is directly related to one of the three priority areas (youth homelessness, youth mental health, and youth civic engagement);
- 2) Work has had a measurable positive impact on Milwaukee County youth ages 14-18; and
- 3) Organization or group has demonstrated a commitment to racial equity and/or racial justice.

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations or high school-based student organizations located in Milwaukee County that directly serve or benefit youth ages 14-18. *Individuals or for-profit, religious, partisan, and political (C4) organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE.*

Issue (post) Date: April 30, 2025

Submission Date (deadline): May 31, 2025

Commissioner Cockfield I move that we adopt Actin Item number 3

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Ghelani

Commissioner Cockfield-question to Nikki and Julia: For the application we received from last year did we get feedback?

Nikki- we did not process any of the applications from last year, for fear of taking them all back. So now that we have a process, we will process them this year.

No more questions vote on the motion

**8 yes 0 No**

#### 4. 2025 Day of Advocacy Items- Authorization (Action Item)

The Youth Commission hereby approves the following action items for the 2025 Day of Advocacy, which will be held at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison on Wednesday, April 9, 2025:

##### Youth Homelessness

- *Expand the [McKinney-Vento Act's](#) implementation in Wisconsin by creating connections between schools and community programs to support homeless youth who are not attending school. Currently the McKinney-Vento Act in effect only supports students who are attending school, but many homeless youth may not be attending school regularly. This expansion ensures that these youth can access housing, healthcare, and re-enrollment services through partnerships beyond the education system.*

##### Youth General Health & Wellbeing (please note that one of these three items will be selected based on feedback from subject matter experts)

- *Reduce the student-to-psychologist ratio in Wisconsin from 500:1 to 250:1 over a period of eight-ten years to match the ratio for guidance counselors and social workers and allocate funding to sustain this ratio long-term. [The current student-to-psychologist ratio in Wisconsin is 500:1](#), which is insufficient to meet the needs. Funding would include providing grants to school districts for hiring qualified psychologists and offering incentives for mental health professionals to work in underserved areas.*
- *Ensure that every student in Wisconsin public schools has the option to meet with a school-based psychologist, social worker, or guidance counselor at least once per academic year. This would help schools to facilitate early identification of mental health needs and prompt intervention, reduce stigma, identify issues that are affecting more than individual students, and address issues that may otherwise go unnoticed.*
- *Require all Wisconsin public schools to offer a unit on wellbeing as part of their physical education curriculum for students ages 4<sup>th</sup> grade and higher. The unit would cover mental health awareness, stress management, and strategies for maintaining a healthy school-life balance, including mindfulness, yoga, and other self-care activities.*

## Youth Civic Engagement

- *Require all Wisconsin public high school students to complete a set number of hours of civic engagement experiences and direct school boards to provide adequate resources for them to do so. Students could fulfill this requirement by participating in civic activities, such as attending local government meetings or volunteering for (non-political, non-partisan) civic organizations.*

Commissioner Cockfield I move to adopt action item 4

Commission Essoka 2nd

Commissioner Cockfield- question-When we say require all students what do we mean? Do we mean they won't graduate or something like that?

Nikki--- Mr. Chair: Chair Recognizes Nikki:- That's a really good question: So these are like the high level summaries if you could look at it that way, The concepts that we are asking you all to approve to move forward look, We really can't move forward or really do deep diving on like policy or analysis or bringing it to other entities until you all approve it. Once you do, we will be bringing it to subject matter expertise so that they can, so like the school boards, may have something to say about that or council of study body council or social studies, something they will be able to find answers, if you are able to get it the legislative to adopted this then all of those things will be answered. We don't have all the answers for you right now we don't have all of the process right now we just the approval from you all right now too move to the next stage if that makes sense.

Commissioner Cockfield: I have another question: For the focus on the McKinney mental health act will there be like proper research given to the youth commissioners given on that statute?

Nikki Mr. Chair: Chair recognizes Nikki: Response: In a similar way we are going to be engaging with subject matter expertise. We are probably going to hold something like a policy lab, we can't violate quorum so we maybe would have multiple labs, and you will be responsible for that, that will be your chance to get on virtual. We might send out emails some of this has to be done outside of your presence so it has to get done. Some of this will be done with your direct input, some without you of course.

No more questions vote:

**8 yes 0 No**

**Motion passes**

## **Return to Action Plan update:**

Julia Mr. Chair: Chair Recognizes Julia—Thanks for you patients for the action plan items we don't have any that goes beyond the items 1-4 which you just voted on. So, this is my chance to tell you all that we only have two non-leadership commissioners sign up to be a part of the planning committee. We usually have people who are not in leaderships role on the committee, however we only have two people so we are asking if we could have people volunteer to join the planning committee. For now, the planning committee could use a chair for the planning committee. Other than that, I don't have anything that goes beyond what we have already learned in items 2,3, & 4.

Nikki-Mr. Chair: Chair recognizes Nikki- I have an idea that just came to me, we could do an Ad HOC committee that would handle these items. This would be 4 people who would work on those items. So, Mr. Chair, if you wanted to you could just form this group, and you are asking for members to join this group. It would be in the minutes, if you wanted to on the Policy Ad HOC Planning committee.

Chair: With the AD HOC committee being formed here today, is there anyone here that wants to volunteer for a spot on the Policy Ad Hoc Committee?

Commissioner Cockfield- Chair recognizes Commissioner Cockfield – I have a question? I'm a little confused about the difference between the AD HOC community and the planning committee if I remember correctly the planning committee was an AD HOC Committee so what would be the different duties of the two?

Nikki-Mr. Chair: Chair recognizes Nikki-That is a good question? You are right the planning committee was an AD HOC that over time it became a standing committee. They are not formal committees, but they are going to continue as far as the foreseeable future. AD HOC committee will end at a certain point, we know once this event has concluded that group will no longer exist.

Commissioner Cockfield- Okay, I understand now so, say the youth commissioner was planning the, take your child to work day that would not be planned by the AD HOC committee group?

Nikki Mr. Chair: Chair recognizes Nikki- Yes and No; So, the committee that manages the take your child to work day event is the other committee. The community engagement committee manages that event, depending on how much other work they have in their planning committee they may form an AD HOC committee, that is up to the committee chair. Do you think there is enough work here to do it with two separate groups, I think it's a good idea there is an intense amount of work that must be done over the next two months to prepare then that committee goes away. So, if that fits your schedule more then you may want to do that committee.

MR. Chair any other discussion: Commissioner Bruett-I just want to say that last year was my first year on the commission and I was on the planning committee I joined half way through and it gave me a better understanding of what we were talking about when we were at full meetings, a lot of our action items and information and things we talked about it just gave me a better understanding of what we were doing.

Commissioner Maholmes: So, when it comes to the planning committee how would you attend those are they online or how does that work.

Chair: they will be virtual

Chair: Do we have anyone here who wants to join the Ad HOC committee? Or people who want to move to the Ad HOC committee?

Commissioner Cockfield- Question- I'm sorry what would be the duties of that committee if we formed one today, what would be their objective?

Nikki-Mr. Chair: Chair recognizes Nikki: It's not fully formed, I just thought of it today. I think it would be just planning the event from beginning to end. That is a big lift you guys, the day of advocacy is no joke it's a lot of work, you must put together materials you have to understand it, you must get subject matter expertise, to weigh in, try to think of every question they may ask you, you are sitting with state legislators, what do they want to know, they want to know about money, they want to know about implementation, things that you need to have answers too. So, you have to have talking points developed, and sort of anticipate those questions and answers. You must get everyone on the same page. We must coordinate rides to Madison we need to do permission slips, give parents and teachers time to plan. You have two delegates that are coming with you. You all must plan to be out of school on April 9. In addition to that we are going to have two delegates from every single district, you must put out application to people some of it will be taken care of we will invite the runner ups from your districts will be delegates, there is a lot of that work to be done mostly behind the scenes but we want to communicate with you, you will be making all the decisions.

**AD HOC Committee:**

**Cockfield, Neely, Ghelani, and Bruett**

**Planning committee:**

**Libal, Bruett, and Thao**

5. **Open Forum-** Shirts are in from OEM Department please sign your name on the card.

Earn and learn is open check the website.

**ADJOURNMENT -Chair**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation requests:

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.