



**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2024**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in person at Marcia Cogg's Human Services Center, 1220 W. Vliet St., with a virtual MS Teams and video conference option on Friday, June 28, 2024.

Commissioners Present:

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*
Terrance Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*
Amber Miller, *At Large Member*
George Banda
Mark P. Behar, PA-C, MPAS
Denise Callaway
Eugene Guskowski
Paula Penebaker
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
Cindy Van Vreede

Milwaukee County Staff:

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Eric Collins, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Emily Kerney, *DHHS*
Domonique Klett, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, *DHHS*
Jonathan Matte, *DHHS*
James Mathy, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*
James Tarantino, *DHHS*
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Sandi Ammerman
Christie Carter, *LGBT Center*
Bill Cocroft
Linda Jackson-Cocroft
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill Ind.*
Eric Grosso, *DHS*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ACL Interpreter*
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Judy Loth
Derrick Cainion, *ACL Interpreter*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ACL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller took the roll call; A quorum of the Commissioners was present.

II. GUEST REMARKS, OLDER ADULTS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS ERIC GROSSO, DEMOGRAPHER, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Grosso presented growth projections for Wisconsin and Milwaukee County older adults. The significant growth of the older adult population is due to the Baby Boomer population (1946-1965) and succeeding generations, which are moving into the 60+ generation. For the State of Wisconsin, one out of four/five, depending on the city in Wisconsin, is now older generation. Milwaukee County's population projections for the 60+ adult population in 2023 are 192,000. Other projections provided were from 2010 – 2040 on, race, ethnicity, poverty, and the growth of older adults enrolled in supplemental nutrition programs (Food Stamps/SNAP 2010-2022).

A few highlights were the number of Milwaukee County adults living alone and by male/female (Four out of ten), disability rate (One out of three). The population will continue to grow, and how fast will show in the upcoming projections. Mr. Grosso provided the total population in Wisconsin for 2022 and Milwaukee County's population by Age Groups from 2000-2023. The new ten-year projection forecast will be available in December this year.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 24, 2024, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the May 24, 2024, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee meeting minutes (May 19, 2024)
- b) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (April 25, 2024, and May 3, 2024)
- c) Advisory Council meeting minutes (April 10, 2024)
- d) Service Delivery Committee meeting minutes (February 19, 2024)
- e) Wellness Committee meeting minutes (March 20, 2024)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda items listed above.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (G. Miller Moved, Peters Second).

V. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Discussion/Action Item, Senior Center Improvements, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS, and James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director Parks Department:** Executive Director LaGrant-McClain informed the Commission that the County Executive, DHHS Executive Director, AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski, Deputy Director for Parks Department Jim Tarantino, Chair

Wilberg, and a few Commissioners met to discuss the new re-envisioning of Milwaukee County's five-owned Senior Centers and discussed how to move forward with next steps with the re-envisioning plan. Jim Tarantino visited all five County-owned Senior Centers to see how they can move forward with exterior upgrades to make the center more appealing, welcoming, and accessible.

The Executive Director stated that DHHS's Strategic Director will prioritize this initiative in the next two-year strategic plan for DHHS and identified the upgrades as short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects. Jim Tarantino, Deputy Director of the Parks Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the needed exterior upgrades for Milwaukee County's five-owned Senior Centers. This initiative is a collaborative effort and investment with the County Executive and all three departments. The PowerPoint covered a list of needs and investments for senior Center upgrades and the proposal for external upgrades (pathways, accessibility to entrance of buildings, signage, landscaping, and benches).

MOTION: For the Commission on Aging to support the Milwaukee County Departments of Parks, Health and Human Services, and Facilities Administration's plans to make physical improvements to Milwaukee County's Senior Centers and encourage the two departments to examine plans to make this process a priority in the upcoming budgets, as early as the FY25 budget.

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

Commissioner Guskowski requested amending the motion to include the Facilities Department. Commissioner A. Miller requested changing the word "effort" to a more concrete word like "plan." Commissioner Callaway called a point of order. Chair Wilberg called the question. Commissioner Callaway was asked to read the final motion. A roll-call vote was taken and approved by unanimous consent.

Moore Aye, Peters – Aye, G. Miller – Aye, A miller – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Banda – Aye, Behar-Aye, Callaway- Aye, Guskowski-Aye Penebaker- Aye, Smith, Aye, Stepheson, Aye, Van Vreede, Aye Wilberg, Aye

- b) Discussion/Action Item, 2025 Proposed Aging Services Budget, Matt Fortman, CFO, DHHS:** Currently, Milwaukee County is in the requested budget phase, in which each department submits its requested budget to the County Executive (Budgets are due by July 15, 2024). The 2025 budget challenges DHHS/AAA faces are flat tax levies and funding and expenses increasing faster than revenues. For the AAA, out of those challenges, the biggest is the increasing cost from providers of services and meals. There have been some funding increases in the Aging and Disability Services from the State and

Federal funds this year. However, other programs have remained flat. There was a Q&A after the presentation. The Commission took no action.

- c) Discussion/Action Item, Advocacy Committee Recommendations, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Commissioner Brian Peters:** The Advocacy Committee is asking for the Commission on Aging's support to submit a request to the County Board for the 2025 Aging Services Budget and to submit a letter of support on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and to provide a letter of comment on the Family Care and Family Care Partnership Medicaid Waiver renewals (The Advocacy Committee included all documents in today's meeting packet).

MOTION: To request the Commission on Aging approval to include an annual base level tax levy increase of \$283,00 to the AAA budget.

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

MOTION: For the Commission on Aging to support the Reauthorization of the of the Older American's Act.

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

MOTION: For the Commission on Aging to support the submission of a letter with comments to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services regarding their Home and Community Based Service Medicaid Waiver Application.

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

- d) Discussion/Action Item, 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Progress Report Update, Commissioner Denise Callaway:** A few deadlines are approaching for the Area Plan. One of the challenges the Advisory Council faces is that their deadline to complete the area plan has changed from the end of December to December 1, 2024, as the state now requires the Area plan to be submitted. Therefore, the Council has lost a month to complete its work. The Advisory Council continues to send and receive survey data, hold focus groups, and tabulate that data. The Advisory Council has one last public hearing to present the collected data sometime in September 2024.

The Council will hold a large meeting to review all collected data on the present mission and Area plan goals and the progress made with the current goals. Then, new goals will be created for the new area plan. The meeting will confirm the Area Aging Plan's vision and critical focus areas. Commissioner Callaway encouraged everyone to spread the word and ensure all older adults had completed a survey.

- e) **Discussion/Action Item, Addressing the Increase of Homelessness with Older Adults in Milwaukee County, Eric Collins, DHHS Deputy Administrator of Outreach Services, Housing Division Services:** Mr. Collins, presented on Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Milwaukee County. Over the past 18 months, there has been an increase in the number of cases of older adults experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. During the winter months, inclement weather increased the need for warming rooms and emergency housing. Mr. Collins reviewed the "Demographics of Population Utilizing Milwaukee County Emergency Shelters and Warming Rooms" from 2022-2023, January 2024 - May 2024, and the 2023 Point in Time Homeless County by Age Demographics and All Household types. Also discussed were "Current Strategies" (DHHS Housing Services and continuum of Care partners, Outreach teams, Salvation Army Emergency Lodge Medial Respite Program, Community Advocates Elder Care Program at Milwaukee Women Center, Advocate Aurora Mobile Medical Team), Shelters, warming sites, public libraries, senior centers, encampments, and food/meal distribution sites. He presented older data from 2015-2016 to show progression.

DHHS Housing Division applied in June for a \$1 million two-year Elder Justice Innovation Grant. It would provide \$500,00 annually to build infrastructure and coordinate responses to focus on housing insecurity and older adult victims of Elder Abuse. Expect to receive word in a few months. It reviewed the goals and objectives of Milwaukee County's Collaborative to Improve Emergency Housing and Stabilization for Older Adults. Chair Wilberg would like Mr. Collins to return in a few months to give updates.

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

Chair Wilberg announced that Senior Center Committee is meeting on July 7, 2024. The June COA meeting will be held at Marcia Coggs, Conference room 104 instead of at the Senior Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:A.M. THE NEXT COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, G. Miller Second)

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant