



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

COMMISSION ON AGING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 9, 2024

The Executive Committee members convened virtually on Friday, August 9, 2024. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting hosted on Microsoft Teams with video and call options.

Members Present

Janice Wilberg, *Chairwoman*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*

Members Absent

Amber Miller, *At Large Member*
Terrence Moore Sr, *Vice-Chair*

Milwaukee County Staff

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS, ADS, AAA*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS, ADS, AAA*

Attendees

Jen Hayes, *ACL Interpreter*
Jill Doering, *ACL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

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

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the June 14, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes.

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

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Informational Item, Update on Candidates to the Commission on Aging, (COA) Chair Janice Wilberg:** Chair Wilberg didn't have any updates on Commission Candidates. The Chair asked AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski if there were any updates on non-commissioned candidates for a committee or council. One person who expressed an interest in joining the Senior Center Committee is Brenda White, who recently attended the Senior Leadership program. Director Idzikowski is waiting to receive her application.

- b) Informational Item, Update on the Commission and Committee/Council meeting process and use of Zoom:** Chair Wilberg followed up with DHHS Executive Director Shakita LaGrant-McClain on her request to allow the Commission to use Zoom because MS Teams has been problematic. Director LaGrant-McClain approved the Commission's use of Zoom. The Chair asked Vonda Nyang, DHHS Executive Assistant, to provide an update on when the Commission can use Zoom as she works with IMSD to oversee the meeting technology for the Commission. Due to IMSD Security, and they have to set up Zoom for meeting usage, Zoom will not be available until sometime next week.
- c) Action/Discussion Item, Update on Specialized Transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski:** Director Idzikowski informed the Executive Committee that TransDev informed the AAA that they have decided not to reapply for next year's Request for Proposal (RFP). The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is working to revise the RFP for the Older Adults Transportation Services (OATS) for Milwaukee County. The AAA has divided the RFP into two RFPs by service areas into Northside and Southside sectors, allowing smaller local companies to bid on one industry or both. The County has 8-Paratransit vans, half of the fleet needed to run the program that a transportation company/Companies can lease free of charge, 4 for the northside sector, and 4 for the southside sector. However, they will be liable for maintaining the vans. The AAA is also working on returning the group grocery rides for apartment complexes and residential facilities and expanding the locations to senior centers and neighborhoods. As it is more efficient to have multiple people take a grocery ride.

MOTION: To approve the release of the special transportation (OATS) RFP

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

- d) Informational/Discussion Item, Senior Center Strategic Plan, Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS AAA Director:** Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director, reported the progress in funding repairs and upgrades on the County's five-owned Senior Centers. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Executive Director Shakita LaGrant-McClain has hired a Strategic Director and has met with various internal and external leaders, including Chair Wilberg, to address the AAA and Commission's concerns with the Senior Centers. Chair Wilberg has maintained good communication with leadership and advocated for senior needs regardless of tax issues.

There also is a plan for additional revitalization of McGovern Park Senior Center and the other senior centers. Director Idzikowski has submitted an ARPA funding request to the government for the senior centers' internal and external repairs and remodeling updates. Also, Director Idzikowski has

placed a few earmark requests, one from Representative Gwen Moore's office and one for \$4.1 million with an ARPA infrastructure request to the state government. There was a unique RFP for libraries and community centers to rebuild or build to renovate and add an internet infrastructure. This grant would be only for Clinton Rose Senior Center. The repairs and funding would have to be completed by 2026.

- e) **Informational Item, Update on Immunization Outreach, Social Isolation and Loneliness, and Senior Companions Grant program status:** The AAA meets with AmeriCorps weekly to get the Senior Companions program up and running. The Senior Companions program grant is \$367,000, which supports older adults who are isolated and lonely and need companionship, some light housekeeping, transportation, and assistance with light gardening/grass/cleanup. The grant covers 40 senior companions to be matched with peers who need help and meet the federal poverty level in income. There is a state match of funding for \$88,000 as a supplement for the Senior Companions program, which the AAA requested from the State Office on Aging. The State Office on Aging requested that DHS release this funding to AAA.

However, due to the Social Development Commission (SDC) shuttering its operations and the State investigating them, the State will not release the funds until the investigation ends. Currently, the program is set up to run until July 2025 (9 months), the AAA Director does not have staff that can take on this position with their current workload. The AAA needs two full-time staff to run this program. However, it is possible with just one person. Director Idzikowski is researching in getting the grant extended for the AAA to run, as it will take a few months to get it up and running. Also, he is looking to see if someone from the ADRC or possibly a temp could run the program.

The AAA received a grant awarded **\$400,000** to continue the COVID and Flu Vaccination outreach activities for low-income, vulnerable populations and older adults.

- f) **Action Item,** Setting the August 23, 2024, Commission on Aging (COA) meeting agenda:

The Advocacy Committee didn't have any action items to consider for this meeting.

MOTION: To accept the August 23, 2024, Commission on Aging agenda

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

- g) **Informational Item: Announcements:** The Area Aging Plan deadline for submitting a survey is in two weeks. Director Idzikowski asked the Executive

Committee to promote the online survey with any groups they know, and if they need paper copies of the study, let him know.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

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

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2024, at 9 a.m. (virtual and audio) on Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang,
Executive Assistant

DRAFT