



COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MARCH 10, 2025

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened in person at Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, 1220 W. Vliet St., with a virtual MS Teams and video conference option on Monday, March 10, 2025. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Felicia Clayborne
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Rose Onama
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Shaneika Baldwin
Allison Caudill

Staff Present:

Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Julie Lara, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmidt, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Julie Bastin, *EXP*
Damian Buchman, *The Ability Center*
David Crowley, *County Executive*
Fran Musci, *MCTS*
Rebecca Rabatin, *Independence First*
Tim Schabo, *Deputy Chief*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Julie Lara, Office Support Assistant II took roll. A quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

- II. COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID CROWLEY, MEET AND GREET:** Commissioner, County Supervisor, and Wil-O-Way Committee Chair Willie Johnson Jr. revealed the conversion of Grant and Underwood Wil-O-Way sites from wading pools to splash pads, allowing more family involvement and partnership with Easter Seals.

Commissioner Barbara Leigh, Chair of the Program Access Committee discussed the Equal Rights Commission's concerns about disability representation on the Housing Authority Board, which Leigh believes could improve management and service quality. Leigh also discussed the ARPA funded Rehab of Milwaukee County Foreclosures Project, addressing housing preparation for disabled individuals.

Commissioner John Haupt, Chair of the Access Committee provided an update on the social story for the Mitchell airport, highlighting a successful partnership with

two County airport employees, Summer Hegranes and Harold Mester, who brought forward an idea to create a solution story for the airport using pictures and videos. As a result, it went live under the Accessibility Guide for the airport last Friday.

The Commission of Persons with Disabilities, advising County Executive Crowley, advocates for independence for disabled individuals in housing, healthcare, transportation, and recreation. They seek equity in inclusiveness, focusing on older populations and future generations.

Independence First, Rebecca Rabatin discussed Milwaukee's infrastructure projects, including automated pedestrian signals along Capital Drive and 13th Street. Rabatin highlighted the need for input from disabled individuals, mentioning Commissioner Rose Onama, who has disabilities.

Crowley thanked the Commission for all that they do. Crowley stated he will be sure to attend an OPD meeting for the beginning of every year moving forward.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the February 10, 2025, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Perkins Moved, Kearney Second)

It's noted that Commissioner Secretary Marcia Perkins wants the attendance corrected to reflect her as present.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

- a. Transit Plus Report, Informational Item,** Fran Musci, Director of Paratransit/Transit Plus reported for the month of February 2025, ridership on the Transit Plus Program was 29,677. On time performance was 94.95%. Musci informed the commission there are new tablets on order due to a recent tablet outage. Musci shared changes with the Transit Plus Same Day Pilot Program. Due to low ridership, anyone who is in transit plus may now use the Same Day Pilot Program and allows people to pay with cash.
- b. Recreational Update, Informational Item,** Jacqueline Formanek, Interim Director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) is hosting a resource and employment fair at Wil-O-Way Underwood on March 13, 2025, with vendors offering training resources and job opportunities. A 90's holiday-themed prom will be held at the Wilson Senior Center on April 26,

2025. Registration for summer respite camp is still open at Wil-O-Way Grant and Underwood locations.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. ARPA Housing Update, Informational Item**, Administrator Tina Anderson updated Commission how ARPA Housing will work. Anderson indicated homes will be sold to first time homebuyers. If the buyer of the home is an individual with disabilities, Milwaukee County has funds set aside to help update that home according to the needs of the actual buyer. This information is given to first time home buyers through the first-time home buyer program. Anderson informed Commission she is hoping to release information before the next Commission meeting.
- b. Planning April Meeting, Action Item**, Commission discussed shortening future meetings to an hour. Commission would like splash pads designs to put on the agenda, inviting Julie Bastin for an update. And Commission also wants a housing update. Commissioner Onama inquired about the Listening Sessions. Chair Falk-Palec suggests getting a report in a future meeting.
- c. Discussion Item, Public Comments**, No discussion, no comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Chair, Deb Falk-Palec to adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Todd moved, Clayborne second)
The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Monday, April 14, 2025, AT 1 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara
Office Support Assistant II