



**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 3, 2026**

The Executive Committee members convened virtually on Friday, April 3, 2026. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting hosted on Zoom.

**Members Present**

Brian Peters, *Chair*  
Maureen Conrad, *Vice Chair*  
Commissioner George Banda  
Sopheya Farrell  
Paulette Maclin  
Tom Suchecki  
Kathy Scott  
Kimberly King

Trina Koch  
William Meunier  
Commissioner Janice Wilberg

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS, ADS, AAA*

**Attendees**

Rene Smith  
Steph Zito, ASL Interpreter  
Jill Kenehan-Krey, ASL Interpreter

**Members Excused**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL**

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. and Director Idzikowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2026 AND MARCH 6, 2026  
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve the February 6, 2026 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.

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

**MOTION:** To approve the March 6, 2026 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.

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

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES**

Chair Peters noted that members should save the date for:  
2026 In-District Aging Advocacy Day  
Wednesday, May 27 from 4 – 5:30 PM at Clinton Rose Senior Center.

#### **IV. LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATES**

Director Idzikowski provided brief updates on public policy issues and legislation, including information from the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network meeting.

##### **A. Federal Aging Policy**

President has released a proposed FFY 2207 budget. Most Older Americans Act programs are level funded, but USAging notes that this is a good time to meet with congressional members to shore up support.

##### **B. State Legislative Issues**

Several bills passed the Wisconsin legislature including:

- \$32 million in additional funding to administer the FoodShare Program
- Restrictions on cryptocurrency kiosks
- Patient Representative bill allows hospital to designate next of kin as decision-makers in cases when an incompetent patient does not have a health care power of attorney.

##### **C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues**

Expecting a difficult Milwaukee County Budget in 2027. A particular advocacy concern is to work to prevent the state from increasing the daily rate for youth incarceration, since this would have a devastating impact on discretionary services.

In response to member Conrad, Idzikowski noted that he did not anticipate any impact on OATS as a result the reassessment of routes and funding at MCTS.

Chair Peters notes that the Future State of Milwaukee County Draft Recommendations are included in the attachments and there is continuing opportunity to provide feedback.

McGovern Senior Center resolution was laid over until April.

#### **V. 2025-2027 AGING AREA PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS REVIEW**

A review of the progress on the advocacy goals was presented. Reminder to nominate individuals to the Senior Leadership Program this May.

#### **VI. 2026 POLICY PRIORITIES**

Chair Peters relays that the Commission on Aging has already approved the 2026 Commission on Aging Public Policy Priorities and asks the Committee to retroactively approve the Priorities since the Committee did not have a quorum to do so at the last meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve 2026 Commission on Aging Public Policy Priorities.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda moved, Sucheki second).

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

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**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Sucheki moved, Banda second).

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Services Director