



## COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES May 13, 2024

The Commission of Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, May 13, 2024. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Allison Caudill  
Shanika Baldwin  
Felicia Clayborne  
John Haupt  
Barbara Leigh  
Sherry Mickelson  
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*  
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*  
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*

### **Commissioners Excused:**

Deb Falk-Palac, *Chair*  
Damian Buchman  
Leon Todd

### **Milwaukee Co. Staff Present:**

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*  
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*  
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*  
Julie Lara, *DHHS*  
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Fran Musci, *MCTS*

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair, Anne Kearney called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Mike Bonk, Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities took roll. A quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 8, 2024, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the April 8, 2024, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes. Corrections/Changes were made by Vice Chair Anne Kearney.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Leigh Moved, Haupt Second)

### III. SPECIAL REPORTS:

- a. **Transit Plus Report:** Milwaukee County Transit System Director, Fran Musci's provided an update. April 2024, MCTS transported 30,748 riders, approximately 700 more riders than March 2024. Their on-time critical performance indicators for April went down under 90%. They have actively worked towards further improvements for appointment drop-offs and ride durations to reach the target of at least 93%. Reasons for April's struggle was uncovered and the first week of May 2024 showed significant improving of over 93%. To sustain improvement, steps have been taken by hiring drivers. TransDev has brought in several drivers within the last week. They have a new driver pick which will start May 26, 2024. This will help strategize to better align staff schedules to meet the daily peak demand periods. They have also realigned dispatch schedules in the afternoons for a smoother function. There will be a public meeting at Independence First on June 1, 2024, from 11am-12:30pm in person and possibly hybrid, to hear out/address the public's concerns. Transdev is releasing an app called "My Transit Manager," to be launched June 3, 2024. This app, accessible online or via smartphone, will keep riders informed through notifications sent via email, text, or the app itself. It will be available in both English and Spanish and will be screen reader compatible. Caregivers will also have the ability to monitor their riders progress on the route. She informs the committee the app can be adopted by the public before June 3, 2024, by reaching out to the Transit Plus Office for setup help.

**Taxi Program:** The Paratransit Taxi Taskforce Pilot Project has published an RFI (request for information) around May 3, 2024, and is out until May 17, 2024. This gives outlines of what's looked for in a program. RFI'S come back May 17, 2024, and will be evaluated by staff and Taxi Taskforce. Next steps to follow will be decided based on feedback. The next Taxi Taskforce meeting will be May 22, 2024.

- b. **2025 Budget Update:** Matt Fortman gave an update. All DHHS departments have been given a Flat Tax Levy Target from the County Executive's Office. The 2025 support funding for County Services will be the same as 2024. Flat Tax Levy challenges include: Inflation and anticipating increase costs with OPD (Offices of Persons with Disabilities). DHHS have been tasked with creating requested budgets and submitting them in July 2024. The County Executive and Team, in July through October 1, 2024, will make adjustments to County Wide budgets and will recommend them to the County Board. At that time the County Board goes through their meeting and amendment process before adopting the full budget in November 2024. Vice Chair Anne Kearney questioned what our Flat Budget is. Fortman shared the OPD's Budget Scope. The 2024 adopted budget includes \$511,000 in property tax levy, total expense of \$671,000 and revenue offsetting that difference of \$159,000; which is mostly revenue from building space rental from leasing out the Wil-O-Way facilities. Most of the budget challenges is that tax levy balance to be

maintained within changes. Contracts for Summer programs are relatively flat at \$266,000 which is a portion of OPD's budget that goes towards those services. Commissioner Kearny questioned if fees for Summer Camp services will go up in regard to bridging that gap between the budget and property tax. Fortman stated it hasn't been considered. All other options would be exhausted before doing so. Kearney stated they want to keep it flat as possible for affordability. Then questioned Capital Improvements, if Wil-O-Way's work coming from the 2024 budget year or spilling over to 2025. Fortman stated it will be within 2025 budget plan. Administrator Bonk explained the Capital Budget is different from the Operating budget. The current Capital budget is at \$31,000 for each Wil-O-Way facility plan in 2024 totaling \$62,000 to start the design process of the Splash Pads. Then in 2025 more Capital funds will be requested, which will continue the design, and get public input on the features of the Splash Pad. The Goal is to break ground in 2026 with at least a 98% drawings plan in place. Commissioner Kearney questioned if any needed repairs are coming from these budgets. Administrator Bonk states it comes from The Department of Administration Services Facilities Management Division. Repairs are still on schedule and Wil-O-Way Underwood is scheduled to be reopen on June 15, 2024.

- c. **Recreation Update:** Jacqueline Formanek, ADS Recreation Services Coordinator mentioned the VIP Prom Dance on April 26, 2024, was a success with 72 participants. Formanek provided an update on Summer Camp. Registration is now closed and currently a waiting list. There are 45 campers at Grant; there are currently 52 campers in Underwood. Easter Seals is still hiring 2 more counselors for both camp locations.

Ms. Formanek shares that Sail Away continues to expand. ADA celebration is July 26, 2024, at Gordon Park from 10am-2pm.

#### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **Feedback of Gaps in Services:** Dr. Marietta Luster, Administrator of Aging and Disabilities Services stated the survey went out. There were 7 out of 12 responses and about a week left to do the survey. The themes of survey are Housing, Transportation, and Employment. Dr Luster said Jacqueline and Mike will talk about the feedback in a future meeting. Bonk added a missed theme from the survey being Caregiving for Individuals with Disabilities.
- b. Preparation of Commission for Persons with Disabilities Meeting date with County Executive David Crowley is to be determined due to conflict. Deb Falk-Palec, chairwoman may try to come up with a date that will work. Kearney wants suggestions of what to talk with him about. Wants to present a broader scope of equity lens regarding ongoing projects and

suggested a presentation. Committee Chair John Haupt and Willie Johnson Jr, County Supervisor are comfortable with that approach. Suggesting they discuss any possible challenges prior to meeting. Bonk suggests highlighting all great things that the Commission has been advocating for the past year. And focus on recent accomplishments. As well as things advocated outside the office. Dr. Luster suggested testimonials for impact. Commissioner Kearney will work with Commissioner Palec to put together something readable for County Executive Crowley prior to meeting.

- c. Program Access Committee Update Regarding Housing: Barbara Leigh, Commissioner listed issues wanted to be addressed with Department of Housing such as rats, violence, and rent overcharges. Kearney questioned Committee meeting to be conveyed on this subject. Presenting various sources of information to Committee to act. Leigh agreed to have a pre-meeting prior to June's Commission meeting. Bonk requested 48 hour's notice to add Housing in meeting for Agenda.
- d. Commission Membership, Rose Onama, introduction to Commission: Commissioner Kearney states this is a closed session item. Commissioner Leigh advocated on behalf of Rose Onama and believes she will be a good fit for the Commission. Commissioner Kearney stated Commissioner will take action at the next Commission meeting in June and will go into closed session to vote on the appointment of Rose Onama.
- e. **Other Commission Business:** Director, Office of Persons with Disabilities announced his new role as Deputy Administrator as of today, May 13, 2024. Dr. Marietta Luster, Administrator, Aging and Disabilities Services, announced her retirement from Milwaukee County after 32 years of service. Her last day will be May 31, 2024.
- f. **Other Matters by the Public:** No discussion.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:06p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 10, 2024, AT 1 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara

Office Support Assistant