



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

COMMISSION ON AGING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 12, 2024

The Executive Committee members convened virtually on Friday, April 12, 2024. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting hosted on Microsoft Teams with video and call options.

Members Present

Janice Wilberg, *Chairwoman*
Terrence Moore Sr, *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
Amber Miller, *At Large Member*
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Emily Petersen, *DHHS, ADS, AAA*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS, ADS, AAA*

Attendees

Jill Kenehan-Krey, *Interpreter*
Patty McKenzie, *Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller took roll. A quorum of Committee members was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the March 8, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moore 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 recommended the appointment of Marni King (Native American) to the County Executive, who has approved her appointment to serve on the Commission on Aging (COA). Ms. King's appointment will be reviewed by the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning in May. If approved by this committee, she is expected to be reviewed and have final approval by the County Board, the date is to be determined.

- b) Action Item, Nomination to Serve on a Council/Committee:** The Executive Committee has two nominations to discuss and approve for a Council and Committee: George Schneider for the Advisory Council and Ramona Dicks-Williams for the Senior Center Committee. The Executive Committee has agreed to move their nominations forward for the full Commission's approval.

MOTION: To approve both nominations George Schneider and Ramona Dicks-Williams

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

- c) Discussion/Action Item, Bus Shelters at Senior Centers, Commissioner Amber Miller:** Commissioner Miller is advocating for MCTS to have more bus shelters built in the areas where persons 50 years and older congregate. She meets with the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) twice yearly for a state-of-the-state meeting and found that Milwaukee County needs more bus shelters. There are 4,600 bus stops in Milwaukee County, and only 20% have a shelter. The County's five-owned Senior Centers have shelters except for the Kelly Senior Center. However, at the McGovern Park and Wilson Senior Centers, there is a distance walk for seniors to get to them.

Last year, she proposed to MCTS that the Kelly Senior Center have a shelter built, but there was a snag with her request. The Parks Department would have to okay having the shelter built on the park area, and the MOU would have to be signed. Currently, MCTS nor the Parks Department would sign the MOU. Later last year, MCTS informed Commissioner Miller that they had received half a million in funding to build more bus shelters, including 20 shelters. Commissioner Miller would like the Executive Committee and Commission's support to find out how the MOU can get signed to have a shelter built at Kelly Senior Center and for the McGovern Park and Wilson Park bus shelters to be more accessible.

The conclusion of the Executive Committee's discussion is to have the AAA Director, Daniel Idzikowski, invite MCTS and the Parks Department to a Commission meeting to discuss their thinking process on how they can better serve the senior population by making the shelters more accessible.

- d) Discussion/Action Item, 2025 Aging Services Budget Request:** Chair Wilberg discussed how last year; the Advocacy Committee had advocated for additional tax levy funding over the base funding for the 2024 Aging Services Budget. The County Board and Executive approved the request as a one-time funding increase. Now that it's a new budget season, and if the Commission wants to seek additional tax levy funding for the 2025 Budget, they will need to decide if they are going to submit a request this year for additional tax levy funding and for how much from the County Board and

Executive. The extra tax levy funding is an item that the Advocacy Committee should discuss on their agenda and come up with a recommendation to present to the Executive Committee and Commission. Ms. Peterson, Advocacy and Policy Manager for Aging Services, informed Chair Wilberg that Commissioner Peters has the 2025 Aging Services Budget on their agenda as an action item for this month.

Chair Wilberg asked the Advocacy Committee Chair if they could move the Advocacy Committee's meeting dates to meet before the Executive Committee so they can submit their recommendations to the Executive Committee and Commission before their agendas are complete. The Advocacy Committee is working on new dates to accommodate Chair Wilberg's request.

- e) **Discussion/Action Item, Area Aging Plan Public Hearings:** Chair Wilberg provided an update on the first two public hearings held on April 16, 2024, and April 19, 2024. The Chair was very pleased with the attendance of both commissioners and constituents. She commended the AAA staff for their outstanding job and teamwork with the public hearings and hoped the last two public hearings would run like the first two.
- f) **Discussion Item, MS Teams Access to Commission and Committee/Council meetings:** Vonda Nyang, AAA Executive Assistant, provided an update on resolving the connection and functionality issues with MS Teams. Ms. Nyang is meeting with IMSD's applications architect today at noon to discuss the issues that the Commission and its participants are experiencing with trying to utilize MS Teams for meetings. Also, Ms. Nyang has invited the interpreter services to be part of this meeting so they can explain their problems with signing at the meetings.
- g) **Action Item, Setting the April 26, 2024, Commission on Aging (COA) meeting agenda:** The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda items for the April COA meeting. The Committee discussed the need for transparency and for the Service Delivery Committee to be informed in advance of contract changes to allow time for review, questions, and answers before these items are brought before the Executive Committee and COA. Chair Wilberg agrees that SDC should be informed promptly for review and to decide if it needs COA approval.

The Executive Committee discussed the items on the draft agenda and set the agenda for the April 26, 2024, COA meeting.

- h) **Informational Item: Announcements:** The Chair emphasized to the Executive Committee the crucial need for a written protocol for the Commission on Aging (COA). This protocol will guide the Commission on which action items require their review and approval, and which ones do not.

This step is essential to ensure the Commission utilizes its time efficiently and effectively. Chair Wilberg doesn't want the Commission to use its time approving every item that doesn't need their approval unless they are an accountability body. So, she has asked Dr. Marietta Luster and AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski to assemble a protocol for the Commission to present at the May 12, 2024, Executive Committee meeting.

At a future meeting, she will request that the Health and Human Services Administration discuss the current office space allocation for Aging Services and what space they have planned for the AAA at the new building. Current AAA staff do not have offices at Coggs; there is only one office, and everyone else works remotely. Chair Wilberg wants to understand the process for allocating space for Aging Services and would like to have David Muhammad, whom she believes is overseeing the new building layout, attend the May Executive Committee to inform them of the vision for the new building.

The Chair announced that the Federal Government has changed a few regulations regarding the relationship of the Advisory Council to the Commission on Aging. The new rule now states that these two entities must be separate, meaning no commissioners will be on the Council. So, the Commission must work on constructing a new model for the Advisory Council that best represents the older adult community in Milwaukee.

Vice-Chair Terrence Moore asked for an update on the process for COA submission deadlines for meeting documents with the AAA Coordinators and presenters. Did AAA Director Idzikowski and Ms. Nyang meet with the coordinators to inform them of the deadlines for submitting documents for the COA meetings? Are the coordinators submitting their documents to the Executive Assistant in a timely fashion? Also, was there an update on utilizing social media for getting information out to the public about the Commission and its Committee and Council meetings? Ms. Nyang informed the Executive Committee that everything was running smoothly, with a few hiccups, which she expected with first establishing a deadline. If she runs into any issues, she will report them back to the Committee regarding social media. She has met with Bekki Schmitt, who oversees AAA's Facebook page. The Commission can have information posted on their meetings, such as the dates and times, and a link to bring them to the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC); however, it is not policy to post direct links to the meetings on Facebook. Director Idzikowski is planning on meeting with the new person in charge of AAA's Facebook page, Lorie O'Connor, to see if this request to have direct links could be reconsidered and granted.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

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

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2024, at 9 a.m. (virtual and audio) on Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang,
Executive Assistant

DRAFT