



## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 27, 2023

The **Commission on Aging** (COA) convened in-person and by videoconference at Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center, 3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., on Friday, October 27, 2023.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Amber Miller, *Vice-Chair*  
Terrence R. Moore, Sr, *Secretary*  
George Banda  
Denise Callaway  
Eugene Guskowski  
Brian Peters  
Cindy Van Vreede

### **Commissioners Excused**

Jon Gaines  
John Griffith  
Gloria Miller  
Elliott Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*  
Paula Pennebaker  
Cherie Swenson  
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

### **Milwaukee County Staff:**

Gordi Bennett, *FAS*  
Sumaiya-Clark, *DHHS*  
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Debra Horton, *DHHS*

### **Milwaukee County Staff:**

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Domonique Klett, *DHHS*  
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*  
John Mack, *IMSD*  
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*  
David Mohammad, *DHHS*  
Mary Proctor-Brown, *DHHS*  
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*  
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*  
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS*  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*  
Sandi Ammerman  
Christie Carter  
Michelle Drouillard, *Goodwill Ind.*  
Matthew Hayes, *Senior Law*  
Brian Kading, *Transdev*  
Miriam Kaja, *SOA*  
Derrick Cainion, *Interpreter*  
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *Interpreter*  
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Vice-Chair Amber Miller took roll. There was a quorum of Commissioners present.

### II. REMARKS GUEST, "GOVERNANCE COUNTY ON HEALTHCARE EQUITY, GINA GREEN-HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF WISCONSIN ALZHEIMER'S INSTITUTE REGIONAL MILWAUKEE OFFICE

Director Gina Green-Harris was not able to attend today's meeting, so this agenda item was omitted.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve September 22, 2023, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** There were no objections, and the minutes were approved upon corrections.

**IV. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: TIM SCHABO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

Tim Schabo, Deputy Chief of Staff, was unable to attend today's meeting. No report.

**V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Chair of the Advisory Council, Denise Callaway, provided a brief update on the Advisory Council's work completed thus far in two targeted areas identified by the Council that are affecting the older adult community: Loneliness and Social isolation and Chronic Heart Disease. A few of the Council members have volunteered to work on this project. Two work groups for each target area are researching and working on recommendations to present to the Commission before the end of the year. The Aging Unit staff and the Commission on Aging and its Committees and Council will be working on the next three-year area plan next year in January.

Chair of the Senior Center Committee, Eugene Guskowski, informed the Commission that the Senior Center Committee is holding a meeting a week from today. The SCC plans to visit all five County-owned Senior Centers and have their meetings at the centers. So far, they held their first in-person meeting at Washington Park Senior Center. Their next meeting will be held at Kelly Senior Center next month. The first project the SCC will work on is the attributes identified in the Milwaukee Hub report and using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create imagery. They are also making a form to send to potential partners to find funding and service partners.

Chair of the Service Delivery Committee Amber Miller explained that the community oversees and provides input on the programs and service contracts coordinated by the Area Agency on Aging. The SDC monitors those contracts by having six-month presentations to review their progress, goals, and expectations and provide feedback for improvement and funding recommendations. SDC held two vendor presentations, and just recently, they met twice this month to discuss the 2024 Vendor Contract Recommendations, which Commissioner Miller will present to the Commission later in the meeting. Commissioner Miller encouraged the public to contact staff to inform them if they have any questions or concerns with the services, they are receiving from the contracts they oversee.

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (August 14, 2023, and September 11, 2023)
- b) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (August 7, 2023)
- c) Advisory Council meeting minutes (June 14, 2023, and August 9, 2023)

**MOTION:** To Approve the consent agenda meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously (Moved Banda, Callaway Second)

## VII. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Action Item: Inclusion of the Nutrition Council within the Bylaws of the Commission on Aging,** Chair Wilberg provided the overview of the proposed bylaw change: The Commission on Aging (COA) and the Nutrition Council both recommended a change to their bylaws to Incorporate the Nutrition Advisory Council as a distinct Council within the Commission on Aging. The Council will advise the COA and the Senior Dining Program Coordinator on nutrition and nutrition-supportive services within the program area, allowing the Nutrition Council to be a standing entity of the Commission on Aging's Committee and Council structure. Under this proposed change, the Chair of the Nutrition Advisory Council will be appointed by the Chair of the Commission on Aging.

**MOTION:** To include the Nutrition Council in the Commission on Aging's Bylaws as presented.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously (Guszkowski Moved, Moore Second)

- B. Action Item: 2024 Contract Recommendations, Chair, Service Delivery Committee, Amber Miller:** Chair of the Service Delivery Committee Amber Miller presented the 2024 Contract Recommendations document to the Commission on Aging and asked for two motions to approve the contract recommendations. Both actions are listed below.

**MOTION:** Accept all contract recommendations listed in the 2024 Contract Recommendations except for the recommendation relating to contracting for specialized transportation services with First Transit/TransDev.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously (Moore Moved, Banda Second)

A Commissioner asked about the \$12,133 variance in the contracts with Serving Older Adults of Southeastern Wisconsin (SOA). Is the variance a funding increase, and if yes, would it be split between the two contracts listed for SOA? Director Idzikowski explained that the programming contract that SOA currently holds was supposed to be open for new bids under a Request for Proposal this year pursuant to County Ordinance. In general, most contracts must be

reopened for new proposals every three to five years. Area Agency on Aging staff wished to make substantial revisions to the Program Guidelines and contract considering the Commission on Aging's work relating to re-envisioning senior centers over the past several years, prior to releasing a new Request for Proposal for senior center programming and meal site supervision at the Milwaukee County owned senior centers.

The County agreed to grant the AAA a grace period until July 2023 to begin services under the awardee of a new RFP. SOA has agreed to continue to provide programming to the senior centers under the current contract until July 1, 2024. In addition to the guideline revision, staff also recommended a small increase in the funding budgeted for this program and that is reflected in this recommendation. However, that increase will accrue to whoever is awarded the new contract in 2024 after the RFP process is concluded. SOA will not receive this increase under the existing contract extension.

**MOTION:** Approve the contract recommendation for specialized transportation services to First Transit/TransDev with the incorporation of specific performance measures and penalty provisions as drafted by the AAA staff for purposes of service accountability.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously (A. Miller Moved, Petersen Second).

Brian Kading, General Manager at TransDev, reported to the Commission explaining what caused the transportation issues they faced earlier this year. Due to the low number of drivers and the ride requests being more significant than their resources and what they anticipated, they needed more drivers to meet expectations, which affected services for all their contracts. TransDev held job fairs to hire new drivers and dispatchers. They hired an additional 35 drivers and several dispatchers, all of whom are now in training.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion about what happened and what type of contingency plan they must prevent the same issues from happening again as well as what other changes TransDev made besides hiring new drivers. Commissioner Miller requested that Emily Petersen, overseeing this contract, ensure that she receives monthly metric reports from TransDev to provide to SDC to measure Transdev's progress on complaints and performance.

A roll call vote was taken on the second motion as follows:

Aye (7) A. Miller, Moore, Banda, Guskowski, Peters, VanVreede, and Wilberg  
Present (1) Callaway

Motion prevailed.

**C. Action Items: Advocacy Committee Resolutions, Elliot Moeser, Chair of Advocacy Committee:** Chair Moeser was absent at today's meeting; therefore, the chair tabled this agenda.

- Request to Federal delegation to increase funding for the Older Americans Act in the 2024 Budget.
- Send a letter in support of the rule for nursing home staffing standards proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**D. Action/Discussion Item:** "Climate Action 2050 Plan", Gordie Bennett, Sustainability Director, Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services: Mr. Bennett provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the County's Climate Action 2050 Plan. In 2021, the County Board adopted a resolution to set carbon neutrality as a goal for Milwaukee County operations to:

- Reduce carbon emissions by 2050
- Improve energy efficiency of buildings (including senior centers)
- Improving transit services, MCTS fixed route services (not on-demand services)
- Reduce Milwaukee County Airport carbon emissions.

Currently this initiative is in the brainstorming stage, working with county leaders to develop a plan. The leaders expect to have the plan completed by June of 2024. Mr. Bennett offered to return to provide updates to the COA on this project. Chair Wilberg asked for more information about the vulnerability assessment and how it impacts the County. There were also questions posed by other Commissioners. The County hired a consultant to assess climate change vulnerabilities. Currently, there are three identified for Milwaukee County: Extreme Heat, poor air quality, and localized flooding. For more information, see the PowerPoint titled "Climate Action 2050 Plan Overview", which includes maps and locations of the report.

**VIII. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, DHHS AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES, AGING UNIT DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI**

In addition to his AAA October Director's report, Director Idzikowski wanted to recognize the AAA staff's work on the following:

- Developing 2024 contract recommendations and Requests for Proposal
- Recognized staff: Carrie Koss Vallejo, Jill Knight, and Emily Petersen for stepping up and taking on other work.

For more information, see attached Director's Report.

**IX. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, LAURA LANGER.**

Laura Langer had three announcements:

- **25th Anniversary of Aging and Disability Resource Centers:** The state of WI congratulated Milwaukee's ADRC for its role in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).
- **Federal Regulations on the Older Americans Act:** The new Federal regulations to the Older Americans Act release date is March 2024. ACL announced that it may take several years before the approved changes are addressed. The recent changes will affect State plans for 2025- 2028, which require the methods to be changed.
- **National Family Caregivers Month:** The month recognizes and honors caregivers nationally to increase awareness and support around caregiving issues and educate communities. The State Office on Aging received a proclamation from the Governor's Office for National Family Caregiving Month. Ms. Langer will provide a copy of the declaration to Ms. Nyang to share with the Commission.

#### **X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Taylor was not present at today's meeting, and a report was not provided.

#### **XI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Wilberg provided the following report:

- Chair Wilberg announced she will present at the County Board Budget Hearing on Monday, October 30, at 6 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center. Chair Wilberg will provide a statement to the County Board on behalf of the Commission on Aging relating to its consideration of the 2024 County Budget and summarizing the actions that the Commission on Aging has taken on the 2024 County budget. The Chair read the document that she will be presenting at the budget hearing.
- She informed the Commission that they had received a detailed response from the Governor addressing ageism in the State of Wisconsin and that the Commissioners had received a copy.
- Continues to work on Commissioner recruitment. Please let her know of anyone interested in becoming a commissioner.
- Chair Wilberg ended her report by informing the Commission of her expectations of them attending the COA meeting in person rather than virtually when possible. noting there were only eight out of fourteen Commissioners present. She also expressed concern that the Senior Center staff and Aging



Services staff had invested significant time and effort in setting up the Commission meeting only to have five Commissioners physically present. She noted that the next meeting would be an in-person at Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center and the December 8 meeting would be virtual for the purposes of the election.

## **XII. COMMISSION ON AGING PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Director Idzikowski encouraged everyone to review the Commission packet for upcoming events and to feel free to attend them. Also, if any Commissioner would like to help at the events, don't hesitate to contact him or his staff.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously (Banda Moved, A. Moore Seconded).

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m. The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, November 17, 2023, an in-person/Hybrid meeting at Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center, 3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant