



MILWAUKEE COUNTY

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2026

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in-person at the Marcia P. Cogs Human Services Center and virtually by Zoom on Friday, February 27, 2026.

Commissioners Present:

Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Eugene Guskowski, M.Arch., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
George Banda, *Secretary*
Mark P. Behar, PA-C
Gloria Miller
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Cindy Van Vreede
Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez

Commissioners Excused:

Terrence R. Moore, Sr.
Paula Penebaker, *Exec Comm. at Large*

Milwaukee County Staff:

Kaisa Kerrigan, *DHHS-AAA*
Jill Knight, *DHHS-AAA*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS-AAA*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS-AAA*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS-AAA*
Kayla Steinke, *DHHS-AAA*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS-AAA*

Attendees from the Public

Brook Stanely, *Milwaukee LGBT
Community Center*
Michael Vanblaricum, *Serving Older Adults*
Veronica Ruffian, *Eras Senior Network*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *ASL Interpreter*
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Stephanie Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Secretary George Banda conducted a roll call. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER GLORIA MILLER

Chair Callaway presented a recognition plaque from County Executive David Crowley to departing Commissioner Gloria Miller. Commissioner Miller made remarks. There was no action taken.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2026, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the January 23, 2026, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously. (Van Vreede Moved, Behar Second).

IV. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT,

Kyle Ashley, Director of Community Outreach for the County Executive's Office could not attend today's meeting so there was no report.

V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

The chairs of the Commission on Aging's committees and councils provided an update on meetings during the past month.

- **Advocacy Committee, Brian Peters:** Committee considered several legislative updates to be acted on later in the agenda and reviewed feedback from the public on policy priorities document.
- **Service Delivery Committee, George Banda:** Planning for vendor presentations in last week of March.
- **Advisory Council, Paula Penebaker:** Commissioner Penebaker was absent so no report was considered.
- **Wellness Committee, Jacqueline Smith:** Committee is hearing community presentations and outreach on upcoming events.
- **Senior Center Committee, Eugene Guskowski:** report deferred to later in the meeting.
- **Nutrition Advisory Council, Cindy Van Vreede:** new Dine Out Site, An Ox, making preparations to open soon, invite will be sent out for grand opening. Request made that staff send out Nutrition Services 2025 Yearly Review be sent out to all Commissioners.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- A. Executive Committee minutes (January 9, 2026)
- B. Advocacy Committee minutes (January 9, 2026)
- C. Wellness Committee minutes (November 19, 2025)
- D. Senior Center Committee minutes (January 9, 2026)

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Guskowski moves, Banda second).

VII. ACTION / INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS (9:50 A.M.)

A. Action Item: 2025 Commission on Aging Year in Review Report.

Chair Callaway presented the draft report to the Commission. There was no discussion from Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the 2025 Commission on Aging Year in Review Report.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters moved, Behar second).

B. Action Item: Advocacy Items, Commissioner Brian Peters, Advocacy Committee Chair.

- a. Support the following state legislative items and send letters of support to the Milwaukee County State Legislative Delegation:

- i. AB-984—regulation of memory care designations.
- ii. AB-968—regulation of cryptocurrency kiosks.
- iii. LRB-6090—home-delivered meal funding.

Commissioner Peters presented the items, including the recommendation by the Advocacy Committee that the Commission support these pieces of legislation. Commissioner Wilberg concurred with the recommendation and shared the support of AARP Wisconsin for the cryptocurrency legislation.

MOTION: to support the Advocacy Committee's position on state legislation, AB-984 (regulation of memory care designations); AB-968 (regulation of cryptocurrency kiosks) and LRB-6090 (home-delivered meal funding).

ACTION: motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters moved, Wilberg second).

C. Discussion Item: Commission on Aging Bylaw Amendments, First Consideration, Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair.

Chair Callaway introduced the bylaw amendments and requested that Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Policy Manager, explain the changes. The Commission requested clarification on the necessity of these changes and their relevance to Robert's Rules of Order, which Emily clarified. There was no action taken.

D. Action Item: New Dine-Out Meal Site at An Ox Café, Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede, Chair, Nutrition Council

Commissioner Van Vreede introduced the new Dine-Out meal site, An Ox Café, which will serve Asian cuisine. Funds are available out of existing appropriations to support this site. Commissioners will be notified by staff of the grand opening date.

MOTION: to approve the addition of An Ox Café to the Dine Out program.

ACTION: motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar moved, Banda second).

E. Informational: Report on progress on the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan, Commissioner Paula Penebaker

In Commissioner Penebaker's absence, Chair Callaway introduced the 2025 Area Plan Annual Review to the Commission for discussion or feedback. There was no discussion on this item.

F. Discussion Item: Milwaukee County Senior Center Developments, Commissioner Eugene Guskowski, Vice Chair

Commissioner Guskowski provided an overview of recent updates on senior center projects, including discussions related to the future of McGovern Senior Center and the implementation of the Milwaukee HUBS project. There will be a report on the McGovern senior center before the County Board in March, alongside two public listening sessions at Washington Park senior center. Commissioners were encouraged to attend in support of the report before the County Board at the Parks Committee, Health Equity Committee, and Finance Committee. Chair

Callaway requested staff distribute information on how Commissioners can attend and provide comment at these meetings.

G. Discussion Item: AARP Livable Communities in Milwaukee County, Commissioner Paula Penebaker.

Commissioner Wilberg provided an update on the work of the AARP Livable Communities initiative. The workgroup will begin working on its first domain, transportation, at subsequent meetings.

VII. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Laura Langer, from the WI-DHS Office on Aging provided a report noting:

- The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is hosting an Advocacy Day of Action of May 6, 2026 to encourage advocates to call or email their legislators on specific priorities to be released at a later date.
- Bills to provide grants for falls prevention and community emergency services are in the state legislature.
- WI-DHS is updating its digital accessibility.

VIII. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Daniel Idzikowski, AAA Director

Chair Callaway introduced Director Idzikowski's report for review by Commissioners. There was no discussion on this item.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez (Informational Item)

County Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez was excused from the remainder of the meeting and did not provide a report.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, Commissioner Denise Callaway

Chair Callaway provided an overview of activities of the AAA and COA over the past month, including updates on the status of the McGovern Senior Center. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the Milwaukee County Future State strategic planning listening sessions to ensure the voice of older adults is integrated into the feedback. Chair Callaway requested staff virtually distribute the Future State flyer and link to the associated survey to Commissioners.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Callaway requested public comments. There were no public comments.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda moved, Guskowski second)

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Idzikowski
Director of Aging Services