



COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES JULY 14, 2025

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened in person at Independence First, 540 S. 1st St., Milwaukee, WI, with a virtual MS Teams and video conference option on Monday, July 14, 2025. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Shaneika Baldwin
Felicia Clayborne
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Rose Onama
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Sherry Mickelson

Staff Present:

Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Davia Fenton, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*

Attendees:

Thomas Bertrand, *MCTS*
David Cialdini, *Sr. Project Manager*
James Mathy, *Administrative Housing*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Davia Fenton, the Executive Assistant for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), recorded attendance, confirming that a quorum was present.

Alissa Blom, the Communications Manager for Milwaukee County's DHHS, presented a proclamation from County Executive David Crowley to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The declaration highlighted the ADA's significance in promoting equality and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. The declaration was well-received, and a photo was taken to celebrate the occasion.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2025, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the June 9, 2025, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Todd Moved, Perkins Second)

III. SPECIAL REPORTS

- a. **Informational Item, Administrative Housing, (Mr. Mathy provided an update on behalf of Connor Goggans, Senior Estate Project Manager):** James Mathy, the Housing Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and David Cialdini, the Senior Real Estate Project Manager from Milwaukee County's housing division, provided an update on the rehabilitation of foreclosed homes. They discussed the status of these homes, the process involved in making them affordable, and the challenges posed by recent legislation. At present, there are 10 homes ready for sale, with efforts underway to ensure they remain permanently affordable through a Community Land Trust or deed restrictions. They also addressed questions regarding modifications for individuals with disabilities and discussed how the Commission can help raise awareness about these home-buying opportunities.

They have been converting single-family houses into affordable housing and renovating these homes, typically including a job training component through the Community Redevelopment Corporation (CRC). This program works with residents to provide job training, enabling them to secure union jobs upon their release.

While the Commission does not formally express support for these programs at this time, it remains deeply committed to fostering equity and expanding access to meaningful opportunities for all. The Commission values collaboration and looks forward to working alongside community partners to help elevate and promote these initiatives once they are fully prepared for implementation.

Send the list of questions about the rehabilitation of Milwaukee County foreclosures to Mr. James Mathy. Please inform the Commission once a decision is made regarding the marketing plan for the rehabilitated homes.

- b. **Informational Item, "MOVE 2025", Tom Bertrand, MCTS Transit planner for MCTS:** Tom Bertrand from MCTS presented a PowerPoint overview of the Move 2025 transit plan, which aims to increase ridership, enhance the rider experience, and promote racial equity. The plan includes new routes, extensions of existing routes, and modifications to current services. Notably, these changes are cost-neutral and developed based on extensive public feedback. Tom

emphasized the significance of public outreach and the involvement of bus operators and stakeholders in shaping the plan.

The project has moved forward through various meetings, stakeholder inputs, online surveys, and county board approvals, launching in three phases beginning in December 2024. In the first phase, we narrowed the route options to 17 based on feedback from stakeholders. The county board approved the online survey, and updates are available on the 2025 website.

Mr. Bertrand gathered verbal and written feedback from bus operators and drivers on the routing changes and plans to discuss these with Chris Fox, the Director for Paratransit/Transit Plus.

The project has successfully engaged riders without requiring additional funding and has increased ridership. The Move 2025 initiative marks a significant improvement in the transit system and enhances service for riders.

IV. ACTION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **Action Item, Planning September Meeting:** Chair Deb Falk-Palec informed the Commission that she received two items from Independence First regarding accessibility concerns at Mitchell Airport Park.

The Facilities Access Committee will convene to discuss these items and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to improve accessibility. Jacqueline Formanek, the Director for Persons with Disabilities, will coordinate these meetings and discussions. If there are any additional items to address in the planning, please get in touch with Ms. Formanek to have them included on the agenda for September 8, 2025.

- b. **Discussion Item, Public Comments:** No discussion.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Todd moved, Onama second)

The meeting adjourned at 2 PM

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara, Office Support Assistant II