



**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2026**

The Advocacy Committee members convened virtually on Friday, May 1, 2026. Members and attendees joined in person at the Marcia P. Coggs Center and virtually by Zoom.

Members Present

Brian Peters, *Chair*
Maureen Conrad, *Vice Chair*
Commissioner George Banda
Sopheya Farrell
Paulette Maclin
William Meunier
Tom Suchecki
Kathy Scott
Rene Smith
Kimberly King
Commissioner Janice Wilberg

Members Excused

Trina Koch

Milwaukee County Staff

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS, AAA*
Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco, *DHHS, AAA*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS, AAA*

Attendees

Colin Hall, LGBT center
Brook Stanley, LGBT center
Steph Zito, ASL Interpreter
Jill Kenehan-Krey, ASL Interpreter

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and Director Idzikowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 3, 2026 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the April 3, 2026 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Mikolajczyk moved, Conrad Second).

III. WELCOME NEW ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEMBER, RENE SMITH

Ms. Smith introduced herself. She resides in Greendale, managed a LIHEAP program and worked for USPS, becoming an advocate for low-income families.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

a) Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network Day of Action

b) 2026 In-District Advocacy Day Wed May 27th

Idzikowski asked for ideas regarding the In-District Advocacy Day. Suggestion made to focus on one to three key priorities, for example, Home Delivered Meal Program funding. Members liked the idea of district tables. Chair Peters encouraged members to reach out to their own representative to invite them.

V. 2025-2027 AREA AGING PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS QUARTERLY REVIEW

Idzikowski provided an update on the Area Aging Plan goals related to advocacy.

- Attendance at USAging Policy Conference – met with federal legislators and Disability Advocacy Day in Madison to advocate for long term care priorities;
- Advocacy Committee's listening sessions featured in Neighborhood News;
- Website accessible, and added a page for Senior Leadership Program;
- Need to work on recruiting members to the Advocacy Committee from legislative districts where we don't have representation.

VI. LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATES

Director Idzikowski provided brief updates on public policy issues and legislation, including information from the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network meeting.

A. Federal Aging Policy

President proposed FFY 2207 budget. Most Older Americans Act programs are level funded, but several related programs are proposed for elimination, including Americorps Seniors, CDBG, CSBG, and LIHEAP. Since legislators are in home districts, it is a good time to meet with congressional members.

B. State Legislative Issues

Several bills passed the Wisconsin legislature and became law including:

- \$70 million in additional funding to administer the FoodShare Program
- Financial Eligibility for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program was expanded to all in need and can be used to match National Family Caregiver Support program.
- Patient Representative bill allows hospital to designate next of kin as decision-makers in cases when an incompetent patient does not have a health care power of attorney.

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

Expecting a difficult Milwaukee County Budget in 2027. McGovern Senior Center resolution was laid over until May.

D. Milwaukee County Age Friendly Steering Committee

Transportation – Mass Transit and Walkability priorities were determined. Next to take up Housing and then Health. Advocacy will be needed in the future.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Sucheki moved, Conrad second).

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Services Director