



**Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2021**

Commissioners

Chair Bettie Rodgers, *J.D. M.S.W.*
John Griffith, *Secretary*
Amber Miller, *Vice Chair*
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*
Elliot Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Lily Alvarado
Ronald Byington
Gloria Miller
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ph.D.
Cherie Swenson
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Commissioners Excused

Richmond Izard
Leonor Rosas

Milwaukee County Staff

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, *DHHS*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Bekki Ross, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*
Rebecca Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

Guests

Pat Bruce
Howard Snyder
Dain Maddox
Gene Guskowski
Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Jen Berkes, *Interpreter*
Traci K, *Interpreter*
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, November 19, 2021. Vice-Chair A. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Executive Assistant Vonda Nyang took roll call.

II. REFLECTION: No reflection

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the October 29, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg Moved, Pitchford-Nicholas Second.)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a) **Committee and Council Chairs Report Summary:** There were no Chair reports.

b) **The consent agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:**

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 4, 2021
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for October 4, 2021
- The Advisory Council meeting minutes for October 13, 2021
- Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes for September 7, 2021

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes.

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

V. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS (Item discussed after Item VI, b)

Director Fitch provided an update on the County Executive's Office. Last Friday, the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, and Board Chairwoman Nicholson signed the 2022 County Budget. Director Fitch provided highlights from the Adopted Budget (Milwaukee County's strategic plan implementing racial equity and becoming the healthiest county in the State, Milwaukee County workforce addressing race and gender inequities and employee compensation. There were no significant cuts to services in the budget).

Director Fitch announced that the County Executive's office received word that Commissioner Shirley Sharp had resigned; however, the County Executive's Office has not received official word in the form of a resignation letter from Commissioner Sharp. Her resignation is not official until the County Executive receives her Letter of Resignation (LOR).

Director Fitch presented a proclamation for Mr. Bob Haase, a longtime advocate for seniors and a former Commissioner on the Commission on Aging and Chair of the Advocacy Committee.

VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) **Action Item:** Review and Approval of Non-Commissioner appointments to Commission on Aging (COA) standing committees:

The Vice-Chair asked for a motion to accept Terrance Ray Moore's appointment to the Service Delivery Committee.

MOTION: To accept Terrance Ray Moore's appointment to the Service Delivery Committee.

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

b) Action Item: Review and approval of the Senior Center Select Committee's Vision Statement

Commissioner and Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, is seeking approval to continue the Senior Center Select Committee's work to complete their assignments, provide future updates and recommendations to the Commission, and accept the Senior Center Select Committee's vision statement. Vice-Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, Dain Maddox, and Co-Chairs Gene Guskowski and Howard Snyder provided an update on the Senior Center Select Committee's work completed thus far (the next five out of six steps that are in process) and gave a presentation on the vision statement to the Commission.

MOTION: To accept the vision statement as presented by the Senior Center Select Committee, in addition to continuing the work of the Senior Center Select Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pitchford Nicholas Moved, Griffith Second)

The Commission discussed the Motion. There was a request for an amendment to the Motion to change the Vision Statement by deleting the word "Hub" and using a different word. The Commissioner who made the Motion denied the amendment. A Commissioner called for the question and it was brought forth to accept the Motion.

There was a roll call vote requested to adopt the Motion. The vote was 10-Yes to 1-No vote. Motion adopted.

B. Rodgers – Yes, A Miller – No, E. Moeser – Yes, J. Haas – Yes, J. Wilberg – Yes
G. Pitchford-Nicholas – Yes, G. Miller – Yes, L. Alvarado – Yes, R. Byington – Yes
C. Swenson – Yes, J. Griffith – Yes

5 Minute Break

c) Action Item: Review and approval of the Final 2022-2024 Area Agency Plan, Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Chair, Advisory Council

Commissioner and Chair of the Advisory Council, Janice Wilberg, presented the final 2022-2024 Area Agency Plan in its entirety to the Commission. The Advisory Council is asking for approval of the final 2022-2024 Area Agency Plan to be presented to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors at their February meeting for review and approval. Commissioner Wilberg requested a motion to approve the 2022-2024 Area Plan.

MOTION: To approve the Final 2022-2024 Area Plan

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

The Commission discussed the Aging Population growth changes and ARPA funding. Chairwoman Rodgers voiced concerns about the verbiage on page 32 in the 2022-2024 Area Plan with the wording “functionally eligible.” She asked if the wording should be Functional/Financially eligibility. Chairwoman Rodgers would like clarity with this wording in the Area Plan.

Legislative Officer Elliot Moeser suggested that if this issue warrants research, the Commission ask the Advisory Council to look at the wording and have Commissioner Wilberg present a recommendation to the Commission at the January COA meeting. An amendment was made to the motion that Commissioner Wilberg and the Advisory Council look at the issue that Commissioner Rodgers raised and come back with a recommendation to the Commission at their January meeting.

MOTION: To accept the amendment to the 2022-2024 Area Plan

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

The amendment was accepted.

- d) **Action Item:** Senior Statesman Program Name Change, Commissioner John Griffith (Skipped – Item will be presented at next COA meeting.)
- e) **Information Item:** Update on Milwaukee County 2022 Budget and Other Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Activities, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director (DHHS).

Director Shakita LaGrant-McClain discussed the DHHS Strategic Plan Leadership video. Due to meeting time constraints, Director LaGrant-McClain announced that the DHHS Division on Aging Executive Assistant would email the video to the Commission.

- f) **Information Item:** Update on Long Term Care Program Options, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Aging Resource Center (ARC) Manager. Tabled until January COA meeting.

VII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR’S REPORT: JON JANOWSKI, INTERIM DIRECTOR, DHHS DIVISION ON AGING

Director Janowski reported that the Division on Aging received a new COVID outreach grant in the amount of \$360,000. The Division on Aging has not received its ARPA funding allocations at this time, but he expects to receive them soon. DHHS has received feedback from the state on the ADRC application, which they have follow-up questions to answer and send the replies to the state. Mr. Janowski announced that the Aging Unit Nutrition team won the Wisconsin Policy Form Award. A video was made that he will have emailed to the Commission.

VIII. STATE REPORT: LAURA LANGER, DHS

Ms. Langer acknowledged and Congratulated Gaylyn Reske and Milwaukee County on their award from the Wisconsin Policy Forum. She informed the Commission that the ACL and 12 other states discussed how paid staff and volunteers are more challenging to locate due to lower wages and the loss of volunteers. She noted that the State of Wisconsin is working on a volunteer campaign with the United Way. She mentioned that the ARPA distribution will start soon in 2022 and again at the end of next fall. Lastly, Ms. Langer announced that it was Native American Heritage Month. She shared a flyer about Heritage Month.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: BETTIE RODGERS, COA CHAIR

Chairwoman Bettie Rodgers informed the Commission that today is her last COA meeting as Chair as her term is complete. She thanked the Commission for giving her the honor of serving as Chair, and she thanked them for their commitment and wished them well.

X. MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: COUNTY SUPERVISOR JASON HAAS

Supervisor Haas reported that the County Executive and County Board approved and signed the 2022 County Budget. There were no items in the 2022 budget that were vetoed. In the Budget, Milwaukee County's five-owned senior centers were funded for next year. Also, Supervisor Haas wrote and passed a budget amendment for the County Parks Department to receive \$90,000 to install traffic calming features as nine County parks have had issues with people speeding and driving reckless. Lastly, he reported that there was approved funding (\$250,000) for McGovern Park Senior Center to receive a new roof in 2022.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Supervisor Haas gave Commissioner and COA Chair Bettie Rodgers accolades for her leadership and her work for the Commission. Commissioner Elliot Moeser thanked Commissioner Rodgers for her leadership and doing a phenomenal job, and Commissioner Pitchford-Nicholas echoed Commissioner Moeser's remarks.
- The Senior Center Select Committee will meet on December 7, 2021, at 1 p.m. However, they will not meet on December 21, 2021.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. (A. Miller – Nicholas)

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 28, 2022, as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant