



## COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES April 8, 2024

The Commission of Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, April 8, 2024. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Allison Caudill  
Felicia Clayborne  
John Haupt  
Barbara Leigh  
Leon Todd  
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*  
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*  
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*

### **Commissioners Excused:**

Deb Falk-Palac, *Chair*  
Shanika Baldwin  
Damian Buchman  
Sherry Mickelson

### **Staff Present:**

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*  
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*  
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*  
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Fran Musci, *Transit Plus*  
Jason Ostrowski, *ADA Coordinator, City of Milwaukee*

## MINUTES

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair, Anne Kearney called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Mike Bonk, Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities took roll. A quorum was absent at the start of the meeting. Prospective member, Rose Oname was not present. Commission membership will be considered next meeting.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2024 COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES**

A quorum was absent, so the minutes tabled until the meeting had a quorum. Later in the meeting, the Commission had a quorum and took up the meeting minutes.

MOTION: To accept the March 11, 204, 2022, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes.

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

### III. SPECIAL REPORTS:

**a. Transit Plus Report:** Milwaukee County Transit System Director, Fran Musci's provided an update. March 2024, MCTS transported 30,042 riders, approximately 700 more riders than February. Their on-time critical performance indicators for March stood at 93.4%. They are seeing an overall sustained improvement; they are actively working towards further improvements for appointment drop-offs and ride durations to reach the target of at least 93%. To address the issue of no driver, no call, no shows, TransDev is in the process of hiring more drivers. TransDev will be hosting a job fair on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Hiring a large group of 50-60 new drivers, ultimately hiring 20-25 new drivers after processing background checks and having successfully get through training. They are also strategizing to better align staff schedules to meet the peak demand periods in April. TransDev is introducing two new rider amenities. The first is an Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), launched March 20<sup>th</sup>. This system provides riders with a reminder call the night before their trips, followed by an imminent arrival call when the van is 10 minutes away from their location. Overall responses have been positive to the amenity. They are currently working out some issues that have arisen, due to dispatchers diverting transportation to go elsewhere once transportation is 10 minutes away. The second is an app called "My Transit Manager," to be released in late May. This app, accessible online or via smartphone, will keep riders informed through notifications sent via email, text, or the app itself. It will be available in both English and Spanish and will be screen reader compatible. Caregivers will also have the ability to monitor their riders progress on the route. She informs the committee the app has not been launched to the public yet but are looking for adaptors. They will be doing outreach throughout the community to do training on the app.

**Taxi Program:** The Paratransit Taxi Taskforce met twice in March and will meet twice in April. The next meeting is April 11, 2024. The task force is meeting to develop program parameters for the type of rides for service, number of rides, and trip purpose and to launch a pilot program.

**b. Introduction City of Milwaukee ADA Coordinator:** Jason Ostrowski gave a quick update; he joined the City January 22, 2024. He shared he is currently learning the duties for this new position and connecting with the community and various organizations. Vice Chair Anne Kearney questioned what are some primary initiatives he has planned. Ostrowski shared he is working on Accessible Street parking, finalizing evacuation procedures for City Hall and various school projects. Member Leon Todd questioned whether he would be the contact person for accessibility concerns regarding the Milwaukee Public Schools. Jason Ostrowski mentioned he can take the concern but will have to forward it to the contact

person who handle those types of concerns. Director Mike Bonk will share Jason Ostrowski's contact information with the committee per Vice Chair request.

- c. **Recreation Update:** Jacqueline Formanek, ADS Recreation Services Coordinator provided an update on Summer Camp. Currently, there are 30 campers for all three sessions at Grant; there are currently 50 campers in session 1, 45 campers in session 2 and 3 in Underwood. They are still taking registrations; they hope to see at least 50 campers in each session. The Spring recreation program will be held at Grant and within the community until the construction with Underwood is complete. The Friday night dance, generally held at Underwood, is currently held at the Adult Day Center in Wauwatosa. The Summer recreation program is still in the works with Tuesday bowling, What up Wednesday, Thursday bingo. There will also be three Saturday outings in the summer: Botanical Gardens, mini golf and an August adventure. All recreational programs offerings flyers will be sent to members.

Ms. Formanek shares the Brewers ticket program is going strong and working on the May dates. Free Friday Summer Sails registrations are pouring in, with a total of 254 signup and rising. The Sailing Away dates are June 7<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup>, two sessions available 9:30 AM to 12 PM., 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. They'll have ten boats available, this event, is open to everyone, individuals with disabilities, older adults, families and friends. Lastly VIP prom is August 26<sup>th</sup> at Grant from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. There are currently 23 participants registered. The VIP prom will be Hollywood theme, they will have with music, dancing and a photo booth. Ms. Formanek informed the committee the best source for information regarding camp offerings, spring and summer offerings is the Handy News and Notes, Easter Seals website and the County website.

Director Mike Bonk gave a brief update on Wil-O-Way, final drawing and strategies will be in place by April 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be some kitchen renovations as well. Kitchen renovations are ahead of schedule. The graffiti has been removed at Wil-O-Way Grant; currently working with the Parks Department to reseed grass due to a truck getting stuck. Vice Chair Anne Kearney asked if a completion date was given for Wil-O-Way Underwood, Director Bonk shared mid-June, essentially to reopen June 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated they currently have access to all of the facility but the main hall.

#### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **Feedback of Gaps in Services:** Dr. Marietta Luster, Administrator of Aging and Disabilities Services requested feedback from the commission whether in form of a survey or a listening session. To be able to capture

people's understanding of gaps services they are experiencing. Member Todd Leon suggested a discussion after completing the survey or listening session to discuss the outcome. Dr. Luster explained further, the goal is to obtain feedback from individuals with disabilities. The Office for Persons with Disabilities has partnered with the Aging and Disability Resource Center and are collaborating by having joint listening sessions. She states people from the disabilities community very rarely show up. This platform will be an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to discuss the gaps in services. Director Bonk shared by joining the ADRC listening sessions, they will be able to hit a broader audience to be able to tackle the concerns the community may have. The listening sessions have not yet scheduled but will be in May or June. Vice Chair Anne Kearny suggested putting together a questionnaire for the Commission to discuss in May, she will connect with Director Bonk and Chair Deb Falk-Palac.

**b. Other Commission business:** No discussion.

**c. Other Matters by the Public:** No discussion.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 13, 2024 AT 1 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado

Assistant Executive