



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2025**

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at the Washington Park Senior Center on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Members and attendees also joined the meeting virtually and by conference call.

Members Present:

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*
Commissioner George Banda, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Harold Oemig
Maureen Conrad
Sopheya Farrell
John Griffith
Paulette Maclin
William Meunier
Trina Koch

Members Excused:

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, *Commissioner*

Milwaukee County Staff

Clare O'Brien, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Deidra Williams, *DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Emily Petersen, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Patricia Hemming
Joseph Crivello, *TMG ICA*
Derrick Cainion, *ASL Interpreter*
Scottie Allen, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Emily Petersen, AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, took roll call. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2024 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the November 1, 2024 Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda moved, Conrad second).

III. REVIEW OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Emily Petersen, AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, and Chair Peters reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Advocacy Committee members, including engaging with legislators, participating in meetings, and attending advocacy events.

IV. ROUND ROBIN INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members, staff, and meeting attendees took turns introducing themselves, the organization they represent, and their history serving on the committee.

V. ELECTION OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner George Banda was elected via unanimous consent to serve as the Committee's vice-chair.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- A. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) State Aging Advocacy Day—**
Scheduled for May 13, 2025. Registration will be shared when it opens. We will coordinate group transportation for Milwaukee County advocates that attend.

VII. UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Priorities.**
- B. Federal Budget Advocacy Letter.**
- C. MIPPA Funding Letter.**

The Commission on Aging approved the above action items at their November 2024 meeting. The letters associated with these prior action items were sent to our representatives and copies were included in the meeting packet.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICE UPDATES

A. Federal Aging Policy

I. Federal Budget and Issues

- a. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Status Updates:** Emily provided an update to the committee regarding the latest FY2025 budget and the next opportunity for a budget bill to pass.
- b. Older Americans Act Reauthorization:** Emily informed the committee that the Older Americans Act Reauthorization did not pass Congress by the end of 2024 and will need to be addressed in the coming months.

II. Federal Regulations and Executive Orders

B. State Legislative Issues

I. State Budget & Legislation

- a. Joint Finance Committee Budget hearings:** Emily informed the committee that the Governor will release his proposed budget on February 18 and the Joint Finance Committee will release their schedule of hearings after that. Once released, the Committee can coordinate to attend one of the hearings to share our budget priorities.
- b. One-on-one meetings with legislators:** Emily circulated a survey (paper and online) for committee members to complete to gauge interest in meeting with legislators on state budget priorities after the budget is

introduced in mid-February. She asks that members complete and return it to her before the next meeting.

II. Administrative Rules & Governor's Taskforces

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

II. Aging Items of Interest

IX. 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

A. Review 2024 Policy Priorities Document

B. Discuss potential changes for 2025 document.

The Committee reviewed the 2024 Policy Priorities document and discussed potential changes to the local, state, and federal priorities. The Committee did not think the document needed many major changes but wanted to include the new AARP Livable Communities initiative to the local priorities section. They determined that they would review the document again at the February meeting and incorporate any additional changes then.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM. The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager