



## Combined Community Services Board Meeting July 24, 2024

The Combined Community Services Board convened hybrid on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. Members and attendees joined the hybrid meeting in Coggs Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St, Milwaukee, WI 53205, with video conference option available for those attending via Microsoft TEAMS.

### **Members Present:**

Dennise Lavrenz, *Chair*  
Cindy Bentley  
Delores Sallis  
Desilynn Smith

### **Staff Present:**

Michael Bonk, DHHS  
Cleopatra Castaneda, DHHS  
Anouvong Chanthavixay, *DHHS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS  
Domonique Klett, DHHS  
David Mohammad, DHHS

### **Members Excused:**

Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones  
Supervisor Felisia Martin  
Shirley Drake  
Tiffany Payne

### **Attendees from the Public**

Dennis Robbie, LSS

## MINUTES

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

Chair Dennise Lavrenz called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m., A quorum was present.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 22, 2024, COMBINED COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To accept the Combined Community Service Board May 22, 2024, meeting minutes. With a small correction stated by Chair Lavrenz, Shirley Drake, marked as an excused absence.

**ACTION:** Unable to approve minutes due no not having a quorum.

### **III. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW BOARD MEMBER: Desilynn Smith**

Chair Lavrenz shared new member updates, Desilynn Smith was unable to join at the beginning of the meeting.

Desilynn Smith shared a few things about herself, she is a dedicated community member and passionate advocate for mental and behavioral health. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Uniting Garden Behavior Health clinic, Inc., where she has established a behavioral health clinic. Her passion for the field began around 20 years ago, inspired by the mental health treatment her son received. Her experiences with the mental health system motivated her to become a voice and advocate for others facing similar challenges. Current board members introduced themselves to Ms. Smith.

**IV. REVIEW OF EXISTING BOARD MEMBER TEAMS:**

Chair Lavrenz reminded Cindy Bently and Tiffany Payne they are due for their oath of office. They can either complete that in-person or virtual. Deputy Administrator Mike Bonk reviewed the board memberships and showed that Cindy Bentley's term expired June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and Tiffany Payne's membership expired March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Chair Lavrenz requested Domonique administrative supporting send out an email reminding them the actions needed to complete their renewal.

**V. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH:** Brian McBride, Children's Mental Health Service Director

Brian McBride was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Lavrenz mentioned that one of their core objectives is to continuously support children's programs and seek opportunities for advocacy and education. This involves ensuring the community understands and can access available programs. Shakita LaGrant, a key figure in the organization, is focused on connecting children and families within the community and ensuring they have proper access.

**VI. CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES SUPPORT:** Children's Disability Programs Director, Anouvong Chanthavixay

The CLTS waiver program continues to grow and are currently working to reduce the waitlist. They are collaborating with contracted agencies like Lutheran Social Services, Life Navigators, Curative, St. Francis and Wisconsin Community Services to manage cases. There are about 2,800 enrolled participants, including those in Children's Community Options Program and CLTS programs. The waitlist has decreased from 600-700 children in March/April to around 500, with a goal of reducing it to fewer than 100 days for new cases.

Director Chanthavixay noted that they are seeing improvements in their program and are actively increasing community outreach. Recent efforts include participating in events like Juneteenth and hosting MPS activities in the park. Despite these efforts, some families remain unaware of the program, so they continue to advocate and raise awareness about the services offered. He shared they were on a radio show WNO, Supervisor Glenn Coleman was talking about the CLTS waiver program, and the Birth-to-3 program.

Chair Lavrenz, questioned the waitlist. Director Chanthavixay explained that the waitlist issues are closely tied to staffing challenges. To address this, they are hiring two additional staff members and have recently received approval to add

four more positions and one supervisor. They are also encouraging partner agencies to hire more staff to help manage the waitlist. Overall, the focus is on expanding the workforce to improve service capacity.

Director Chanthavixay discussed the growth of the Birth to Three program, which currently serves about 1,800 children. They have enrolled 573 new children recently and are actively seeking more funding for the program. To enhance effectiveness, they've split into four work groups focusing on different areas such as communication, funding, and Medicaid utilization. They are collaborating with other counties and hope their advocacy will lead to increased state and federal support. Despite their outreach efforts, some community members still express a lack of awareness about the program.

Director Chanthavixay outlined their recent and upcoming community events, including:

- Greenfield Park on May 31
- Point Park on June 14
- Washington Park on June 28
- Sheridan Park on June 12
- Humboldt Park on July 26, featuring story time from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Brown Deer Park on August 9, focused on speech.
- August 30, Music and Movement
- September 6, Kaylan's Playground in Franklin focusing on gross motor skills.

These events aim to increase community engagement and awareness.

## **VII. TRANSPORTATION: Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones**

Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones was not present.

## **VIII. AREA AGENCY ON AGING: Director of Aging Services Daniel Idzikowski**

Daniel Idzikowski highlighted the ongoing development of a three-year plan aimed at creating a comprehensive, community-based network of services for older adults in Milwaukee County. With the aging population in the county projected to grow significantly, making up nearly 25% of the population by 2040, there is an increasing demand for adequate infrastructure to support the health and well-being of older residents. To address this, a broad survey is being conducted to collect feedback from older adults, both online and via paper copies, to better understand their needs and experiences. This feedback, along with data from focus groups and demographic reports, will help shape the goals and strategies of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, which oversees the Aging Service network.

Idzikowski provided an update on the activities and goals of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, which oversees the implementation of their three-year aging plan. Currently, the plan includes about 50 different goals, and the Commission has been successful in addressing these goals and introducing new programs, such as the financial counseling program for older adults. This program,

among others, was developed based on prior recommendations and aims to support older residents effectively. One notable program, the ILSP (Independent Living Support Program), was initially funded by ARPA and provided support to individuals who missed qualifying for other publicly funded long-term care programs. Although this temporary program will not continue next year, there is hope for its reinstatement in future budget cycles. The success of this program illustrates the impact of advocacy and the need for ongoing support and expansion of services.

Idzikowski emphasized the importance of incorporating feedback from all older adults, including those with developmental and mental health needs, to improve the aging services. He encouraged participation in the survey and Commission meetings to gather diverse input, which will help refine the goals and strategies of the aging plan. The Commission is open to incorporating specific feedback to better address the needs of the community. In addition to local planning, Idzikowski discussed the importance of the upcoming renewal of Wisconsin's Medicaid waivers for home and community-based services, including the Family Care, IRIS, Partnership and Pace programs. These waivers are crucial for supporting adults with disabilities and older adults who need significant assistance, allowing them to live in community settings rather than institutional care. The renewal process offers an opportunity for public input on potential changes to these programs. Idzikowski emphasized the need for stakeholders to review and provide feedback on these proposed changes to ensure the programs continue to meet the needs of all participants effectively.

Daniel Idzikowski provided an update on the status of a Task Force organized by the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation concerning the period transit taxi program. This program, which was intended to supplement the paratransit services offered by MCTS, was discontinued last year due to non-compliance with ADA regulations and insufficient funding. The program failed to meet federal transit requirements and did not serve all individuals with disabilities adequately. In response, the county board tasked the department with developing a new on-demand service that would complement the existing paratransit system. This new service aims to offer more flexible, on-demand transportation options rather than fixed-schedule rides. The Task Force, with significant input from advocates such as Barbara Becker from Disability Rights Wisconsin, was given the responsibility to establish the key parameters for this new service. They have since reviewed several providers to find one capable of meeting the established criteria within the available budget. Currently, a contract proposal has been sent to the chosen vendor, and there will be a meeting to discuss this further. The next paratransit meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at Independence First, where more details will be provided.

Director Idzikowski announced that the current provider of the Older Adult Transportation Service (OATS), contracted through the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging, will cease operations at the end of the year. As a result, the agency is preparing a new request for proposals to secure a new provider. The upcoming service will be designed to be fully accessible for older adults with significant needs who lack personal transportation and have limited access to existing transit systems.

These changes are expected to be implemented next year. Idzikowski concluded his update and offered to answer any questions from the attendees.

#### **IX. BOARD ROUND ROBIN**

Chair Lavrenz reminded the board that the CCSB will have a table at the ADA Celebration that takes place on July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Gordon Park. Delores Sallis will be representing the CCSB at the ADA celebration. Lavrenz requested a tablecloth for future outreach opportunities.

Cindy Bentley shared Life Navigators annual picnic at Washington Park Senior Center July 25 at 4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

Delores Sallis shared she will be going on a Senior Citizen trip on August 3rd, to Spring Green, Wisconsin to see Ma Rainey's Black Bottom play. Delores is also currently working on a pilot memory cap, with her technology class for senior and people with disabilities.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn

**ACTION:** (moved, second)

The next Combined Community Service Board meeting will be September 25, 2024, a hybrid meeting, to be held in Coggs room 104 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado

Executive Assistant