



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

AGING & DISABILITIES SERVICES

Commission for Persons with Disabilities October 9, 2023

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, October 9, 2023. Members and attendees joined the meeting by video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Allison Caudill
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson, B.A.
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Damian Buchman

Milwaukee County Staff

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, Ph.D., *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Fran Musci, Director *MCTS*
Shaneika Baldwin
Shelly Reynolds, *Easter Seals*
Felicia Clayborne

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 of Commissioners was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MOTION: To approve the September 11, 2023, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Todd Moved, Caudill Second).

III. SPECIAL REPORT

- A. Transit Plus- Director Fran Musci MCTS:** Director Musci provided a brief update on the ridership for September, which was 28,221 van rides, which was lower than the August numbers and a close comparison to July's ride

numbers. The new paratransit van service provider is in the last transition phase, which will end this month. The final transition of all clients to Transdev is October 29, 2023. The Director noted that TransDev's services have improved. Transdev held three large job fairs in which they received 90 candidates in hopes of hiring at least 40 new drivers from the 90 candidates and the expected drivers transitioning from National Express who have decided to work for Transdev. Transdev seems to be on target to have the number of needed drivers at the start of their contract. Due to transit service changes, National Express is experiencing a decline in service time. Therefore, Milwaukee County's Transit System (MCTS) has placed a contingency plan to use MCTS drivers and vehicles if necessary to assist with picking up and dropping off riders if they have been waiting for an extended period until the end of the month.

Milwaukee County's paratransit taxi program ended on September 28, 2023. They are still monitoring the impact of the van and bus service change, and the Taxi Taskforce continues to meet to discuss alternatives for same-day ride options for Milwaukee County clients with disabilities. Director Musci informed the Commission that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is conducting a study to look at other same-day ride systems to see how they work and what options they might find from the study. The next Taxi Taskforce meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023.

B. Recreation Update, Shelly Reynolds, Recreation Program Manager, Easter Seals; Jacqueline Formanek, Recreation Services Manager, Office for Persons with Disabilities: Ms. Reynolds reported that the (ACA) visit went well. Easter Seals will not receive notification on accreditation status if they are approved until November. She will notify the Commission as soon as she's informed.

The total number of campers served for both locations was 83 campers. Grant had 24 campers, and Underwood had 34 campers, which gave an average of 58%. Ms. Reynolds did note that the numbers did fluctuate between higher and lower numbers - that's how she received 58%, which is the average number. There were 14 counselors, four leads, a supervisor, and a manager. Two surveys were distributed throughout the camps, one after the first session and the other when the camp was over. Easter Seals received 50 surveys back. She discussed some of the data that Easter Seals received with the Commission.

Family Day was a success; some board members were present and participated. The members took care of grilling the food. This year, they added new activities; they still had a talent show but with the addition of displaying artwork and other activities to include families with kids.

Ms. Reynolds provided a report on improvements needed for next year. There were several behavioral issues at the Grant site, which could have been more challenging for the younger staff to manage. She will investigate hiring more experienced staff for next year. They did assessments of new campers last year, and so to better prepare, they would like to include a behavioral plan to have before camp start dates. Increasing clear communication with families continues to be a challenge, and although notebooks were used, they didn't capture what camp clients were doing throughout the day—also, more precise lesson plans for families to see before camp. Lastly, add activity stations to be available throughout the day in case campers don't want to participate in scheduled activities or if there is downtime; they will have other things to do to occupy their time.

Ms. Reynolds informed the Commission that the quality of the tents didn't meet the demands of the weather and the wear and tear of the campers. For next year's camp, maybe they should rent their tents or try to purchase more rugged tents. Vice-Chair Kearney asked if any other items were needed to run the camps that must be addressed and discussed. The tents were the only problem that needed addressing. They need new tents or some shading or space. The Vice-Chair also asked if the asphalt issue was addressed, and it was. Ms. Formanek informed the Commission that they received the mats that they had requested, including a Mobi mat to use for the asphalt issues at the camps.

The 2024 Summer Camp dates and themes are set for next year's camps. Summer camp starts June 24, 2024, and goes on through August 2, 2024, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Camp will be held in sessions, and each session theme is Session I, "Music Festival," Session II, "Celebrations Around the World," Session III "Everything Hollywood." Also, Easter Seals is holding their first resource fair tomorrow in West Allis, where they will distribute informational camp and recreational flyer.

C. Discussion on Caregiver Awareness Month, Kayla Steinke, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disabilities Services (DHHS/ADS): Vice-Chair Kearney led the discussion on Caregiver awareness as Caregiver Support Coordinator Kayla Steinke could not attend today's meeting. The Committee brainstormed and provided ideas, thoughts, and feedback on multiple possibilities to recognize caregivers of every age. Some of the ideas that came from the discussion were:

- Supervisor Johnson Jr. can sponsor a resolution regarding Caregiver Awareness Month.
- To create an award like the Daisey Award for Caregiver Appreciation

- Request a proclamation for all disabled persons.
- A proclamation was drafted to include all disability services.
- Ask the County Executive or someone in his office for Ideas on providing support and giving individual recognition to caregivers.

Dr. Luster mentioned that the County Executive loves these recognitions and supports the Disability Service Area. Director Bonk informed the Commission that Ms. Steinke provided event formation for National Caregivers Month, as there are many events taking place in November. Director Bonk will forward that information and the camp flyer to the Commission. Also, on behalf of the Commission on Aging (COA), Ms. Steinke has asked the County Executive for a Caregivers Month proclamation, and if the Commission for Persons with Disabilities would like to be included in the request to have a joint proclamation created to let her know.

Commissioner Caudill informed the Commission that next week, Monday, she, Chair Falc-Palec, Jacqueline Formanek, and Kayla Steinke will meet to discuss further ways to support caregivers, and if anyone is interested in joining the meeting to feel free to attend. This discussion will continue at the next meeting in November. If anyone has any ideas they would like to share, please forward them to the Chair or Vice-Chair, Kearney.

D. 2024 County Budget Update, Matt Fortman, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): CFO Fortman gave a brief overview of the 2024 County Executive's recommended budget and explained how the budget process works before it is finalized. A few highlights were:

- Recommended Budget
- Changes in 2024
- 2024 New Positions (Aging and Disabilities Services, Housing Services, Behavioral Health Services, Children, Youth and Family Services, Child Support Services.
- Capital budget.
- Groundbreaking for the new Marcia P. Coggs Health and Human Services building

The commissioners didn't have any questions currently. CFO Fortman said if they had any questions later, they could contact him directly.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Other Matters by the Public: None

B. Other Commission Business:

Director Bonk informed the Commission that the County Board approved Felicia Clayborne's appointment. Once she takes her oath, she will be an official Commissioner next month.

C. Other Commission Business: None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously, (Todd moved, Haupt Second)

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023, AT 1 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant