



COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, September 8, 2025. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Shaneika Baldwin
Felicia Clayborne
John Haupt
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson
Rose Onama

Commissioners Present, Continued:

Leon Todd

Staff Present:

Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Matthew Fortman, *DHHS*
Julie Lara, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public:

Veronica Davis-Quiroz, *Vision First*
Christopher Fox, *MCTS*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. Julie Lara, Office Support Assistant II took roll. A quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 14, 2025, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

Chair, Deb Falk-Palec brought forth two changes for the minutes before Commission motioned.

MOTION: To accept the July 14, 2025, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes

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

III. TRIBUTE TO VICE CHAIR COMMISSIONER ANNE KEARNEY

Chair Commissioner Deb Falk-Palec opened the meeting with a tribute to Vice Chair Commissioner Anne Kearney, who has submitted her resignation due to scheduling conflicts with her teaching responsibilities. Commissioner Kearney was recognized for her full-term service, marked by passionate advocacy for individuals with disabilities in Milwaukee County. She notably authored a key resolution regarding the Wil-O-Way

facilities, reinforcing the County's commitment to disability-related issues. The Commission expressed appreciation for her contributions and welcomed future involvement should her schedule allow.

County Supervisor Commissioner Willie Johnson Jr. praised Kearney's conscientious work during her tenure as Deputy Corporation Counsel and as a Commissioner. He acknowledged her dedication to transparency and her efforts to support the disability community. Commissioners John Haupt and Marcia Perkins also expressed their gratitude, highlighting her reliability and the honor of working with her. Vice Chair Kearney thanked the Commission and staff, reaffirming her commitment to the cause and offering to continue supporting the Commission in an advisory role.

IV. Special Reports

a. Vision Forward Presentation

Veronica Davis-Quiroz, Outreach Specialist from Vision Forward, presented on the organization's mission to empower and support individuals with vision loss. She shared slides illustrating various types of vision impairments, including cataracts, macular degeneration, Stargardt disease, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. Ms. Davis-Quiroz emphasized that vision loss can affect individuals at any age and highlighted Vision Forward's century-long history of service. She encouraged continued outreach and awareness, noting that many people are still unaware of the available resources. She also announced that Vision Forward will be relocating from Hawley Road to West Allis in November and will share the new address with the Commission.

b. 2026 DHHS Budget Presentation

Matthew Fortman, Chief Financial Officer for the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), presented the 2026 budget. He explained the County's fiscal year and budget development process, which begins in April and concludes in November. Mr. Fortman outlined the department's funding sources: local tax levy, state and federal matching funds, and direct revenue from Medicaid billing. He noted a \$49 million variance in expenditures, largely due to accounting changes in children's long-term support programs.

County Supervisor Johnson Jr. added that he and Supervisor Roland, as members of the Finance and Capital Improvements Committees, are committed to advancing capital projects, particularly those related to Wil-O-Way Underwood, which is in Supervisor Roland's district.

V. Action / Discussion / Items

a. Planning for October Meeting

Director Jacqueline Formanek invited suggestions for the October meeting agenda. Commissioner Rose Onama proposed organizing a social gathering.

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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Todd and seconded by Commissioner Perkins. The motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara

Office Support Assistant II