



## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2024

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened in person at Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, 1220 W. Vliet St., with a virtual MS Teams and video conference option on Friday, October 25, 2024.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Terrence R. Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*  
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*  
Amber Miller, *At Large Member*  
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*  
George Banda  
Mark P. Behar, PA-C  
Denise Callaway  
Eugene Guskowski  
Marni King  
Paula Pennebaker  
Jacqueline Smith  
Crocker Stephenson  
Cindy Van Vreede

### **Commissioners Absent**

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

### **Milwaukee County Staff:**

Michelle Allison, DHHS

### **Milwaukee County Staff Continued...**

Tina Anderson, DHHS  
Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS  
Jill Knight, DHHS  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, DHHS  
Kyle Ashley, *County Executive's Office*  
Julie Lara, DHHS  
Jonathan Matte, DHHS  
Vonda Nyang, DHHS  
Kyle Ashley, *County Executive's Office*  
Migdalia Pacheco, DHHS  
Emily Petersen, DHHS  
Kayla Steinke, DHHS  
Deidra Williams, DHHS

### **Attendees from the Public**

Sandi Ammerman  
Laura Langer, DHS  
Scott Kawczyński, *ACL Interpreter*  
Stephanie Zito, *ACL Interpreter*

## MINUTES

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

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Secretary Gloria Miller took the roll call; A quorum of the Commissioners was present.

### **II. VISION FORWARD, JACCI BORCHARDT, CEO OF VISION FORWARD**

Commissioner Crocker Stephenson introduced today's speaker, Ms. Jacci Borchardt, CEO of Vision Forward. Ms. Borchardt delivered a presentation on Vision Forward's mission, programs, services, and technology aimed at individuals of all ages who are

blind or have vision impairments. Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation "Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Presentation 2024".

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the September 27, 2024, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda Moved, Behar Second).

### **IV. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Considering the urgent need to discuss Commission action items later on the agenda, Chair Janice Wilberg has postponed Item IV: Committee and Council Reports.

### **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- a) Executive Committee meeting minutes (September 13, 2024)
- b) Advocacy Committee meeting minutes (September 6, 2024)
- c) Advisory Council meeting minutes (September 25, 2024)

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda items listed above.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, Van Vreede Second).

### **VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) **Action Item/Discussion, Approve the Selection of a Caterer for the Senior dining Programs in Southern Sector of Milwaukee, County:** The senior meal program had two vendors: Davians serving the northside of Milwaukee, and Aramark serving the southside of Milwaukee until March 30, 2024, when it lost access to the commercial kitchen at the Community Reintegration Center (CRC). To prepare for this transition, Milwaukee County AAA executed an agreement with Davians to serve all of Milwaukee County through the remainder of 2024. The Milwaukee County AAA then issued a new RFP to serve the southside of Milwaukee County beginning January 1, 2025. Five applicants submitted proposals, and after review, the Nutrition Council voted to accept Canteen as the new caterer. Today, the Nutrition Council requests the Commission's approval for this vendor choice.

**MOTION:** To approve the selection of Canteen food service as the southside Milwaukee County senior dining caterer under the terms of the RFP and approve an initial one-year contract for services from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Van Vreede Moved, Behar Second).

- b) **Action/Discussion Item, Home Delivered Meal Program 2024 Budget Adjustment: Goodwill holds the Home Delivered Meal Program contract with Milwaukee County AAA.** Goodwill's 2024 contract budget was held at 2022 levels with the understanding that Goodwill and Milwaukee County would explore cost reductions. To address anticipated budget gaps, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Nutrition Council agreed to raise the suggested meal donation for the Home Delivered Meal Program to \$4 per meal in addition, Goodwill implemented staffing changes that resulted in cost savings. However, projections still indicated a deficit of \$60,000. Today, the AAA and the Nutrition Council recommend increasing Goodwill's contract by \$60,000.

**MOTION:** To approve an increase of \$60,000 to Goodwill's contract budget for the Home Delivered Meals program.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Van Vreede Moved, Stevenson Second).

- c) **Action/Discussion Item, Advocacy Committee Items, Comments on Growing MKE Initiative, Governor's Taskforce on the Healthcare Work Force Recommendations, and the U.S. Access Board's Proposed rule on ADA Compliance of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Commissioner Brian Peters, Chair of Advocacy Committee:** The Advocacy Committee recommends that the Commission on Aging submit a support letter for the City of Milwaukee's Growing MKE initiative, which aims to create more housing options for older adults. Additionally, they recommend the Commission on Aging approve a comment letter to the Governor's Healthcare Taskforce regarding healthcare staffing issues and a comment letter on the U.S. Access Board's proposed rule and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regarding electronic vehicle charging stations. This comment letter is currently being drafted, and they are working on the final version while seeking approval from the Commission today to send all three letters upon completion.

**MOTION:** To approve to the recommendations of the Advocacy Committee to send letters of support or comment regarding: the Growing MKE initiative, Governor's Taskforce on Healthcare recommendations, and U.S. Access Board standards on electric vehicle charging stations.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Peters Moved, G. Miller Second).

- d) **Informational Item, Specialized Transportation for Older Adults 2025 Contracts, Daniel Idzikowski, AAA Director:** The Specialized Transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) is open and will close this month's end. The RFP panel is scheduled to meet immediately after the closing date and will decide by November 7, 2024. Their recommendation will be submitted to the County

Board for review and approval. Due to the urgent nature of this matter and the timeframes involved in the RFP approval process, the Commission on Aging will not meet to review the RFP before its submission to the County Board. Director Idzikowski wanted to ensure transparency with the Commission by explaining why the regular procedure was altered for this item. Chair Wilberg asked that this item come before the Executive Committee for approval on November 8, 2024, which can act on behalf of the Commission.

- e) **Action Item, 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Goals Recommendation, Commissioner and Advisory Council Chair, Denise Callaway:** Today, the Milwaukee County Aging Advisory Council seeks final approval for the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Goals and Metrics. Commissioner Callaway, chair of the Advisory Council, presented the report. Advocacy, Caregiving, Evidence-Based Wellness and Heart Health, Senior Center, and Local Goals had no proposed changes, but modifications were requested for the Nutrition, Socialization, Social Support, and Transportation goals.

**\*\*Nutrition Goals\*\*** The second and third goals need quantitative dimensions, which were unintentionally omitted. Chair Wilberg requested their inclusion.

**\*\*Socialization and Social Supports Goals\*\*** The first goal's metric needs clarification and a numeric target, starting with: "A report on the number of individuals using an evidence-based loneliness scale."

**\*\*Transportation Goals\*\*** The first goal and metric also require a numeric dimension.

Chair Wilberg announced that the entire plan will be considered for approval at the November Commission on Aging meeting.

MOTION: To approve the proposed 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan Goals and Metrics (including corrections) as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, Behar Second).

## VII. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AAA Director Daniel Idzikowski announced that on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., the United States Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary and the Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will visit the Wilson Park Senior Center. The purpose of the visit is to discuss Medicare open enrollment, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and the Inflation Reduction Act, which addresses some gaps in Medicare spending and allows for the negotiation of prescription drug costs. The Director invited the Commission to attend.

## **VIII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Kyle Ashley, the director of Community Outreach, presented a report on behalf of Tim Schabo. The report highlighted several recent activities of the County Executive. Here are the key points:

- **\*\*Clinton Rose Park Improvements\*\***: Milwaukee County has received \$4 million from the Governor to enhance the Clinton Rose Senior Center, focusing on infrastructure and accessibility upgrades.
- a pilot program launched by Milwaukee County DoT now offers on-demand paratransit rides.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation conducted a tour in Milwaukee as part of a national grant initiative.
- **\*\*AARP Designation\*\***: The County has been awarded an AARP designation, recognizing its commitment to creating an age-friendly environment. Additional highlights included.

## **IX. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT**

Considering the urgent need to discuss a Commission action item in closed session, Chair Janice Wilberg has postponed Item IX: State Office on Aging Report.

## **X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Considering the urgent need to discuss a Commission action item in closed session, Chair Janice Wilberg has postponed Item X: County Supervisors Report.

## **XI. COMMISSION ON AGING CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Janice Wilberg made several. She strongly encouraged everyone to vote and motivated those they knew to do the same. Additionally, she urged Commissioners to attend the County Board's budget hearings to voice their opinions. The Chair requested that all Commissioners check their emails daily and respond promptly to staff communications.

## **XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS**

### **\*\*County Budget Hearing Announcement\*\***

The County Board will hold a Budget Hearing on Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Zoofari Center at 9715 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Commissioner Brian Peters, also the Legislative Officer and Chair of the Advocacy Committee, has prepared a

statement for the hearing, including a supplemental request of \$283,000 to be added to the AAA's 2025 budget. Chair Wilberg has encouraged all Commissioners to attend if possible.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION 10:55 A.M.**

MOTION: To go into closed session to discuss contract for programming in the Milwaukee County senior centers.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Callaway Moved, Pennebaker Second)

**Commissioners Present**

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Terrence R. Moore, Sr., *Vice-Chair*  
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*  
Gloria Miller, *Secretary*  
George Banda  
Mark P. Behar, PA-C  
Denise Callaway

**Commissioners Present Continued...**

Eugene Guskowski  
Marni King  
Paula Pennebaker  
Jacqueline Smith  
Crocker Stephenson  
Cindy Van Vreede

**XIV. OPEN SESSION**

MOTION: To reconvene into open session.

ACTION: Upon roll call motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

**XV. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO PROVIDE PROGRAMMING AND MEAL SITE SUPERVISION IN THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY OWNED SENIOR CENTERS**

MOTION: To extend the contract to provide programming and meal site supervision in the Milwaukee County owned senior centers during 2025 for \$1,225,000.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Guskowski Moved, Van Vreede Second)

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: To adjourn meeting.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moore Moved, Callaway Second).

Meeting Adjourned 11: A.M. The next Commission on Aging Meeting will be Friday, November 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant