



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes August 26, 2022

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, August 26, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

John Griffith, *Chair*
Amber Miller, *Vice-Chair*
Elliott Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Ronald Byington
Terrance Moore
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ed.D.
Cherie Swenson
Cindy Van Vreede

Commissioners Excused:

Gloria Miller
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

Milwaukee County Staff:

Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff:

Matt Fortman, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Autumn, *Interpreter*
Jessica Toth, *Interpreter*
Matthew Hayes, *LAW*
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Neal Minogue, *WI-DHS*
Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman John Griffith called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., and Aging Unit Director Daniel Idzikowski took roll. A quorum was present.

II. MEMORIAL, BARBARA BECHTEL:

Chair Griffith asked for a moment of silence for former Commissioner Barbra M. Bechtel, who passed away July 28, 2022. Mrs. Bechtel was a longtime advocate for seniors and a former Chair of the Commission on Aging. She served on several of the Commission's subcommittees and councils, the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long-Term Care, and many others. The County Executive's Office will prepare a resolution to honor Ms. Bechtel's service and present it to her family.

III. WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS:

The Commission welcomed new Commissioners Cindy Van Vreede and Terrance Moore. Ms. Van Vreede is a retiree from Milwaukee Public Television at MATC, and Mr. Moore is currently a City of Milwaukee employee with the Department of City Development.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW AGING DIRECTOR:

Administrator Marietta Luster announced Daniel Idzikowski as the new Aging Unit Director. Administrator Luster shared Mr. Idzikowski's credentials and prior work knowledge with the Commission and assured that DHHS is working on posting and filling Mr. Idzikowski's former position as Program and Policy Manager.

V. REFLECTION: SECRETARY ELLIOTT MOESER:

Legislative Officer Elliott Moeser's reflected on service and the work of the Commission on Aging (COA). Commissioner Moeser talked about the importance of providing services, racial equity, inclusion, and diversity. And using diverse gifts to provide services to make the county a better place to live for all.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24, 2022, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the June 24, 2022, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Committee and Council Chair Report Summaries:

Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Elliot Moeser, reported on the Advocacy Committee's August 1, 2022, meeting. There were two priorities discussed regarding the Commission. One was to ensure that DHHS recognizes the Commission's authority and includes the Commission in the hiring process for the Aging Unit Director position and other authoritative positions within the Aging Unit. The second was to ensure that the Commission is included in the budget process and decisions at the earliest possible time.

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Chair of the Advisory Council, reported on their August 10, 2022, meeting. The Council discussed communication strategies to reach the underserved and diverse communities. The Council plans to continue this discussion at its next meeting and formulate its recommendations.

Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas read the Senior Center Select Committee's (SCSC) charge to the Commission and informed the Commission that the SCSC is

wrapping up its work and expects to present it to the Commission soon. Chair Pitchford-Nicholas asked that everyone review their minutes for detailed information on the work that has taken place thus far.

Amber Miller, Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, reported on their August 2, 2022, and August 9, 2022, meetings. Both meetings were vendor presentations in which the vendors report on their work progress which are reviewed and discussed with the Service Delivery Committee. Commissioner Miller encouraged Commissioners to attend their meetings. The subsequent vendor presentations will be in February next year.

No Wellness Committee report. Bekki Schmitt informed the Commission about the Wellness Symposium on August 4, 2022.

Gaylyn Reske, Chair of the Nutrition Council, reported that all five County-owned senior centers are now open for in-person dining, including the United Community Center; all other centers remain curbside pick-up.

B. The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 6, 2022
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for June 6, 2022, and July 11, 2022)
- The Nutrition Council meeting minutes for January 25, 2022, and April 26, 2022
- Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes April 12, 2022, and April 28, 2022; May 12, 2022, and May 24, 2022; June 14, 2022, and June 28, 2022.

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pitchford-Nicholas Moved, Wilberg Second)

VIII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Schinika Fitch reported that currently, there are four Commission vacancies. The County Executive's Office has one Commission candidate scheduled for review and approval at the September Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning Committee meeting. If this committee approves, the County Board will include the candidate on their September agenda for final review and approval. Director Fitch informed the Commission that the County Board would recess after their September meeting and reconvene in December.

IX. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Appointment of non-Commission members to Commission on Aging Standing Committees: Elliott Moeser, Advocacy Committee; Janice Wilberg, Advisory Council; Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Senior Center Select Committee:

Commissioners Moeser, Wilberg, and Pitchford-Nicholas provided a summary of Michael Glabere, Theresa Koch (Advocacy Committee), and Cheri Rumler (Advisory Council). Lorraine Jacobs (Senior Centers Select Committee) biographies. Each Commissioner has requested approval from the Commission on their appointments to their committee and or Council.

MOTION: To approve the appointments of Michael Glabere and Theresa Koch to the Advocacy Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moeser Moved, Wilberg Second)

MOTION: To approve Cheri Rumler's appointment to the Advisory Council.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg Moved, Pitchford-Nicholas Second)

MOTION: To approve Lorraine Jacobs appointment to the Senior Center Select Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pitchford-Nicholas Moved, A. Miller Second)

- b) **Action Item:** Older Americans Act and American Rescue Plan (OAA-ARPA)

Chair of the Advisory Council, Janice Wilberg, is seeking approval from the Commission to accept the Advisory Council's project and funding allocation recommendations made by the Advisory Council to utilize the Older Americans Act - American Rescue Plan Act (OAA-ARPA) funds as presented by the Aging Unit. Commissioner Wilberg briefly explained the proposals to the Commission. Each project was aligned with a particular AAA Plan goal and DHHS strategy.

MOTION: To authorize the expenditure of OAA-ARPA funds for the list of projects and funding amounts presented in the OAA-ARPA Projects attachment.

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

- c) **Action Item:** 2023 Aging Budget Presentation: Matt Fortman, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Fortman provided a snapshot of the DHHS 2023 budget request and a detailed review of the Aging Unit's 2023 Budget request for the Older Americans Act,

County Levy, Base County Assessment (state aids) other federal and state grants to the AAA or aging unit, and OAA-ARPA funding. The presentation covered mission and vision, County Tax Levy allocation, the Aging Unit's program areas: AAA Nutrition programs, AAA Social Support services, the five county-owned senior centers, and AAA Administration. Comparisons were presented between the 2023 proposed and 2022 approved operating budgets. Fortman also noted that several senior center Capital Improvement Project requests had been approved for funding, and that the operating budget will be modified to account for allocation of the OAA ARPA funds.

Chairman Griffith is concerned with administrative costs to have adequate pay for staff and to have someone monitor new funding and program opportunities. He wants the Aging Unit to obtain adequate funding in these areas. The Commission voted to approve the 2023 Aging Unit Budget, as presented at today's meeting.

MOTION: To approve the 2023 Aging Unit Budget as it was presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg Moved, Moeser Second)

*****5-Minute Break*****

X. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, DHHS AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES, AGING UNIT DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI

Idzikowski reiterated that his former position would soon be posted. The Aging Unit will be adding a new position, Caregiver Support Coordinator. This position will oversee the distribution of National Family Caregiver Support and Alzheimer's Caregiver Support funds, work to expand resources available for caregivers, and represent Milwaukee County on national and state caregiver coalitions and task forces. Importantly for the Commission, the Caregiver Coordinator will also staff a Caregiver Council once established by the Commission on Aging.

Idzikowski acknowledged Gaylyn Reske, Senior Dining Program Coordinator, and her Nutrition Services team. They have received state awards and media coverage for their "Dine Out" program. Recently, Reske, her team, and Bekki Schmitt, Community Programs Supervisor, conducted an outreach campaign by mailing 95,000 postcards to seniors 64-81. The outcome resulted in receiving 2,000 calls within two months, and they added 140 new diners, of which 84% were minority diners. The nutrition program is averaging 30 new diners weekly, and they have a new restaurant interested in being part of the program.

Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator is preparing a new request for proposals (RFP). Funding for the Neighborhood Opportunities program, a volunteer program that provided chore services, rides to seniors, and other volunteer services through a model of neighborhood offices, will instead be split between two separate volunteer program proposals (home chore services and volunteer driving program)

without a specified neighborhood delivery model. The AAA is also planning to combine the contracts for meal supervision and programming at the five County-Owned Senior Centers into one contract. The Service Delivery Committee needs volunteers to serve on its RFP panels. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Koss-Vallejo.

Alena DeGrado, Transportation Coordinator, is working on increasing transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities while trying to keep the costs level. She is involved with next year's contract negotiations with our Specialized Transportation provider, First Transit. She is also drafting public policy recommendations for older adult transportation services in the 2024 state budget.

Wisconsin DHS is expected to soon release a Request for Application (RFA) for the Title V Senior Employment Program and a long-term care "lite" program for individuals who do not yet qualify for Medicaid waiver-funded long-term care services.

Community Programs Coordinator Bekki Schmitt reported on a COVID outreach promotional collaboration with Milwaukee County's Office of Emergency Management, the City of Milwaukee's Health Department, and other public health partners ran ads through Empower to encourage and increase vaccination efforts with persons of color.

XI. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, NEAL MINOGUE AND LAURA LANGER

Laura Langer reported on the Title V Request for Application (RFA) for a Senior Employment Program grant through the Department of Labor. This program provides training for people 55 and older seeking employment who meet an income eligibility guideline to make them marketable in the workforce. The RFA went out earlier this week. She encouraged any other organizations that may be interested in the RFA to apply. Mr. Minogue provided historical information on the grant. He also congratulated Idzikowski on his promotion to Aging Unit Director. Also, he commented on the loss of longtime advocate Barbara Bechtel.

XII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Idzikowski, the AAA Director of Dane County, and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network Director are working to build increased involvement in advocacy. Chair Griffith gave a report on the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) retreat he and Idzikowski attended last month. WAAN is looking at its structure and trying to improve engagement with older adults in advocacy work across the state. They also discussed issues around the state including the difficulty recruiting volunteer drivers and other volunteers. He also would like to change the COA Bylaws to form a standing communications committee.

XIII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR: No Supervisor Report.

XIV. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

- Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, Gloria Pitchford Nicholas, announced their next virtual meeting is on Tuesday, August 30, at 9 a.m. which will replace the September 13, 2022, meeting.
- Bekki Schmitt read the attached flyers on upcoming Aging event opportunities.
- Cathy Woods, Director of Serving Older Adults (SOA), announced that next Tuesday at 11 a.m., SOA is partnering with St. John's on the Lake for a documentary showing of "Lonely People." If you are interested in attending, don't hesitate to contact Wilson Park Senior Center today. If you cannot register today, there will be a second showing at Clinton Rose Senior Center, **on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 11 a.m.**
- Pat Bruce, Chair of the Aging and Disability Resource Center's Governing Board (ADRC) announced they are having a virtual public session hosted by Independence First this coming Tuesday. Please refer to your flyer for registration information.

XV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, September 23, 2022, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant