



**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2026**

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** members convened in-person at the Marcia P. Cogs Human Services Center and virtually by Zoom on Friday, May 22, 2026.

Commissioners Present:

Denise Callaway, *Chair*
Eugene Guskowski, M.Arch., *Vice-Chair*
Brian Peters, *Legislative Officer*
George Banda, *Secretary*
Mark P. Behar, PA-C
Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez
Paula Pennebaker, Exec Comm. at Large
Jacqueline Smith
Crocker Stephenson
Cindy Van Vreede
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

Commissioners Absent:

Terrence R. Moore, Sr.

Milwaukee County Staff:

Tina Anderson, *Administrator DHHS-ADS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS-AAA*
Antonio Jones, *DHHS-AAA*
Shakita LaGrant, *Exec. Director DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco, *DHHS-AAA*
Ortrilla Paris, *DHHS-AAA*

Attendees from the Public

Kevin B Cahn, Jr., *2026 Senior Leader*
Caroline Carter, *2026 Senior Leader*
Vincent Cox, *2026 Senior Leader*
Shannon Downey, *Serving Older Adults*
Anita Garrett, *2026 Senior Leader*
Hailey Gregoria, *Interpreting Solutions*
Colin Hall, *LGBT Center of MKE*
Kathleen Kania, *2026 Senior Leader*
Jill Kenehan-Krey, *Interpreting Solutions*
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Anthony Meyers
Earnest Pruitt, *2026 Senior Leader*
Veronica Ruffian, *Eras Senior Network*
James Sampson, *2026 Senior Leader*
Brook Stanley, *LGBT Center of MKE*
Michael Vanblaricum, *Serving Older Adults*
Collisa Webb, *2026 Senior Leader*
Stephanie Zito, *Interpreting Solutions*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Denise Callaway called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Secretary George Banda conducted a roll call. A quorum of Commissioners was present.

Chair Denise Callaway welcomed and introduced the 2026 Senior Leadership program graduates.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 24, 2026, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the April 24, 2026 Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously. (Banda Moved, Penebaker Second).

III. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT (Informational Item), Kyle Ashley, Director of Community Outreach, County Executive's Office, presented the County Executive's report.

- County Executive Crowley celebrated Older American's month in May.
- Alan Goodman's nomination to the Commission on Aging advanced out of the Health Equity and Human Needs Committee.
- Environmental Agreement commitment to Paris Accords
- First affordable housing development in suburban Milwaukee County in Oak Creek.
- Celebrated 414 Day
- \$5 million for the Forge Fatherhood program.
- April 11-17 the week of the young child focused on child care funding.
- Overdose death data showed continued declines.

IV. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

 (Informational Item)

Each committee chair gave an overview of the work of their respective committee.

Advocacy Committee: Noted an Article in the MJS regarding the long-term fiscal difficulties in the Milwaukee County budget over the next several years.

Nutrition Council: Met regarding new and existing dining opportunities. Food truck coming back to the Muslim Community Center – kick off on June 4th.

Advisory Council: Presentation on Advocacy work and goals.

Senior Centers Committee: Will report later in the agenda.

Service Delivery Committee: Met recently to discuss solicitation of new members and the format of vendor presentations.

Wellness Committee: Chair Smith noted that the last meeting was cancelled, but there was a presentation on stroke awareness that many attended.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

 (Action Item) (9:30 A.M.)

- A.** Executive Committee minutes (April 10, 2026)
- B.** Advocacy Committee minutes (April 3, 2026)
- C.** Nutrition Council minutes (July 22, 2025, October 28, 2025, January 27, 2026)
- D.** Wellness Committee minutes (January 21, 2026)

- E. Senior Center Committee minutes (February 6, 2026, March 6, 2026, and April 3, 2026).

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Banda Moved, Pennebaker Second).

VI. ACTION / INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS (9:35 A.M.)

- A. Commission on Aging comments on WHEDA's draft 2027-28 Qualified Action Plan (Action Item), Commissioner Brian Peters, Advocacy Committee Chair.

Commissioner Peters gave a brief explanation of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority and the process for the Qualified Action Plan. He noted that the Commission on Aging sent a comment letter that had been approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Commission. He noted that the Executive Director of WHEDA contacted the Commission and held a meeting where he listened to the concerns expressed.

MOTION: To confirm the Executive Committee's approval of the May 8, 2026 Letter sent to WHEDA on behalf of the Commission on Aging.

ACTION: Approved by unanimous consent (Guszkowski, second by Van Vreede).

Commissioner Peters also noted that the Wisconsin Aging Action Network Issue Priorities for 2026 State Advocacy are: ADRC funding, Home Delivered Meals, Falls Prevention.

- B. **Discussion Item: Amend the Bylaws of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging to Add the Senior Center Committee to the List of Standing Committees (First Consideration),** Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair

MOTION: To move forward consideration of the included bylaw change to add "Senior Center Committee" to the list of committees in Article V1A of the bylaws (Commission Committees) and remove number (7) related to Advisory Council appointments to the committees of the Commission in Article V1B (Composition).

ACTION: (Behar moves, Guszkowski seconds)

- C. **Action/Discussion Item: Milwaukee County Future State Recommendations,** Commissioner Denise Callaway, Chair

Chair Callaway discussed the Milwaukee County Future State process. Draft recommendations were presented. Some Commission members met with consultants. Recommendations not yet presented to the County Board of Supervisors. Commission would like to draft a response to include aging concerns. No action taken.

- D. **Discussion Item: Milwaukee County Senior Center Developments**, Vice Commissioner Eugene Guskowski, Vice Chair.

Discussed the progress toward a short term and long-term solution for McGovern senior center. Commissioner asked how it is possible to consider a new building given the existing capital debt burden on the County. Guskowski replied that the goal is to find a facility where we become a tenant and fundraise independently. Long term goal is to remove the county from the financial obligation to care for the senior center buildings and build independence for the senior centers.

- E. **Informational Item: AARP Livable Communities in Milwaukee County**, Commissioner Paula Penebaker.

Steering Committee discussed housing insecurity for older adults including absentee landlords, increases in property taxes and rental costs.

VII. STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, Laura Langer, WI-DHS (Informational)

Ms. Langer presented the State Office on Aging report. The Office is developing new policies on contracting and the designation of Area Agencies on Aging. ACL has appointed a new Regional Representative.

VIII. AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Daniel Idzikowski, AAA Director

Director Idzikowski noted the release of the 2025 DHHS Annual Report, acknowledged that Emily Petersen, the former Advocacy and Policy Manager, has moved to GWAAR and highlighted the successful opening of An Ox Café and the formation of a Milwaukee County Caregiver Collaborative.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, Supervisor Juan Miguel-Martinez, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

County Supervisor Miguel-Martinez did not provide a report.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, Commissioner Denise Callaway

Commission Chair Callaway noted that Alan Goodman's nomination to the Commission on Aging is moving forward to the full County Board.

Commissioner Callaway emphasized that efforts need to continue to identify another suburban Commissioner, particularly from the northern suburbs of the county.

She thanked the DHHS staff for their help in identifying and visiting different sites and communicating with McGovern participants.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

MOTION: To adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Idzikowski,
Director of Aging Services

DRAFT