



Attendance

Members Present

Commissioner Elliott Moeser, Chair
Commissioner Ron Byington
Commissioner John Griffith
Supervisor Jason Haas
Commissioner Janice Wilberg
Gary Mikolajczyk
Harold Oemig

Members Excused

Barbara Bechtel
Martha Collins
Sopheya Farrell
Commissioner Richmond Izard
Sally Lindner
William "Bill" Meunier, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bettie Rodgers
Gary Sprong

Sherrie Tussler
Cindy Van Vreede

Milwaukee County Staff

Andrew Bethke, MCADS
Alena DeGrado, MCADS
Debra Horton, MCADS
Daniel Idzikowski, MCADS
Vonda Nyang, MCADS
Carrie Koss Vallejo, MCADS

Guests

Christie Carter, LGBT Ctr of MKE
Eva Eiseman
Beth Hengst
Howard Snyder
Cathy Wood
Colin, Sen. Tim Carpenter's Office
Edie

I. Call to Order

Chair Elliott Moeser called the Advocacy Committee meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator, called the roll. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approve March 7, 2022 Advocacy Committee Minutes.

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Griffith moves, Mikolajczyk seconds).

III. Medicaid Recapture Provisions

Sen. Tim Carpenter was on the line to discuss SB 726 which would limit the recapture of Medicaid expenditures in estate recovery to only those required under federal law, however his connection was lost. A staff member from his office joined the call. SB 726 was not scheduled for hearing and would have to be reintroduced in January.

Moeser comments on the need also to pass Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin.

Griffith encourages the Senator to look at this issue and to discuss aging issues during the election campaigns this fall.



IV. Racial Equity & Advocacy Reflection

Chair Elliott Moeser notes that member Sopheya Farrell was not able to join in today's meeting but did send some written comments to reflect on racial equity. Ms. Farrell noted that the significance of progress by people of color in the motion picture industry was overshadowed by the controversy over the dispute between two black actors. In 1940 the first African American won an Academy Award for her role in *Gone with the Wind*, but she was not allowed to sit with her colleagues in a building that had a "whites only" policy at the time.

V. Update on Action Items

1. Federal Fiscal Year 2022 budget. The Commission sent a letter to Milwaukee County's Congressional delegation asking them to increase funding appropriations for Older Americans Act and related long term care programs in Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. These increases were included in the Build Back Better bill and in the Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives, but in the final Budget bill passed by Congress in March, all of these increases were stripped out, leaving level funding or very small increases for Older Americans Act, ADRC, and Long-Term Care funding. The only significant increase for older adults was a large increase for new construction of public housing for older adults and people with disabilities. This, despite a budget bill that did contain large increases in discretionary funding in other areas.
2. WI Voting Legislation & SC ruling in *Teigen v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* (WEC). The Commission on Aging requested legislators and the Governor to oppose bills that restrict voting rights and access for older adults. The Governor vetoed each of the election-related bills passed by the legislature. In another development, the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to accept Gov. Evers's proposed state redistricting maps was overturned by the United States Supreme Court because the map's created an additional black majority district within Milwaukee County without sufficient justification on the record as to why such an additional district was necessary under the Voting Rights Act. The case was remanded to the Wisconsin Supreme Court for further proceedings consistent with its opinion. The Congressional District maps were upheld. Finally, the Wisconsin Supreme Court is considering an appeal of a circuit court ruling from Waukesha County that effectively banned the use of drop boxes and the ability of people with disabilities to have any other person deliver their ballot to a mailbox or polling site.



Discussion of these provisions and what action, if any, the Commission can take. Griffith asks whether the Commission can file an *amicus* brief in the *Tiegen* case. Mikolajczyk suggests that the Commission probably doesn't have that authority, but to check with Corporation Counsel.

MOTION: Request the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging to submit an *amicus* brief in *Teigen v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* (WEC).

ACTION: Motion passes unanimously (Mikolajczk, Wilberg seconds).

Sup. Haas offers to contact the Office of Corporation Counsel to request advise on whether the Commission can submit such a brief. Wilberg suggests that since the Commission is not meeting until April 29th, it may be too late to submit a brief. Moeser states that he will contact chair Griffith to determine whether an emergency meeting of the Commission is needed.

VI. Legislative & Policy Updates

- **Federal Aging Policy Briefing**

[White House announced a new strategy to propose CMS regulations to strengthen nursing home patient protections](#) including inspection regimens, minimum staffing requirements, excessive medication protections, fine repeat offenders, and add transparency. Griffith notes: Insulin cost limitations passed at the federal level.

- **State Legislative Issues**

Moeser asks if there are any state legislators or staff present – none replied. WI session has ended, no new state legislation to consider. DHS rulemaking proposal updating licensed Adult Family Homes, DHS Rule 88.

Moeser comments that legislators continue to make comments regarding equity that are not in alignment with Milwaukee County's provision.

- **Milwaukee County Legislative Issues**

Haas comments that the Milwaukee County Board is holding its final session of the term. He notes that he called a special Financial Committee meeting and the Board approved a \$45 million bonding for a new public natural history museum. Name will be changed from Milwaukee Public Museum to Wisconsin Museum of Nature and Culture. MPM collection will be transferred. Haas notes that his term is ending. Nothing specifically on aging policy on last agenda. Board will nominate a new member to serve on the Commission on Aging.



VII. 2022 Senior Leadership & WAAN Advocacy Day

Idzikowski notes the 2022 Senior Leadership Day will be held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, followed on Wednesday May 11th with the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) Aging Advocacy Day. He provides an update on the program for Senior Leadership Day. WAAN has shortened its legislative advocacy day and will not have any substantive advocacy training, instead having participants call their legislators using an AARP phone service linked to the individuals state legislators. As an alternative, the Milwaukee County participants will have the opportunity to receive a brief training on how to speak with their legislators on Wednesday and then on Thursday, we are setting up Zoom meetings with each Senate District – so that participants in the Senior Leadership Day can meet directly with their state Senators and Assembly representatives. Idzikowski asks members from the Advocacy Committee to facilitate the meetings with the various Senate/Assembly meetings on May 12th.

Moeser asks for volunteers willing to facilitate. Griffith volunteers and notes that May is Older Americans month. Asks that this information should be distributed to the County Supervisors and other municipal leaders throughout the County. Idzikowski notes that he needs help to recruit other older adults to participate in Senior Leadership Day.

VIII. Membership on Advocacy Committee

Moeser notes that he will reach out to others on the Committee to encourage attendance. Idzikowski notes that under our Aging Plan the Commission on Aging made it a goal to recruit Advocacy Committee members from all of the Assembly Districts in Milwaukee County. Need help to recruit new members. Griffith notes that it is important to hear all voices and to have representatives from all legislative districts. Mikolajczyk asks about in-person meetings. Moeser replies will be discussed at the County level.

IX. Announcements & Advocacy Opportunities

Moeser notes that this was Commissioner Bettie Rodgers last meeting as a Commissioner on the Advocacy Committee and thanks her for her leadership. Supervisor Haas will also end his term as Commissioner in April. Moeser also thanks Haas and requests him to stay in public service.

X. Future agenda items & meeting dates (Discussion)

Next meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. by videoconference.

XI. Adjourn

MOTION: To Adjourn (Wilberg moves, Mikolajczk seconds).

ACTION: Passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.