



## Attendance

### Members Present

Commissioner Elliott Moeser, Chair  
William "Bill" Meunier, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Ron Byington  
Commissioner John Griffith  
Commissioner Janice Wilberg  
Sopheya Farrell  
Gary Mikolajczyk  
Harold Oemig

### Members Excused

Barbara Bechtel  
Martha Collins  
Commissioner Richmond Izard  
Sally Lindner  
Commissioner Bettie Rodgers  
Gary Sprong

Sherrie Tussler  
Cindy Van Vreede

### Milwaukee County Staff

Michelle Allison, MCADS  
Daniel Idzikowski, MCADS  
Carrie Koss Vallejo, MCADS

### Guests

Commissioner Gloria Miller  
Christie Carter, LGBT Ctr of MKE  
Beth Hengst  
Matthew Hayes, SeniorLAW

## I. Call to Order

Chair Elliott Moeser called the Advocacy Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator, called the roll. A quorum was present.

## II. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** Approve April 4, 2022 Advocacy Committee Minutes.

**ACTION:** Approved unanimously (Griffith moves, Wilberg seconds).

## III. Racial Equity & Advocacy (Reflection) Postponed.

## IV. Update on Action Items

- a. Statement on Voting Rights. The Commission on Aging released a press statement that affirmed the rights of older adults to exercise their right to vote in the easiest manner possible.  
Wilberg asks that this statement be released to all the media outlets in Milwaukee. Suggests having a press event or press conference.
- b. State Redistricting Maps & SC ruling in *Teigen v. WEC*  
Idzikowski explains context of the US Supreme Court ruling reversing and remanding the WI Supreme Court ruling on the Wisconsin state legislative district maps. The Wisconsin Supreme Court then reversed itself and voted to accept the state legislative district maps submitted by the state legislature, not the Governor. Possibility of a further appeal in federal court unlikely.  
Congressional district maps were not challenged and went into effect.  
Griffith expresses frustration with not being able to find legislative maps.

**V. Legislative & Policy Updates**

- **Federal Aging Policy Briefing**

USAgings requests AAA's to advocate for significantly increased levels of spending on Older Americans Act and ancillary funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2023. Idzikowski shares current appropriation chart with 2023 requests.

Meunier asks if there was an increase in funding from 2020 to 2021. Also asks about ARPA funding. Idzikowski explains that there was no substantial increase in base funding, although there was an allocation of ARPA funding specific to the OAA.

Meunier suggests that the request should be at least the 2021 base+ARPA amount.

**MOTION:** To request Milwaukee County's Congressional delegation to increase federal funding for older adult programs as recommended by USAgings.

**ACTION:** Passes Unanimously (Meunier moves. Griffith seconds).

- **Medicare Expansion**

President proposed allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices. No specific federal legislation under active consideration at this point. Issue of insolvency of Medicare trust fund due to population changes. Medicare spending expected to double by 2030. Private payments will also increase. Costs now 23% of average Social Security benefit and expected to increase to 30% of Social Security benefit by 2030. Idzikowski notes the Inspector General report that found that Medicare Advantage Plans inaccurately denied claims at a rate triple that in traditional Medicare. Moreover, federal policy and marketing incentivize consumers to choose Medicare Advantage plans. Need to increase SHIP funding to provide unbiased Medicare counseling.

Griffith notes that US has not expanded taxable benefit for Social Security. Notes that we should not be able to use Social Security Trust Fund to balance budget. The level of income disparity is growing, particularly between executives and workers.

Meunier notes that the DRUG bill would have allowed importing drugs from Canada. Big pharma opposes any changes to pricing structure. Federal government should be allowed to negotiate drug prices, just as Wisconsin does under SeniorCare.

- **Federal Regs & EO's**

Idzikowski notes that CMS has published a Request For Information regarding minimum staffing levels for Skilled Nursing Facilities, as well as proposed rules to increase safety and oversight of nursing homes. These are available for comment through the CMS website.

- **State Legislative Issues**

Administrative Rules/Gov's Task Forces

[Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access](#) meeting May 24th June 8<sup>th</sup>

Moeser asks if there are any state legislators or staff present – none replied.

WI session has ended, no new state legislation to consider.

- **Milwaukee County Legislative Issues**

Milwaukee County still faces declining state shared revenue and a prohibition on further revenue. Sales tax proposal did not get introduced in last legislative session. County continues to have a systemic deficit. Moeser comments that Milwaukee is only metro area in the nation without ability to raise its own revenue. Meunier comments that rural counties think that they are supporting Milwaukee and welfare recipients but in fact, Milwaukee is actually sending funding to support the rest of the state. Need to communicate message through WAAN or other avenues to folks in rest of the state. Idzikowski mentions the ADRC funding gap as an example : \$13m funding gap. Moeser indicates that the Committee would like to work with the CEX and Knudson to secure additional revenue for the County and to address the pension funding gap. Idzikowski notes that the election for County Supervisors was held in April and Supervisor Sequanna Taylor will be the new delegate to the Commission on Aging.

**VI. 2022 Senior Leadership & WAAN Advocacy Day**

Idzikowski notes the 2022 Senior Leadership Day will be held on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, followed on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> with the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) Aging Advocacy Day. He provides an update on the program for Senior Leadership Day. 23 members have signed up. Encourages other members of the Advocacy Committee to sign up. Provides overview of schedule.

On Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> Zoom meetings set with each Senate District so participants in Senior Leadership Day can meet directly with their state Senators and Assembly members. WAAN has set 3 major priorities to discuss:

- Family Caregiver Support
- ADRC Resources
- Protecting Voting Rights + Milwaukee County specific issue:
- Milwaukee County Sales Tax

Idzikowski notes that he still needs help to recruit for Senior Leadership Day.

**VII. Membership on Advocacy Committee**

Moeser notes that he and Chair Griffith have advanced the candidacy of one new member for the Advocacy Committee with the Executive Committee.

**VIII. Announcements & Advocacy Opportunities**

Meunier concerned about anti-transgender legislation and asks to be kept informed of any such legislation in Wisconsin.

Senior Fair at Wilson and Washington Senior Centers coming up in May.

Pride Fest will be held first weekend in June and encourages participation.

May is Older Americans Act. County Executive has a series of Healthy Milwaukee activities that Committee is encouraged to join. See County website for details.

Moeser thanks the members of the Advocacy Committee for their participation and notes that the Commission on Aging has a very positive influence on the lives of older adults in Milwaukee County.

**IX. Future agenda items & meeting dates (Discussion)**

Next meeting will be Monday, June 6, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. by videoconference.

**X. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To Adjourn (Meunier moves, Oemig seconds).

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