



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes May 27, 2022

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, May 27, 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*
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Elliot Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Ronald Byington
Richmond Izard
Gloria Miller
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ed.D.

Milwaukee County Staff:

Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*

Commissioners Excused:

Lily Alvarado
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
Cherie Swenson

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Griffith called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and Secretary Janice Wilberg took roll. Commissioner Griffith asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the lives lost in the recent shooting tragedies nationwide.

II. REFLECTION: RICHMOND IZARD

Commissioner Richmond Izard reflected on his experiences serving on the commission as an ordained minister. He characterized the act of serving, defending and advocating for older adults as examples of our joint commitment "to do the works of ministry outside of the four walls of the church." Reverend Izard was the first African American male in the history of Milwaukee County to chair the commission.

Izard reflected on the delightful training that he received under the Senior Statesman program training, which catapulted him to being an champion for seniors. In that regard, he referenced his participation in the most recent in-person Wisconsin Aging

Advocacy Day, as well as testifying at the Wisconsin State Capitol before the legislator. Reverend Izard thanked his fellow commissioners for their service and urged them to know and hold fast to the reigns of sound governance, which is rooted in “authority, responsibility and accountability.”

As the former COA Chair, Izard identified the Aging and DHHS merger as one of the important challenges that he tackled during his tenure. Through the process of infusing strong leadership, tough discussions and sound governance, Izard noted that we have made remarkable progress in our course to serve older adults. He ended his reflection by emphasizing the importance of leveraging intellect with a heart for humanity. Intellect alone will not suffice. We have to understand that our calling and charge comes from God. So, we need a good heart, a good mind and an unshakeable commitment to operate according to regulations, statutes and ordinances.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 29, 2022, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the April 29, 2022, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Committee and Council Chair Report Summaries:

Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Elliot Moeser, had provided a brief report on the Aging Advocacy Days that the Advisory Council attended and their advocacy activities for May 10, 2022, through May 12, 2022. Commissioner Moeser thanked the Aging Director, Jon Janowski, Program and Policy Coordinator, and the Aging Unit for all their work.

The Senior Center Select Committee’s Chair, Gloria Pitchford Nicholas, reported on the Senior Center Select Committee’s work. The Committee has invited non-County Senior Centers to their meetings to obtain information on how they run their centers, interact with and assist their community, etc. Chair Pitchford-Nicholas also informed the Commission that the Committee is working on them.

Janice Wilberg, Chair of the Advisory Council, reported on the Advisory Council’s looking at strategies to improve communications to underserved and diverse populations. Currently, they are looking at the survey data collected by the Aging Unit for the Area Plan to see what the public preferred as trusted sources for receiving information. Also, they are inquiring with other senior centers to see how they manage their outreach and communications for the programs and services.

Gloria Miller, Chair of the Wellness Committee, reported that at their last meeting, they highlighted a new program titled "Stand Up and Move. Also, they are looking to find and train new facilitators for evidence-based programming.

Amber Miller gave a summary of this month's Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee is responsible for setting all COA agendas. For more detailed information, please review the attached meeting minutes.

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

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for April 11, 2022
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for April 11, 2022
- The Advisory Council meeting minutes for March 9, 2022
- The Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes for March 22, 2022
- The Wellness Committee meeting minutes (March 16, 2022)

Minute were approved after Item 5.

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes.

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

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

Director Schinika Fitch reported that Milwaukee County's Lakefront fireworks are returning this year on July 3, 2022. This weekend will wrap up Milwaukee County's Healthy County Challenge initiative. And there will be an event held at Bradford beach to kick off summer, and tomorrow, a kite festival will take place downtown. The collation event, "Prayer in Action," is at 5: 30 p.m.; It is a group of 30 organizations is coming together to end gun violence. The event takes place at Walkers Square Park, 1031 S. 9th St.

Director of the Aging Unit, Jon Janowski, reported that County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor was approved by the County Board yesterday to serve on the Commission, and she will be onboarded in the next week and ready for the next COA meeting.

*****5-Minute Break**

VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Appointment of non-Commissioners to Commission on Aging Standing Committees, Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Advisory Council Chair. Commissioner Wilberg informed the Commission that the Executive Committee approved A. Paul Pedersen, Suzie Ryer, and David LaCroix. And today, they are asking for the full Commission's approval of the appointees.

MOTION: To approve appointments A. Paul Pedersen, Suzie Ryer, and David LaCroix to serve on the Commission's Committee/Councils.

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

- b) Informational Item:** DHHS Update on Key Initiatives and Projects: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services. Deputy Director David Mohammad reported.

Deputy Muhammad gave an update and shout-outs on the ARPA Housing projects and Aging staff. A few of the Aging Units projects are moving forward in June, including the 15-million-dollar project in partnership with the Aging and Housing Units in DHHS. June 16, 2022: The 15-million-dollar project will be discussed at a public hearing. On June 9, 2022: Energy Assistance, Affordable housing, and foreclosure will be discussed. Also, he provided an update on the Market Match project for the Fondy Food Market.

- c) Informational Item:** "Robert Rules of Order Presentation", Stefan Dostanic, Milwaukee County Deputy County Clerk 103

Robert's Rules of Order books for the Commission and motions care cheat sheet.

How to conduct a meeting, precedence of motions, Helpful hints on Voting, Speaking,

For more information you can contact the County Clerk George L. Christenson at (414) 278- 4625 or email George.Christenson@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Deputy County Clerk Stefan Dostanic at (414) 278-4275 or email Stefan.Dostanic@milwaukeecountywi.gov

VII. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, DHHS AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES, AGING UNIT DIRECTOR JON JANOWSKI

Director Janowski gave an update on Administrative Orders and guidance from County Executive Crowley regarding County-owned facilities and services. Due to Milwaukee County being at high risk for transmission of COVID, all County owned senior centers and facilities have a mask mandate in place for the public and staff. The senior center is still open and at total capacity limits. The three County congregate dining sites have remained open, and mask mandates are in place for the dining sites and the County's transportation services.

Also provided were updates on the ARPA funding projects: the summer Dine Out, Wellness programs, and Meals on Wheels programs (designing a marketing

campaign). Over the next few months, their next focus will be on the supportive services projects. Also mentioned was a COVID outreach grant that the unit received.

The Director mentioned that he has a meeting scheduled with State administrators and another triple A partner to discuss Older American Act regulatory changes. Lastly, he mentioned that the 2023 budget process has started. Lastly, he informed the Commission that the event flyers included in their packet are of a series of upcoming summer events and to feel free to participate.

VIII. STATE REPORT BY LAURA LANGER, STATE OFFICE ON AGING

Ms. Langer reported on the following:

- Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources is taking over the Life Span Respite Grant that funds respite services for older adults and children.
- The State's State Aging Plan public hearings are complete, and the public comments will be used to support and complete the State Aging Plan.
- The Bureau will also provide information at the Older American Act regulations meeting that Director Janowski spoke about in his report. The Older American Act regulations request Information for ACL. (Requested Information from Four Areas for discussion: Grants to states and Community programs, grants to Indian Tribes and supportive nutritional services, Grants and supportive nutritional services to older Hawaiian natives, and Allotments for vulnerable elder rights).
- The Bureau is in the process of hiring a Volunteer Coordinator for the SHIP program.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Griffith report on the Senior Statesman programming and Advocacy Days. And that he met with the Milwaukee County Mental Health Taskforce for Civilian Advisory Council, who has asked Commissioner Griffith to be a participant with their Advisory Council.

Also, on behalf of the LGBT Community Center, they have welcomed Kevin Turner, the first black/Hispanic gay man to run the LGBT Community center. During the Advocacy days, he met with Latonya Johnson's aid, Kevin Grayken, and Supreme Moore to discuss revenue for the County and ways to create a revenue stream.

X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: No Supervisor report.

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

Director Janowski thanked Commissioner Izard for his service and wished him well with his future endeavors. Also, Director Janowski gave kudos and special thanks to

everyone involved with the Senior Fitness Day event (Staff, SOA, County Executive, and vendors).

Deputy Director Muhammad gave a shout-outs to the Aging Staff, special thanks to Jon Janowski, Dan Idzikowski, Bekki Schmitt and Carrie Vallejo.

XII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. a.m.(and)

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, August 26, 2022, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant