



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
December 12, 2022**

A quorum of the **Commission for Persons with Disabilities** convened virtually on Monday, December 12, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Margaret Steimle, *Vice Chair*
Allison Caudill
John Haupt
Denise Koss
Anne Kearney

Commissioners Excused:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
County Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr.

Commissioners Excused Continued...

Damian Buchman
Barbara Leigh

Milwaukee County Staff:

Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Fran Musci, *Transit Plus*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Leon Todd

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Vice-Chair Steimle called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. She had everyone announce who was present at the meeting. The Commission reviewed the minutes later in the meeting when they got a quorum.

II. SPECIAL REPORT:

- a) Transit Plus Report:** Fran Musci, Director of Paratransit for Milwaukee County's Transit System (MCTS). Director Musci reported the November 2022 ridership decreased to 28,763. And, Year-to-date, they have provided 309,000 paratransit rides, up from their 2021 annual total 2021, which was 269,581. The Ridership is increasing, and Director Musci anticipates it will be at 320,000 rides by the end of the year.

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are discussing MCTS 2023 Budget and the Paratransit Taxi program. DHHS may take the paratransit taxi program as it seems to be more of a social service program than a transportation program.

MCTS has issued an intent to award the paratransit contract to First Transit. Director Musci forwarded the press release shared with the County Board to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. They expect to have a signed contract in the next few days. Usually, MCTS's contract awards take place in April/March. However, the supply chain issues with obtaining vehicles delayed the award until November. They expect the program to be up and running **by November 2023**. Director Musci also highlighted some attributes that First Transit brings with its services. One is that they have new technology, an IVR Call out system that calls clients to inform them that their driver has arrived. MCTS does have one vendor who needs assistance with maintaining performance and employees. MCTS is assisting them until the end of their contract, October 31, 2023.

III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2022, and NOVEMBER 14, 2022, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

MOTION: To approve October 10, 2022, and November 14, 2022, Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Haupt Moved, Koss Second.)

IV. **WIL-O-WAY COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

- a) **Report from the Public Screening of the Movie Unseen:** Vice-Chair Steimle reported an excellent turnout and outstanding reception of the information presented at the movie screening "Unseen." Commissioner Anne Kearney mentioned that many people from the County were in attendance, and Administrator Marietta Luster was also present. It was mentioned that this may become an annual or a biannual event with showing the same film or possibly other films that pertain to disability advocacy. Administrator Luster suggested that maybe they could have a yearly caregiver event to honor caregivers and pay tribute to them.
- b) **Camp Accreditation:** Commissioner Anne Kearney provided an update on the camp's accreditation status. Commissioner Kearney drafted the letter for obtaining camp accreditation for the Wil-O-Way Campsites and Easter Seals and sent it to Director Mike Bonk for review. The next step is for Easter Seals to inform them of what they need to meet the accreditation requirements so they can assist them with devising a plan to obtain items and criteria needed for the accreditation. Currently, their focus is on the needed facility updates to the campsites. And the importance of informing the County Supervisors about the Wil-O-Way Underwood facility issues.
- c) **ARPA Funds Update:** Commissioner Kearney is trying to connect with Supervisor Johnson Jr. to see if he can assist the Commission with obtaining ARPA funding for the items the Commission has listed in a request to the

County. Currently, Commissioner Kearney has yet to be successful in reaching Supervisor Johnson. However, more is needed for the Commission to follow up on its ARPA funding request. Supervisor Johnson reported that 70% of the ARPA funding is allocated to departments. Commissioner Kearney will inform the board of any progress with their requested follow-up.

V. DISCUSSION ITEM: MOLINA HEALTHCARE, INC, PLANS TO PURCHASE MY CHOICE WISCONSIN HUMANA, INC, PLANS TO PURCHASE INCLUSA

Director Marietta Luster informed the board that the Department of Health and Human Services is hosting two forums to discuss Molina Healthcare and Wisconsin Humans's plans to purchase My Choice and Inclusa on:

- ❖ Wednesday, December 14, 2022, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- ❖ Thursday, December 15, 2022, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Administrator Luster requested to have this agenda item added to provide awareness and information to the board about the forums. Also, she forwarded an email to Director Mike Bonk to share with the board providing information and a link to the forums.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) New Commissioners: Vice-Chair Med Steimle reported that two people were interested in joining the Commission: Sherry Nicholson and Leon Todd. Mr. Todd is present at today's meeting. Vice-Chair Steimle table the new Commissioner business until the January 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioner Steimle asked the Commission to forward contract information and resumes of individuals they know are interested in serving on the Commission.

b) Other Commission Business: No other Commission Business

c) Other Matters by the Public: No Matters by the Public

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m. (Koss Moved, Second Caudill)

The next Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2022, at 1 p.m., a virtual MS Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant

