



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes October 28, 2022

A quorum of **Commission on Aging** (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, October 28, 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*
Elliott Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Ronald Byington
Gloria Miller
Terrance Moore, Sr.
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ed.D.
Cherie Swenson
Cindy Van Vreede

Commissioners Excused:

John Gaines
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

Milwaukee County Staff:

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Tamarra Carr, *DHHS*
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*
Schinika Fitch, *DHHS*
Michelle Hawley
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor-Brown, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Amelia Berendt???
Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Christie Carter
Michelle Drouillard, *Goodwill*
Kathy Gale
Taylor Gjesdahl, *Interpreter*
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*
Matthew Hayes, *Legal Law*
Lo Neug Kiatoukaysy
Laura Langer, *WI-DHS*
Jessica Laughlin, *Interpreter*
Morgan McClelland
Michael Peragine
Ayom Siengo, *Goodwill In*
Zongsae Vang
Pastor Johnny White
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Song Xiong-Buck,
Virginia Zerpa
Kimberly Zimdars

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Amber Miller called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and Secretary Janice Wilberg took roll. Chair Griffith joined the meeting.

II. WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSIONERS:

The Chair welcomed new Commissioners Cindy Van Vreede, Terrence Moore, Sr., and Jon Gaines and asked if they would introduce themselves to the Commission. Commissioner Gaines was not in attendance at today's meeting.

Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede is a retiree and cancer survivor. She attended the Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) Senior Statesman program and serves on the Commission on Aging's (COA's) Advocacy Committee and the Nutrition Council. Commissioner Terrence Regan Moore, Sr. works for the City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development, and before, he worked at the Hmong Chamber of Congress. He serves on the Executive Council of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). He serves on the COA's Service Delivery Committee.

III. PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION FOR BARBARA BECHTEL AND BOB HAASE:

Director Schinika Fitch read the executive proclamation written by the County Executive honoring the former and late Commissioner Barbara Bechtel. Ms. Bechtel was an active voice in the local, state, and federal government on behalf of older adults. Director Fitch acknowledged former Commissioner Bob Haase had received his executive proclamation last year before his passing.

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

Director Fitch reported that Commissioner Amber Miller has accepted the invitation to serve a second term on the Commission on Aging. New Commission appointee, Eugene Guskowski is in the process of becoming a Commissioner. Director Fitch will process their paperwork next week to move them forward with the appointment process. Commissioner Gloria Miller is up for a second term, and Director Fitch hasn't been able to contact her. Director Fitch needs Commissioner Gloria Miller to notify her if she wants to serve a second term on the Commission so she can also process her paperwork.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is holding its official public hearing on the 2023 Milwaukee County Budget at the Marcus Center for Performing Arts **on Tuesday, November 1, 2022**, at 929 N. Water St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the hearing starts at 6 p.m. County Executive David Crowley shared his 2023 Budget recommendations on September 29, 2022. The Committee on Finance will consider any amendments to the recommended budget before considering an adopted budget **on November 10, 2022**. If you are interested in attending the public hearing **on November 1, 2022**, there's a website where you can register to attend in person or a virtual option. To register for the virtual option, visit the website: milwaukee.gov/countyboard.

V. REFLECTION: COMMISSIONER JOHN GRIFFITH:

It has been an emotional year for Commissioner Griffith, but he's adjusting. Commissioner Griffith reflected on his mother, who passed away a year and two days ago, and his upbringing. He emphasized the importance and value of parenting, as his dedication to public service is due to parenting. Despite their busy schedules, he discussed how his parents helped and assisted others. They both had the joy of giving and volunteering. He ended his reflection by saying they may not have had many things in life but were rich in values.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2022, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

Minutes approved upon one correction. To correct Commissioner Elliott Moeser's title on page one, under the reflection.

MOTION: To approve the September 23, 2022, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (A. Miller moved, Moeser second).

VII. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS BY CHAIRS

Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Commissioner Elliott Moeser reported on October 3, 2022, and referenced September 12, 2022, Advocacy Committee meetings. The Advocacy Committee expressed concerns regarding the privatization of Long-term Family Care at their October meeting. The Advocacy Committee acted by expressing their concerns to elected officials and partner organizations (WAAN). The Advocacy Committee is planning to sponsor a reception for elected officials to promote issues of interest and needs of Milwaukee County residents. They are in the process of securing a date and time for the event. Later in today's COA meeting, the Advocacy Committee is asking the Commission to consider approving a membership to the Advocacy Committee. Commissioner Moeser thanked the AAA Staff and Director for including the Commission in interviews in selecting a new Advocacy and Policy Manager.

Chair of the Advisory Council, Commissioner Janice Wilberg, reported that the Advisory Council didn't meet in October. They decided to take a recess due to the time they spent meeting this year discussing communication issues and strategies. The Advisory Council will have a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission later in today's meeting.

The chair of the Service Delivery Committee, Amber Miller, didn't provide a report at this time because she is providing their report later in today's meeting.

Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, reported that the Senior Center Select Committee has been meeting twice a month and are now putting together its recommendations to wrap up its final report by the end of the year.

The final draft report will be sent to all of the Committees **on November 4, 2022**, for their final reviews and comments. The Senior Center Select Committee will meet twice in November: November 10, 2022, and November 15, 2022, in which they will decide how they are going to disseminate their report. They may meet in December to ensure the report is in a final format and completed. There will be more to come.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for September 12, 2022
- The Nutrition Council meeting minutes for July 26, 2022

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg moved, Pitchford-Nicholas second).

IX. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item**, Appointment of Non-Commissioners to Councils and Committees: Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Elliott Moeser, is requesting to have Maureen Fitzgerald appointed to the Advocacy Committee. He provided a summary of her work background to the Commission on Aging.

MOTION: To confirm the appointment of Maureen Fitzgerald to serve as a non-Commissioner member of the Advocacy Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Moeser moved, A. Miller second).

- b) **Action Item, Review and Approval of the Service Delivery Committee 2023 Contract Recommendations, Commissioner Amber Miller, Chair of Service Delivery Committee:** Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, Commissioner Amber Miller, reviewed the 2023 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff Contract Award Recommendations memo for vendors with the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Miller asked for a motion to accept the award recommendations.

MOTION: To accept the 2023 Contract Recommendations.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Miller moved, Wilberg second).

A discussion of each of the vendor recommendations followed. Commissioner Miller noted that the Service Delivery Committee had requested additional information from Goodwill Industries, Inc. regarding its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan in light of its predominately white Board of Directors and Leadership over several years prior to recommending approval of its contract for Meals on Wheels services. Carrie Koss Vallejo, the AAA Program and Planning

Coordinator, clarified that the Service Delivery Committee's action was not to stop funding for Goodwill but to request Goodwill to provide a concrete plan for meeting the County's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) goals within 30-days to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Service Delivery Committee.

Commissioner Terrence Moore elaborated that Milwaukee County's strategic plan is about diversity, and for too long County vendors have received County funding without such inclusion at the leadership level that doesn't reflect that Milwaukee County's clients are heavily minority. Goodwill's board of directors doesn't coincide with the mission of Milwaukee County's strategic plan, as their board is heavily non-minority. There are other vendors for whom the County is requesting changes in this area, and Goodwill is highlighted because they are a well-seasoned large organization that the County thinks should have the resources for a plan already in place. There are a lot of racial and economic issues and vast gaps of non-diversity within the community. There should be leadership diversity plans in place.

The Commission continued discussion and agreed that there should be consistent communication informing the County's current and potential vendors of the County's expectations and consistently informing all vendors of the standards needed to meet these expectations.

Thomas Gossett and Ayom Siengo, Vice President of Mission Services for Goodwill, also provided comments. The Chair of the Service Delivery has amended the first motion, and the Commission has revoted on a final motion as follows:

MOTION: To accept the 2023 Contract Recommendations with the caveat that Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin presents a plan for short-term DEI Strategy, associated goals, score card and increasing diversity in leadership for the case management and delivery of home-delivered meals program; and scorecard by November 22, 2022.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (A. Miller Moved, Moore Second)

- c) **Informational Item:** Update on Older American's Act American Rescue Plan Act (OAA-ARPA) Funding, Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Unit Director: Director Idzikowski reformed the Commission that the AAA has a plan in place to utilize the Older American's Act American Rescue Plan Act (OAA-ARPA) funding for new programming, projects, and initiatives in each of the categories of service (Administration, Advocacy, Social Support programs, Nutrition, Wellness, and Caregiver support). To date, there have been two projects that reached completion. One is the translation of brochures and outreach materials into several foreign languages to increase language access. The second was to provide a new program for financial navigation and counseling services (River

works) to older adults. The AAA expected to receive the second tranche of this funding from WI-DHS sometime in November of 2022.

- d) Action Item, Advisory Council Communication Recommendations, Chair Advisory Council Janice Wilberg:** Chair Wilberg discussed and reviewed on screen the five recommendations regarding improving communication and outreach, particularly in minority communities, that the Advisory Council is presenting to the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Wilberg moved to accept the Advisory Councils' recommendations.

MOTION: To accept the Advisory Council's Communication Recommendations.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Wilberg moved, A. Miller second).

- e) Discussion Item, Councils and Committees of the Commission on Aging, Relation to Nutrition Council, Select Committee(s) on Senior Centers and Communications, potential Caregiver Council:** Commissioner Wilberg raised concerns with the Commission about the Nutrition Council being an enormous part of Aging's services, but not formally affiliated with the Commission. The Nutrition Council does not report to the Commission on Aging (COA) and isn't chaired by a commissioner like the other standing committees and council of the Commission. Commissioner Wilberg would like to see the Nutrition Council as part of the Commission on Aging.

Senior Dining Program Coordinator Gaylyn Reske informed the Commission how the Nutrition Council currently operates. The Nutrition Council consists of two elected participant representatives from each Milwaukee County senior dining meal site, with officer elections from among this group. Director Idzikowski informed the Commission that there is a reference to the Commission on Aging in the Nutrition Council bylaws; however, their bylaws need to be updated to reflect the Commission's current bylaws. The Commission will have to work with the Office on Aging at the State level to determine what steps they can take to make changes to the Nutrition Council's Bylaws and the COA Bylaws to strengthen their connections with each other. And the Commission will need to consult with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in that regard. Commissioner Wilberg has agreed to coordinate this effort.

- f) Informational Item:** Milwaukee County 2023 Budget Update: Director Fitch provided a county budget update in her report. There were no further discussions on the budget.
- g) Informational Item, Select Committee on Senior Centers, Progress Report on Critical Questions and Recommendations to the COA, Select Committee on Senior Centers Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas:** Commissioner Pitchford-Nicholas didn't have any progress report to provide, as she discussed this item earlier in the meeting.

h) Voting in Milwaukee County, Michelle Hawley, Director of the Milwaukee County Election Commission: Michelle Hawley briefly went over the structure and role of the County's Election Commission and its proceedings and her role as the Director of the Milwaukee County Election Commission.

X. AGING UNIT DIRECTOR REPORT, DHHS AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES, AGING UNIT DIRECTOR DANIEL IDZIKOWSKI

Director Idzikowski thanked his staff for all their hard work with contracts and new initiatives.

XI. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, LAURA LANGER

Laura Langer reported on four items: **ARPA Funding:** Ms. Langer stated that the ARPA allocation for the AAA should be the same amount received last year, January 2022.

Nutrition Council/COA Bylaws: Ms. Langer will contact Sarah Koenig, who oversees the Title III programs, to inform her regarding the Commission's desire to change the Nutrition Council and COA Bylaws.

Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP): The State released a Request for Application (RFA) last summer and now has a new vendor, Employ Milwaukee, which starts November 1, 2022. She reiterated information about the new vendor and the WISE program.

Provided topic information on a few conferences held this week (Aging and Disabilities Network Forum, Milwaukee County staff was in attendance. The Aging and Disabilities Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW).

XII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Chair Griffith's report was to inform everyone to vote, vote, vote.

XIII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR:

Supervisor Taylor, along with a few other County supervisors, are advocating to have the Commission's capital budget request for security equipment in the amount of **\$97,000** to be placed back into the 2023 County Budget. The Commission needs to contact all County Supervisors to inform them how significant the funding for the equipment is for the senior centers.

She stressed the importance of voting. Also, she is trying to help with recruiting new members for the Commission and its committees.

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

- Senior Center Select Committee's meeting date changed to November 10, 2022 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- There is a correction with the Wellness Committee meeting time frame which is from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- The AAA is wrapping up its Medicare 101 series, they ask for everyone who is on Medicare to please review their plans.
- Former President Obama will be in Milwaukee at North Division High School this Saturday, between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Governing Evers will be in Milwaukee, on 11 W. Historical Mitchel St., Sunday from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

XV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. (Taylor/ Pitchford Nicholas)

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, November 18, 2022, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant