



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes January 27, 2023

The **Commission on Aging** (COA) convened virtually on Friday, January 27, 2023. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting by video conference and conference call options.

Commissioners Present:

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D., *Chair*
Amber Miller, *Vice-Chair*
Elliott Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Terrance Moore, Sr, *Secretary*
Jon Gaines
John Griffith
Eugene Guskowski
Gloria Miller
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ed.D.
Cherie Swenson
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
Cindy Van Vreede
Ronald Byington

Milwaukee County Staff:

David Crowley, *County Executive*
Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Schinika Fitch, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff:

Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor-Brown, *DHHS*
Gaylyn Reske, *DHHS*
Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Christie Carter, *Milwaukee LGBT*
Jeff Castle, *Interpreter*
Eva Eiseman, *Interpreter*
Laura Langer, *DHS*
Neal Minogue, *DHS*
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and Secretary Terrance Moore, Sr. took roll. A quorum of Commissioners was present. The Chair reviewed the procedural steps for Zoom attendance at COA meetings.

II. WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Wilberg welcomed new Commissioner Gene Guskowski to the Commission. Commissioner Guskowski discussed his interests and how he became involved with the Senior Center Select Committee and now the Commission on Aging.

III. REMARKS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID CROWLEY

County Executive David Crowley thanked Chair Wilberg and the Commission for the opportunity to address them and for their strong partnership and collaborative work. He discussed the Commission on Aging's responsibilities, commitment to their goals, and how their responsibility is vital to all of Milwaukee County. He wants to ensure the County addresses public interests and concerns, as a growing percentage of older adults will qualify for services and supports under the Older Americans Act. Milwaukee County will be more diverse both in terms of racial and ethnic composition as well as in different generations, so the work of Milwaukee County and the Commission on Aging is even more crucial today than it ever has been.

Executive Crowley acknowledged the Aging Advisory Council's work in creating the 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan, which is a vital step in a vision to improve the health and well-being of all older adult residents of Milwaukee County, acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness. In order for Milwaukee County to achieve its vision that by achieving racial equity, we will become the healthiest County in the state of Wisconsin, the County must continue to support older adults. He acknowledges that the future of senior centers has been under review by the COA's "Select Committee on Senior Centers," and he looks forward to receiving the final report and recommendations from the Commission.

The County had provided tax levy funds to support Aging Services, about \$1.5 million currently, which helps fund senior center programming, nutrition programs, and elder abuse prevention. And he mentioned the need to address the transportation needs of the non-driver population and continued support for the Older Adult Transportation (OATS) service. Also, the County is aware of the need to do more to support our family caregivers. County Executive Crowley is delighted that the Area Agency on Aging's (AAA's) leadership team has advanced racial equity through their commitment to minority business contracting, including the innovative Dine Out program. Although the County continues to face fiscal challenges that threaten our future and current ability to deliver the much-needed services Milwaukee County residents need and deserve, the County is committed to continuing to serve our older adults and, with other County partners, is working daily with state lawmakers to address the challenge we face. Executive Crowley thanked the Commission on Aging again for welcoming him, and he looks forward to hearing more from the Commission on its work toward its vision and issues and topics as the city leader representing the County's 185,000 older adults.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2022, NOVEMBER 18, 2022, AND DECEMBER 9, 2022, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the October 28, 2022, November 18, 2022, and December 9, 2022, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

ACTION: Prevailed unanimously (A. Miller, Swenson, seconded).

V. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Legislative Officer and Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Elliot Moeser, reported that at their January 9, 2023, meeting, they acted on three items, which will be discussed later in this meeting. Commissioner Moser announced that the Advocacy Committee had scheduled their Commission on Aging's Policymaker reception for Local, State, and Federal legislators, **on May 24, 2023, at 4 p.m.** The Committee would like to hold the event at one of the Senior Centers. More information to come.

Chair of the Wellness Committee, Gloria Miller, provided highlights of their January 18, 2023, meeting. Linda Radder and Anya Gordon gave a presentation on "Evidence-Based Prevention Programs in Underserved Communities. They provide wellness workshops with a primary emphasis on communities of color and have found their strategies effective. Also discussed was ARPA spending on wellness programming, support, and supplies.

Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, Amber Miller, didn't have a report as no meeting occurred. Chair Miller informed the Commission that the Service Delivery Committee has two days of vendor presentations in February (Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and Wednesday, February 22, 2023). The vendors will present 2022 year-end reports and all Commissioners are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend, please let her or Carrie Koss Vallejo know so she can send you a meeting invite.

Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Chair of the Select Committee on Senior Centers, stated she wasn't present at their last meeting; however, the Select Committee on Senior Centers will present their final report in February 2023. At their last meeting, they discussed the funding received for Milwaukee County's senior centers for various capital projects. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) is planning to build a housing complex that will include a senior/wellness center located in Westlawn Gardens. HACM is interested in partnering with the McGovern Park Senior Center and its new site. Commissioner Gene Guskowski is on the planning committee for this project.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for November 7, 2022, and December 5, 2022
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for October 4, 2022, November 7, 2022, and December 5, 2022
- Nutrition Council meeting minutes July 26, 2022, and October 25, 2022

MOTION: To Approve the consent agenda meeting minutes.

ACTION: Prevails unanimously (Moore, Pitchford-Nicholas, seconded).

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

Director Fitch reported on two events the County Executive is hosting. Tomorrow morning, Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., the County Executive is holding "A Coffee with Crowley" at Sherman Perk coffee shop, 4924 W. Roosevelt Drive. The County Executive will provide updates on the County's progress and constituents can ask the County Executive questions and learn about the County's priorities.

County Executive Crowley will give his "2023 State of the County" address **on February 21, 2023, at 10 a.m.**, location to be determined. Director Fitch will provide location information to Executive Assistant Nyang to disseminate to the Commission on Aging. Director Fitch asked Commissioners to mark their calendars for these events.

VIII. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Action Item, Annual Report to the County Board**, Chair Janice Wilberg: Year-end review "2022 Accomplishments of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Commission on Aging". Chair Wilberg reviewed the year-end 2022 Accomplishments of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Commission on Aging (COA). A few highlights were

- The 2022-2024 Area Agency on Aging Area Plan,
- Improving racial equity in communication and engagement, and
- The 2022 Senior Leadership Program

Commissioner Moeser requested an extra bullet to include the hard work of AAA staff, COA, and the degree of difficulty and transitions due to COVID to make the accomplishments possible. Add "Provide guidance and stability for the Area Agency on Aging and its programs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its integration into the Department of Health and Human Services".

Commissioner Moore requested a change to the fourth bullet point to include improvement with racial equity with its vendors, which now reads "Completion of semi-annual reviews of all Aging Service contractors to identify accomplishments and areas for improvement, with a special emphasis on improving racial equity and representation in vendors, staffing, and board governance."

MOTION: To approve the 2022 Accomplishments Report to the County Board as amended for the Area Agency on Aging and the Commission on Aging.

ACTION: Prevailed unanimously (Pitchford-Nicholas, Gaines seconded).

- b) Informational Item, Milwaukee County 2023 Budget Update:** Area Agency on Aging Director Daniel Idzikowski provided a brief report on the 2023 County Budget, and a few highlights are listed below.

- The County passed its 2023 operational and capital budgets. \$3.5 million allocated in County ARPA and Capital Budget funding through sales tax revenue and bonding for senior center infrastructure projects.

Older American Act ARPA funding: The AAA spent \$450,000 in 2022. Still waiting to receive the second allotment of OAA ARPA funding from WI-DHS. The AAA has plans to spend the OAA ARPA funding received thus far by 2024.

Matt Fortman, DHSS Chief Financial Officer will attend the March COA meeting to discuss the 2024 County budget process. Idzikowski noted he would be happy to forward any fiscal questions from the Commissioners to CFO Fortman.

- c) **Informational Item, Senior Center Select Committee, Progress Report on Final Report and Recommendations of the Senior Center Select Committee on Senior Center, Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas:** Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, and Commissioner Eugene Guskowski provided a brief report on how the Select Committee on Senior Centers created their charge and the Committee's work to develop a final report with recommendations on the future of senior centers in Milwaukee County. For more information, see the "Select Committee on Senior Centers Final Report Outline" document. Commissioner.
- d) **Action Item, Advocacy Items from January 9, 2023, Committee meeting, Legislative Officer, Elliott Moeser:** The Legislative Officer and Chair of the Advocacy Committee reviewed the 2023 Commission on Aging Public Policy Priorities. He discussed the federal, state, and local policy priorities and the three motions the Advocacy Committee passed – to add a priority to use a portion of the current state budget surplus for older adult programs; to study the exemption of Social Security Benefits from Wisconsin income taxes, and to approve the priorities as amended. The Committee recommends approval of the 2023 Commission on Aging Policy Priorities. Moeser discussed how Milwaukee County isn't getting back its fair share of revenue.

MOTION: To approve the 2023 Commission on Aging Public Policy Priorities.

ACTION: Prevailed unanimously (Moeser, Griffith seconded).

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

Idzikowski reaffirmed that the Area Agency on Aging had hired Caregiver Coordinator Kayla Steinke. He provided information on the position's work and charge. The AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager position will soon be reposted. He will send a link to the Commission to view the job posting and encouraged Commissioners to circulate the information about the open position. He discussed the AAA's RFP award to Riverworks for a Financial Counseling program, the expansion of funding for Life Navigators, and ERAS contract awards for Volunteer Chore Services and Volunteer Transportation Services. He announced that the Dine Out program has a new minority vendor

participating once a week on Thursdays called "Pass da Peas." All five County-owned Senior Centers have reopened their congregate dining (in-person dining sites). Lastly, the AAA recently applied for a home modification grant they hope to receive soon.

X. WISCONSIN STATE OFFICE ON AGING REPORT, NEAL MINOGUE, OLDER AMERICAN ACT PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Wisconsin State Office on Aging Program Supervisor Neal Minogue informed the Commission that it's reporting season for every County, Tribe, and Area Agency on Aging. The Administration for Community Living in the federal government reviews all Older Americans Act programs, services, and costs. He noted there continues to be a significant need for Older American Act funding for nutrition, home-delivered and congregate meals, and caregiving services.

Minogue discussed how COVID has impacted family caregivers, which caused them to have less support, and how the need for evidence-based programming has increased. In the past two years during the pandemic, there were 3.5 million 55 years and older people who left the workforce and never returned and are no longer volunteering, which has impacted OAA programs. Volunteer workers in older adult nutrition and caregiver programs is large need. He thanked Matt Fortman and Carrie Koss Vallejo for their program and fiscal reporting. Lastly, he informed the Commission that the State is working on a new dementia plan and wants input for their 2024–2028 plan. He will email Vonda Nyang the survey information to disseminate to the Commission to fill out and the State's proposed Dementia Plan for their review. Minogue announced that the AAA should receive its next ARPA fund allocation sometime this February.

XI. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT, SEQUANNA TAYLOR, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Milwaukee County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor reported on the following:

- Milwaukee County had started a "Milwaukee County Youth Commission," which consists of 20 youth members who represent each of the 18 supervisory districts and will work with Milwaukee County Supervisors.
- The County Board will have a Black History presentation at their meeting, and later a Black History program in the rotunda **on February 27, 2023.**
- She is looking into having health fitness business donate used equipment to the County's senior centers.
- She is visiting Senior Centers to conduct walk-throughs with DHHS Executive Director Shakita LaGrant-McClain.
- She highlighted the initiative to create additional supportive housing for people with disabilities in suburban areas.

XII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Wilberg encouraged the Commission to provide her feedback on how she's doing, how they can run better meetings, and any improvement needs. The Chair

wants the Commission to be more visible, participate and talk with the public, and focus on the racial equity vision. Chair Wilberg also:

- Requested Commissioners not assigned to a committee or Council to think about which one they should serve on and need guidance to contact the Chair.
- Reminded Commissioners to check their emails regularly.
- Encouraged Commissioners to get a Senior Center card and visit the County's five-owned senior centers to take a tour and see how they work.
- Encouraged Commissioners to vote and encourage others to do so.

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

- Chair Wilberg announced the 2023 COA Officers of the Commission.
- Chair Wilberg thanked Commissioner Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas for her service as a commissioner and the amount of work she accomplished as Chair of the Select Committee on Senior Centers. Commissioner Pitchford-Nicholas said she has met great people while serving on the Commission and it has been an honor to serve on the Commission, and to work with some of the most talented and gifted people.
- Commissioner Griffith announced today is national Remembrance Day for the Holocaust.
- Director Idzikowski announced that the Commission's name tags were mailed, and they should receive them soon.

XIV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m. (Supervisor Taylor/Van Vreede)

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Prevails unanimously (Taylor, Van Vreede seconded).

The next Commission on Aging meeting will be Friday, February 24, 2023, a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant