



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee

June 4, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on June 4, 2018 at the Marcia Coggs Building, 1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104, Milwaukee, WI 53205 in Room 104.

Commissioners Present

Fred Kneuppel
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Commissioners Excused

Bettie Rodgers
Gwen Jackson – Commissioner Emeritus

Advocacy Members Present

Barbara Bechtel
Casper Green
John Griffith
Bob Haase
Tim Harrington
David Hoffman
Dain Maddox
Judith Troestler

Advocacy Members Excused:

Tom Frazier
Gary Mikolajczyk
Dr. Elliott Moeser

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Andy Bethke
Jill Klecha
Carmen Pangilinan

Guests Present

Sally Callan- League of Progressive Seniors
Martha Collins- Hunger Task Force
Pat Dunn- State Advisory Council
Margo Ford- Advocate
Tom Gossett- Goodwill
Mike Helbick- Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Laurie Lambach- Unison (SET/Interfaith)
Deborah Lewis- Senior Ambassador
Jack Norman- League of Progressive Seniors
Karen Royster- League of Progressive Seniors
Stephanie Sue Stein- League of Progressive Seniors
Dave Weingrod- League of Progressive Seniors
Jan Wilberg- League of Progressive Seniors
Cathy Young- Unison (SET/Interfaith)
Patty Yunk- League of Progressive Seniors

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fred Knueppel called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Ms. Pangilinan made an announcement that Committee members Gary Mikolajczyk, Dr. Elliott Moeser and Tom Frazier were excused from the meeting. Additionally, Ms. Pangilinan shared that Mr. Frazier is facing health challenges that will prohibit him from attending meetings for the foreseeable future.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

MOTION: Approve the May 7, 2018 minutes.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Green moved, Griffith seconded)

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES FROM MAY MEETING- FARM BILL AND LETTER FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

- Mr. Knueppel updated the group on the status of the Farm Bill. The House voted down the bill on May 18. Another vote is possible, please keep an eye on it and contact representatives to show support for Foodshare.
- Mr. Knueppel also reminded the group that the Committee sent a letter to the County Executive two meetings ago regarding the status of the \$200,000 kept in contingency for the senior centers. A response was sent via letter to the Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional funding in Milwaukee County and how that ties into the shared revenue issue that will be addressed in the meeting today.
- Mr. Maddox asked if there were updates on the status of the meeting between MCDA and Unison that Ms. Holly Davis announced at the May meeting. Ms. Davis and Mr. Jon Janowski were not present at the meeting to provide an update.
- Ms. Laurie Lambach of Unison was present at the meeting and shared an update with the group. As a result of process of going through the RFI for MCDA, Unison went through a planning process and things became evident to them as to what has been lost due to budget cuts. The capacity to perform service coordination defined as the ability to serve those most vulnerable connecting older adults to other social service organizations, food pantries, substance abuse assistance, etc. has been lost. The senior center programming has been able to be sustained, but this other type of support has not. Unison has created a proposal that asks for a service coordinator position at the four larger centers: Clinton Rose, Kelly, Wilson and Washington Park. Currently there is only one full-time worker at McGovern and this is no longer manageable, so they have proposed adding a full-time Program Coordinator there. Additionally, there are some one-time funding requests to try to make improvements to McGovern to try to increase participation as well as funding to improve wireless connections at some centers and to do advertising and outreach to increase participation overall.
- Ms. Lambach stated she will be meeting with Ms. Davis on Friday of this week for follow-up on the proposal and she is hopeful after working out some details that the contract will be amended. The proposal was just sent to MCDA this morning.

MOTION: Support the proposal Unison has submitted to restore the \$200,000 held in contingency for senior center funding and that it be put into effect immediately.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Maddox moved, Haase seconded)

IV. PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEM- MILWAUKEE COUNTY SHARED REVENUE, KAREN ROYSTER AND JACK NORMAN, LEAGUE OF PROGRESSIVE SENIORS

- Ms. Royster and Mr. Norman provided a detailed look at the issue of the reduction in shared revenue from the state, which puts constraints on funding Milwaukee County can provide to deliver services. Please see attached PowerPoint for more information.
- Ms. Royster and Mr. Norman called for advocates to talk to parallel groups in other counties and create cooperation among groups to bring this issue to the attention of the state legislature as a state-wide issue that must be addressed.

MOTION: Add this issue to the work plan and list of priorities of the Advocacy Committee and promote to the state legislature the need to address the need for adequate funding to Milwaukee County.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Hoffman moved, Green seconded)

V. PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEM: MILWAUKEE COUNTY SHARED REVENUE, TEIG WHALEY-SMITH, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

- Mr. Whaley-Smith provided the group with a presentation entitled "2019 Budget Gap". Mr. Whaley-Smith outlined the causes of the gap as well as made recommendations to the committee as to what they should ask legislators for in order to address the gap. Specifically, Mr. Whaley-Smith suggested asking for an inflationary increase of state aid as well as for the state to reimburse Milwaukee County for all mandated services so the property tax can be used for local services. Please see attached PowerPoint for more specifics.

VI. DISCUSSION: COMMUNICATION PLAN PROPOSAL, JOHN GRIFFITH, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mr. Knueppel asked Mr. Griffith if this item could be held over until the August meeting due to the fact the meeting was running long. Mr. Griffith agreed. Ms. Pangilinan referred to the documents in the packet and asked the Committee to review the proposal and be prepared to talk more about it in August.

VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: FEDERAL UPDATES ON AGING ISSUES

Mr. Helbick noted that the Farm Bill may be voted on again this summer and asked the group to keep an eye on it. He also announced the Senate will be in recess from August

6- September 3, but if there are any changes to this, Mr. Helbick will keep the group up to date.

VII. DISCUSSION: ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Ms. Pangilinan shared with the group that new Medicare cards are coming soon. New cards will no longer contain Social Security numbers. Be on the lookout for your new card.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Green moved, Harrington seconded)

Next meeting will be held on Monday, August 6 at 1:30pm at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Room 104. THERE IS NO MEETING IN JULY!

Respectfully submitted,



**Carmen Pangilinan
Program and Policy Coordinator**