



## Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee August 6, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on August 6, 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  
Gary Mikolajczyk  
Judith Troestler

### **Advocacy Members Excused:**

Tom Frazier  
Dain Maddox  
Dr. Elliott Moeser

### **Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Andy Bethke  
Ayame Metzger  
Carmen Pangilinan  
Rebecca Schmitt

### **Guests Present**

Mike Bruhn- Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin  
Mary Clare Carlson- My Choice Family Care  
Martha Collins- Hunger Task Force  
Pat Dunn- State Advisory Council  
Margo Ford- Advocate  
Mike Helbick- Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin  
David Pifer- Legal Action  
Brittany Schoenick- Legal Action  
Stephanie Sue Stein- League of Progressive Seniors

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Fred Knueppel called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

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

**MOTION: Approve the June 4, 2018 minutes.**

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

**III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: COMMUNICATION PLAN PROPOSAL, JOHN GRIFFITH, COMMITTEE MEMBER**

- Mr. Griffith developed a plan for better communicating advocacy issues with the public. He proposed having more structure in place for determining when to talk to legislators, media, and the senior population. His proposal covers communicating the role of the Department to the public as well as developing relationships with elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.
- Mr. Griffith reminded the group that their role is to be advocates for older people and the group needs to stand on its own to look out for the interests of older people.
- Mr. Griffith challenged the group to visit at least 3 meal sites before the next meeting as well as to take public transportation to the next meeting.
- Mr. Mikolajczyk inquired about the status of the Commission on Aging's representative from the County Board. Mr. Knueppel confirmed that several board members have been asked and have refused. Mr. Griffith suggested committee members talk to county board members to let them know representation is needed. Ms. Wyatt-Sibley agreed it was important for committee members to reach out to supervisors to let them know they are expected to be advocates for seniors.

**MOTION: Develop a comprehensive communication plan and present it to the Commission on Aging for approval.**

**ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Griffith moved, Hoffman seconded)**

**IV. PRESENTATION: COUNTY BALANCING ACT TOOL, JEREMY LUCAS, SENIOR BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT ANALYST, MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- Mr. Lucas gave the group a background on the county budget process. Department budget requests were submitted to the County Executive on July 15 and will be available on the website on August 15. The County Executive's budget is due October 1. Milwaukee County is facing a \$23-25 million-dollar budget gap. The Balancing Act tool is being used again in order to gather feedback from the public as to how they feel the budget should be managed because we are past the point where a little can be shaved from budgets without it affecting service.
- Mr. Lucas provided a demonstration on how to use the tool and he asked the group to take time to do it themselves and to share the tool with others so as much input as possible can be gathered. To find the tool see: [www.abetter414.com](http://www.abetter414.com).

**V. DISCUSSION: WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK STATE ISSUE PAPERS**

- Ms. Pangilinan shared four state issue papers developed by the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN). The papers deal with family caregiving, social isolation, transportation and healthy aging grants. In addition, she shared an issue card which sums up the four topics. Ms. Pangilinan encouraged the group to get to know the issues and to discuss them with their state representatives. There will be federal papers coming out from WAAN in the future as well.

**VI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: FEDERAL UPDATES ON AGING ISSUES**

- Mr. Mike Helbick of Senator Tammy Baldwin's office shared that a new administrative rule put out by the Trump administration which repeals the Affordable Care Act rule that protects those with pre-existing conditions. There is a legislative review panel through congress which forces a vote and if a simple majority votes against it, the rule will not be approved. Senator Baldwin has introduced legislation to call for the panel and there will be 60 days to act on it. Senate is on recess for one week.

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

- Ms. Pangilinan shared that she talked to Committee member Tom Frazier and he sent his greetings to the group and is still in the middle of his treatment. Committee member Elliott Moeser shared that he recently had open heart surgery and was recently released from the hospital.
- Ms. Pangilinan also shared that this was her last Advocacy Committee meeting as she has resigned to take a position in the City of Wauwatosa Public Health Department. She thanked the group for all of their dedication and encouraged them to continue doing the work of being advocates for the older adults of Milwaukee County.
- Ms. Wyatt-Sibley noted that the Executive Committee has decided they would like to invite more legislators to Commission on Aging meetings so they can be greater informed of senior issues and get to know the Commission better.
- Mr. Harrington introduced Mr. Michael Bruhn, the new Public Policy Director for the Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin.
- Mr. Griffith mentioned a resource guide for seniors that was created in Sawyer County and suggested Milwaukee County put together something similar.
- Ms. Pangilinan reminded the group of the upcoming election on August 14.
- Ms. Pangilinan reminded the group about the upcoming county budget briefing which will take place from 3-5pm on August 14 at Independence First.
- Ms. Collins of Hunger Task Force announced that there are farmers market vouchers left and encouraged people to pick them up on Thursday, August 16 at the West Allis Farmers Market.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

**MOTION: Adjourn the meeting**

**ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Green moved, Haase seconded)**

**Next meeting will be held on Monday, September 10 at 1:30pm at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Room 104.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carmen Pangilinan".

**Carmen Pangilinan  
Program and Policy Coordinator**