



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee September 10, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on September 10, 2018 at the Marcia Coggs Building, 1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104, Milwaukee, WI 53205 in Room 104.

Committee Members Present

Commissioner Fred Knueppel, Chair
Gary Mikolajczyk
John Griffith
Casper Green
Tim Harrington
Judith Troestler
Barbara Bechtel
Dr. Elliott Moeser

Committee Members not present:

Tom Frazier
Bob Haase (Excused)
David Hoffman
Dain Maddox

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Jon Janowski
Holly Davis
Jill Klecha
Andy Bethke

Guests Present

Julietta Henry, Milwaukee County Elections Committee
Mike Helbick, Senator Tammy Baldwin's Office
James Callahan
Gary Sprong
Commissioner Barbara Wyatt Sibley

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PRESENTATION: "MCDA 2019 Requested Budget" Holly Davis, Executive Director, Department on Aging

Holly Davis provided a few highlights on MCDA's 2018 Budget and 2019 Budget Submission, and departmental changes:

- MCDA's 2019 budget request was for a little over 20 million dollars. Ms. Davis discussed the department's reduction in staff due to retirements, resignations, and one position being eliminated due to the loss of a federal grant, which was a Dementia Care Specialist position held by Andrea Garr. Ms. Davis also reported MCDA's venture for new revenue sources for 2019 and the upcoming ADRC Budget listening Sessions. (Flyers will be sent out to attendees).

- Ms. Davis was asked a few questions on the department's next steps for staff replacement, what was the number of meals served to seniors, and what amounts did the department incur for cross charges. Mr. Jon Janowski will provide budget documents to the attendees to answer their questions about the budget. All other matters that attendees had queries on will be forwarded to the Advocacy Chair, and he will address them with the Executive Director.

III. PRESENTATION: "Voter Information for the 2018 Elections" Julietta Henry, Elections Director, Milwaukee County Election Commission (30 Minutes)

Julietta Henry provided information on early voting, absentee voting, how to access the Election Commission's new webpage, and where and how citizens can register to vote. A discussion ensued about concerns with seniors not being tech-savvy enough to access information on the internet and their need to have information provided in-person. **More information can be obtained by visiting URL: <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/County-Clerk/Election-Commission>** Listed below are highlights of the presentation.

- **Early Voting:** Early voting starts in Milwaukee from September 24, 2018 - November 4, 2018, Ms. Henry will be forwarding a schedule to the Advocacy Committee. Also, beginning Monday, October 15 thru November 4, 2018, there will be other locations throughout the city opening, they are: Zeidler Municipal Building, the Midtown Center, Mitchel Street Library, Zablocki Library, Center Street Library, Mill Road Library, UWM Tech School of Arts, and MATC Library.
- **Absentee Voting:** If you are already registered to vote, you may fill out an application for absentee voting and mail it to the County Clerk's Office, and the clerk's office will submit their vote. Ms. Henry provided Absentee Voter Applications for meeting attendees to give out to voters; these documents are for registered citizens who are unable to make it to the voting polls.
- **Receiving Voter Information by Text message:** By sending a text to 468311/MKE Vote citizens can receive reminders to vote as well as other relevant information.
- **How to check your Voter information:** By going to the website "My Vote.org," voters can track their voting history, look at sample ballots find out how long they have been voting, determine a voting location, look up elected officials, and much more.
- **Where to go to register to Vote:** You can register to vote online, and/or update your address and/or name if you have moved or married/divorced; however, you need to have a valid Wisconsin Driver's license or State ID card. If you don't have either, you can submit a proof of residence document. Ms. Henry answered meeting attendee's questions after her presentation.

MOTION: To send a letter advocating for the reestablishment of statewide voter registrars' duties to State Representatives within Milwaukee County, as well as local media, after the November elections requesting to reestablish voter registrars in Milwaukee County and throughout the state.

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

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: Federal Updates on Aging Issues (2:1)

- U.S Senator Tammy Baldwin Introduces New Legislation to Overturn the Expansion of Junk Insurance Plans. Mike Helbick from Senator Baldwin's office informed the Advocacy Committee of a media release from their office regarding a Trump Administration rule expanding junk insurance plans which are not going to provide health care coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Copies of the media release were distributed at the meeting. Also, Mr. Helbick informed meeting members on how they can get copies of the resolution.
- The Committee discussed the importance of members contacting their County Board members to advocate that a County Supervisor be appointed to the Commission on Aging. All members agreed that it was important that such communications be made so that a County Board member can quickly be appointed to the Commission on Aging by the County Executive and then confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors.
- Committee member Mikolajczyk brought up that Chapter 53 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances requires the Commission on Aging to complete an annual report of its activities and file such report with the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, and all 19 local municipalities. Discussion ensued about the value of this report and what information this report could include. Mr. Janowski pointed out that to his knowledge the Commission on Aging has never completed such a report, but that if the Commission were to approve this report, then the scope of the report is entirely up to the Commission to determine and staff would draft the report.

MOTION: That the Commission on Aging will complete an annual report per the requirements of Chapter 53 of the County Ordinances, and submit this report to the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, and all 19 local municipalities.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Mikolajczyk **moved**, Moeser **seconded**)

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

- **National Voter Registration Day** – National Voter Registration Day is September 26, 2018, and the Elections Commission and other partners will be working in getting the word out to all voters on the importance of registering to vote.
- Tim Harrington announced that the Alzheimer's Association annual walk would take place on September 16th. The Association is hoping to top last year's walker total of 3,800 walkers.
- Mr. Janowski provided the following announcements:
 - A summary of Senator Baldwin's "Junk Insurance Plan" legislation is on the resource table
 - The Department has rescheduled its Medicare training for October 16th – a flyer is on the table
 - A flyer about National Voter Registration Day is on the table

- There is a flyer on the table about the upcoming ADRC Governing Board listening sessions
- MCDA is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association and many other community partners on a \$500,000 state grant to increase awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia. Tim Harrington from the Association added that the Association was very excited to implement the grant.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vonda Nyang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant**