



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee November 5, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on November 5, 2018 at the Marcia Coggs Building, 1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104, Milwaukee, WI 53212 in Room 104.

Commissioners Present

Fred Knueppel

Commissioners Not Present

Bettie Rodgers

Committee Members Present

Judy Troestler
Bob Haase
Casper Green
Elliott Moeser
Tom Frazier
David Hoffman
Dain Maddox
Gary Mikolajczyk
John Griffith
Barbara Bechtel

Committee Members Excused

Tim Harrington

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Holly Davis, MCDA Executive Director
Jon Janowski, MCDA Director of Administration
Andy Bethke, MCDA Human Service Worker - Outreach

Guests Present

Tom Gossett, Goodwill
Matt McGovern, County Executive Government Affairs
Liaison
Stephanie Stein

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fred Knueppel called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Committee member Tom Frazier was welcomed back to the Committee. He summarized his recent health issues and was happy to be back on the Committee.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM October 1, 2018

MOTION: Approve the October 1, 2018 minutes.

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

Committee member Haase asked about the bylaws process and Chairman Knueppel noted that Chairwoman Wyatt-Sibley covered this topic at the last Commission meeting. Per the Commission Chair, the Commission will be moving forward with the bylaws revision process starting in January 2019.

Committee member Hoffman said that the September committee meeting minutes list him as “not present” but also sponsoring a motion, so that discrepancy should be corrected or at least pointed out to the Commission Chair.

Committee member Mikolajczyk asked about the September 10th meeting minutes. Mr. Janowski noted that those minutes were revised and then approved by the Commission on Aging at their last meeting.

III. PRESENTATION – Matt McGovern, Government Affairs Liaison, Milwaukee County Executive’s Office – “Federal and State Policy Update”

Mr. McGovern introduced himself as the County Executive’s new Government Relations Liaison and summarized his background as an attorney, employee of the Department on Energy, and campaign worker. He said his office’s main focus is state shared revenue restoration and that his office would like to collaborate on the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day in May 2019. Mr. McGovern summarized recent Medicaid policy changes, including newly enacted work requirements. He talked about state referendums on the ballot coming up that might expand the number of states expanding their Medicaid programming. He emphasized the importance of Wisconsin being a state that should expand Medicaid programming. He also noted the Fair Share workgroup was being put together by the County Executive and County Board Chairman and that it would be important to have the Advocacy Committee represented on that group.

Mr. Griffith asked that local public officials receive a letter from the Committee asking them to strategize about how to work together. Mr. McGovern noted that other counties are also interested in working on the shared revenue issue with Milwaukee County. Mr. McGovern noted that the County Board passed the “Fair Share” resolution by an 18-0 vote so the County Board and County Executive are working together.

Mr. Griffith asked about the Go Pass price doubling and whether that proposal passed in the county budget. Ms. Davis mentioned that the county budget was being adopted today and that she needed to find out what the County Board decided on this issue.

IV. PRESENTATION – 2019 Department on Aging Budget Update – Holly Davis, Executive Director, Department on Aging

- I. Ms. Holly Davis summarized the Department's budget. She noted that the budget process was easier for all parties this year. She summarized the Department's budget numbers and said the Department was able to absorb the \$184,000 tax levy decrease in its budget. She said that federal dementia care grant funding was going away, but that the Finance and Audit Committee passed an amendment to fund the position with tax levy. Ms. Davis will check on the status of this amendment as the County Board will be adopting the 2019 Budget today.

Ms. Troestler asked about an upcoming presentation involving Mr. Bashir Easter. Ms. Davis said Mr. Easter resigned last week and that his upcoming work is being coordinated by Ms. Sprague in the Aging Resource Center. Ms. Davis said she would check with Ms. Sprague to ensure that this presentation was handled.

Ms. Davis said the Department also lost some Innovation Grant funding. The Department would be receiving additional funds due to time reporting changes, and there would also be some additional funds through other grant streams. She noted that the Department is trying to increase donations for our meal programs, including through a potential online option. She noted the capital projects for Washington Park Senior Center and Wilson Park Senior Center that were part of the County Executive's 2019 Proposed Budget. She added that \$30,000 more will be in the Department on Aging's budget to provide maintenance at the senior centers. She said the state was also working on a funding reallocation process that might result in additional funding for the Department.

Discussion ensued about the senior center programming budget for 2019, as well as the \$200,000 in additional funding for the 2018 budget. Mr. Maddox asked about the senior center assessment project and Mr. Janowski said that the Department is working with the Wisconsin Policy Forum on a short-term research project that would be completed in February or March 2019 and then presented to the Commission on Aging. There is an advisory council composed of senior center consumers, Commission on Aging members, and others to help guide the project. The research will hopefully help the Department shape the 2020 senior center programming RFP. Mr. Janowski said he would share the advisory council meeting information with the Advocacy Committee.

Some discussion ensued about already enacted federal tax law changes and how that law will impact the ability or willingness of people to donate to the Department's meal programs.

Mr. Griffith shared some senior center fundraising information from Barron, Wisconsin.

V. DISCUSSION – Update on recent Advocacy Committee actions – Jon Janowski, Director of Administration, Department on Aging

Mr. Janowski summarized recent Advocacy Committee actions. One letter dealt with a state family caregiver tax credit that will be sent out after the November 6th elections. Another letter dealt with restoration of the deputy registrar program at the state level, and this letter will also be sent after the elections. A third letter dealt with having Advocacy Committee representation on the County's new "Fair Share" workgroup, and that letter, if passed by the Commission on Aging at their November 9th meeting, would be sent to the County Executive and County Board immediately after the meeting.

Discussion ensued about Commission meeting notices and what state law requires versus what the Commission on Aging bylaws require. Discussion also ensued about the role of the Advocacy Committee and their authority and responsibilities as it relates to the Commission on Aging. Mr. Moeser suggested that a future Committee agenda item address the Advocacy Committee's role and responsibilities. There was general agreement on the Committee that there might be urgent actions that might have to be taken by the Committee where Commission review and approval would not be needed.

Mr. Griffith proposed that a letter be sent to state legislators and County Supervisors asking them to attend the Advocacy Committee and Commission on Aging meetings in 2019. It was noted that the Commission on Aging will be approving its 2019 meeting calendar at its November 9th meeting. Ms. Bechtel asked that this letter be written so that legislators would want to attend these meetings.

MOTION: To send a letter and 2019 Commission meeting calendar to state legislators within Milwaukee County as well as County Supervisors to attend Advocacy Committee and Commission on Aging meetings in 2019.

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

Mr. Mikolajczyk asked about County Supervisors being appointed to the Commission on Aging. Ms. Davis said two Supervisors were being considered by the County Executive's office and she would get an update on that process soon.

Mr. Hoffman asked about how items should be placed on the Advocacy Committee agenda. Discussion ensued. There was general agreement on the Committee that for future meetings, an item would be put on each agenda to discuss items for the next meeting.

Mr. Griffith asked that sometime next year the Advocacy Committee and Commission on Aging should meet MCDA staff in an effort to get to know them and their roles.

Mr. Mikolajczyk asked that the Commission on Aging roster be sent out to Commissioners and Committee members. Mr. Janowski said that staff will follow up on this.

VI. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Mr. Griffith announced that a November 30th meeting for seniors and people with disabilities will be held at the Zoofari Center. The purpose of the event is to discuss advocacy strategies for these populations.

Some discussion ensued about Milwaukee's new streetcar and how accessible it is for seniors and people with disabilities.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that he was concerned about two MCDA staff who recently left county employment. Mr. Moeser expressed concern about having agenda items that are dedicated to MCDA personnel issues. Some discussion ensued about whether this discussion should take place within the Executive Committee. Mr. Knueppel said he would bring up this issue to the next Executive Committee meeting for discussion.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM. **Next meeting will be held on Monday, January 7th at 1:30pm at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Room 104.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Janowski
Director of Administration