



## **Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes February 22, 2019**

### **Commissioners Present**

Barbara Wyatt Sibley, *Chair*  
Fred Knueppel, *Vice Chair*  
Maria Castrejon Perez, *Secretary*  
Jason Haas, Milwaukee County Supervisor  
Sharon Abston-Colman, PhD  
Ronald Byington  
Patsy J. Delgado  
John K. Griffith  
Debra Jupka  
Jordan Luhr  
Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.

### **Commissioners Excused**

Elizabeth Meyer-Arnold, R.N., M.S.  
Cesar Pabon  
Bettie A. Rodgers, J.D

### **Commissioners Not Present**

Gladys M. Carroll-Weathersby  
Charles Vang

### **Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Holly Davis  
Jon Janowski  
Vonda Nyang  
Andy Bethke

### **Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Beth Monrial Zatarski  
Jill Knight  
Lorie O'Connor

### **Guests Present**

Stefan Dostanic, *Milwaukee County Clerk*  
Christie Carter, *LGBT Center of Milwaukee*  
Shelia Carter, *Serving Older Adults, Clinton Rose*  
Betty Smith, *Neighborhood Outreach Program*  
Stella Miller, *Neighborhood Outreach Program*  
James Kimble, *Advisory Council*  
Casper Green  
Elena Gonzalez-Walker, *Social Security Administration*  
Kevin Gurga, *Social Security Administration*  
Tim Harrington, *Alzheimer's Association*  
Michael Bruhn, *Alzheimer's Association*  
Wendy Betley, *Alzheimer's Association*  
Robyn McGill, *Alzheimer's Association*  
Song Xiong-Buck, *Milwaukee Christian Center*  
Barbara Bechtel, *Advocacy Committee*  
Martha Collins, *Hunger Taskforce*  
Hector Hernandez, *United Community Center*  
Karina Morgan, *United Community Center*  
Sophia Franklin, *Neighborhood Outreach Program*  
Brittany Schoenick, *Senior Law*

## **I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:**

Chair, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, welcomed new Commissioners: Sharon Abston-Colman, Ph.D., Jason Haas, County Supervisor, and John K. Griffith, current Commissioners and meeting attendees. The Commission on the Aging meeting was called to order at 9:02 am, at the Marcia Cogg's Human Services Center, 1220 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee WI 53205.

## **II. ELECTION OF COMMISSION ON AGING OFFICERS FOR 2019:**

Chair Wyatt Sibley passed her gavel to Vice Chair Fred Knueppel to start the 2019 elections and voting for a new Commission Chair. Commissioner Wyatt Sibley was nominated as Chair for a second term. The gavel was handed back to Commissioner Wyatt Sibley who took nominations

for Vice Chair and Secretary. Commissioner Fred Knueppel was nominated to a second term for Vice Chair, as well as Commissioner Maria Castrejon-Perez for Secretary of the Commission.

**MOTION:** To approve Commissioner Wyatt Sibley as the new Chair of the Commission

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Delgado **Second**).

**MOTION:** To approve Commissioner Fred Knueppel as the new Vice Chair of the Commission

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Wyatt Sibley **Second**).

**MOTION:** To approve Commissioner Maria Castrejon-Perez as the new Secretary of the Commission

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Wyatt Sibley **Second**).

**III. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2018, AND NOVEMBER 16, 2018, COMMISSION ON AGING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** To approve the November 9, 2018, and November 16, 2018, Commission on Aging Committee meeting minutes

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Knueppel **Moved**, Abston-Colman **Second**).

**IV. REFLECTION – Maria Castrejon-Perez, Secretary**

Commissioner Maria Castrejon-Perez provided her reflection on how trying the year 2018 was for her as she was battling a critical medical situation. She read an Alzheimer's Poem titled "Do Not Ask Me to Remember." Ms. Castrejon-Perez gave special thanks to the Commissioners, Chair Wyatt Sibley, Executive Director Holly Davis and her assistant Vonda Nyang, and an exceptional appreciation to Commissioner Debra Jupka.

**V. PRESENTATION: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION – SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER**

Wendy Betley, Program Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin, Robin McGill, Marketing Communications Manager for the Alzheimer's Association, and Michael Verona, statewide Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, introduced a campaign titled "Know Where Alzheimer's Hides." The Alzheimer's Association received a \$500,000 grant from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, to develop this campaign, which is being done in collaboration with MCDA's Aging Resource Center, United Community Center, LGBT Community Center, and all the ARC's throughout the State of Wisconsin. The campaign is charged with raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease in the state of Wisconsin by reaching the underserved communities in both urban and rural communities (African American, Native American, Hispanic, and LGBT communities) as well as within the Down Syndrome population. The Alzheimer's Association is working hard to have the campaign renewed for another 2 years.

**VI. PRESENTATION: U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (REGION V, AREA II), Elena Gonzalez-Walker, Public Affairs Specialist, serving all southeastern WI, stationed at the 310 W. Wisconsin building, downtown location and Kevin Gurga, District Manager, at Milwaukee West Office on 50th and North Ave., reported on the services that the Social Security Office provides. Also, they discussed information on the latest spoofing/fraud phone calls that have been affecting Milwaukee and Waukesha County, and the locations of the four Social Security Offices in the Milwaukee Area. The Social Security Office offers information on SSI, retirement, survivor, social security disability or Medicare or Auxiliary benefits. The Social Security Office wants everyone to know they would never contact you via phone unless you were in contact with**

them as there have been a lot of threatening spoofing phone calls, and these individuals are asking for personal information and leaving lots of threatening voicemail messages. Also, constituents need to access their accounts online to lock their account too, so they can view any benefit updates, as well as monitor their account for fraud. The Social Security Office is offering a new service for senior centers, nursing homes, and/or retirement homes by providing their seniors with their benefit letters, letters for tax purposes, energy and housing assistance for their seniors.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**A. NUTRITION COUNCIL (November 27, 2018)** *See Nutrition Council meeting minutes for November 27, 2018, (mailed and distributed) for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.*

**B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (January 7, 2019)** *See Executive Committee meeting minutes for January 7, 2019, (mailed and distributed) for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.*

**MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda for the Nutrition Council's November 27, 2018, and Executive Committee's January 7, 2018, meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Abston-Colman **Second**).

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (January 7, 2019)** *See Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for January 7, 2019, (mailed and distributed) for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.* The Advocacy Committee has two action items; one, to send a letter to U.S. Senator Ron Johnson asking him to work on behalf of seniors to end the partial federal government shutdown. The second action is to send a letter to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin thanking her for her work on behalf of seniors to end the partial federal government shutdown.

**MOTION:** To send a letter to U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin to end the partial federal government shutdown.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Castrejon Perez **Second**).

**IX. UPDATE ON 2019 MCDA CONTRACTS:** Jon Janowski

MCDA must provide a monthly report on the department's service contracts for its five County owned senior centers and 13 congregate sites to the County Board. The report covers all of the Senior Centers programming, management for all five County owned nutrition sites, management for the other 13 congregate meal sites, family Caregiving Services, and Neighborhood Services, etc. (please see attached report for more information). Serving Older Adults of Southeastern Wisconsin, Milwaukee Christian Senior Center, and the Alzheimer's Association are all contract holders for 2019. Ms. Holly Davis met with Unison to discuss the continuation of the Neighborhood Outreach program, and to find out if Unison will continue the program. Unison stated they would continue to provide services for the Neighborhood Outreach Program until their funding ended for the program. Ms. Davis pointed out that once the program funding ends, MCDA will have to temporarily put a hold on the plan until all details regarding insurance, finance, and volunteers can be secured.

**X. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAWS REVIEW – ARTICLE I AND ARTICLE II:** Barbara Wyatt Sibley, COA Chair.

Corporation Counsel gave a brief overview of the Bylaw recommended changes, Items highlighted in orange are changes that Corporation Counsel is favoring conforming to statutory requirements; second, items highlighted in yellow by Corporation Counsel are items that fit requirements in federal, state or local regulations. Lastly, Items in red are changes recommended by the Commission's Ad Hoc Bylaws workgroup. The Commission will be reviewing and amending Article I and Article II of the Bylaws. The process for amending the bylaws will be each Commissioner shall be granted to speak twice on each article reviewed. if there are questions, changes or recommendations after that the Commission will vote on those changes.

**MOTION:** To Accept Article, I "Organization", Sections I, Authority and Section 2, Jurisdiction, with no changes.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Wyatt Sibley **Moved**, Jupka **Second**).

**MOTION:** To add "At least 4 members shall reside in the suburbs of the county. At least 4 members shall reside in the City of Milwaukee", to Article II Composition of the Commission, Section 1, Residency, of the Bylaws. Mr. Kuglitsch noted that this is straight from Chapter 53 of the county ordinances.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Wyatt Sibley **Moved**, Jupka **Second**).

**MOTION:** To add reference back to the state statues as well as the US law at the end of Article II "Composition of the Commission", Section 2., Appointments

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Knueppel **Second**).

**MOTION:** To add "The terms of office, succession and filling of vacant positions of Commission members shall be in accordance with those set forth in Chapter 53 of the General County Ordinances" to Article II 'Composition to the Commission', Section III. Terns of Office, Succession, and Vacancies

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Knueppel **Second**).

**XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Holly Davis, Executive Director

**Department Staffing Updates:** MCDA is 85% staffed in the Resource Center, with five open positions in the Resource Center area. There have been two accepted offers with one pending on the five open positions.

**Home Delivered Meals and Congregate meal program policy for snow days:** Holly Davis provided a timeline report on snow days that affected the Congregate meal sites and the home-delivered meal deliveries in January due to the illicit winter weather since the department experienced weather issues. On January 23rd the department was only able to deliver 35 of the 48 Meals on Wheels routes due to snow storms, and on January 25, the senior centers were open; however, there were no meals provided at the meal sites nor any deliveries made for the Meals on Wheels routes. Also, on January 29, 2019, Goodwill made 1,400 well check calls and found there were only 45 people in need of meals. Goodwill had delivered shelf stable meals to the seniors that day. On January 31, there were no congregate meals and the senior centers were closed; however, Goodwill stated they could deliver meals to seniors on that day. MCDA has created a closure policy for the home-delivered meals as well as the congregate meal sites that will be disbursed. Shelf stable meals have been made for emergencies when illicit weather keeps deliveries from taking place in the winter months. Ms. Davis passed around an example of the shelf stable meals.

**XII. COUNTY SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Jason Haas, Milwaukee County Supervisor

Introduced himself to the Commission and provided a brief background on the boards on which he serves. Supervisor Haas serves as Chair of the Parks Committee, and he serves on the Finance and Audit Committee. Supervisor Haas is looking forward to working on the Commission on Aging.

**XIII. STATE UPDATES:** Neal Minogue

**Retired Senior Volunteer program and Title 5 Senior Employment Program:** The State has contracts with Unison for the Retired Senior Volunteer program and Title V Senior Employment program. The state is closely monitoring these contracts and have asked Unison to provide monthly updates on their budget.

The State Office on Aging is asking all Area Agencies on Aging to turn in their 180B before the end of the year.

The Governor has created a Taskforce on Caregiving to analyze strategies in retaining a strong direct care workforce and policies for both paid and unpaid caregivers. Also, the Governor has put \$28 million in his upcoming state budget for improving women's health and infant care in Wisconsin, the Healthy Women Healthy Babies Initiative. The initiatives are aimed to improve women's health access and to address racial disparity in maternal childbirth.

**New Red hat system:** The State Office on Aging has rolled out its new survey system titled the "Red Hat System." The Red Hat System is designed to track surveys for the national family caregivers support programs. They aim to gain knowledge on their constituent's thoughts about the state programs and if they are making a difference in their life, and how can they improve their programs.

**XIV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Chair

**Commission on Aging Succession plan:** The Commission on Aging is working on updating its succession plan by identifying individuals who are interested in becoming a Commissioner. There are six Commissioners whose terms will be ending soon, one in December and five in January 2020. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Commissioner or knows of someone who might be involved in senior issues please contact Chair Wyatt Sibley or Executive Director Davis. The Commission is working hard to ensure they have representatives that reflect Milwaukee County as well as meeting all requirements of the Older American's Act.

**Senior Center Advisory Council meetings:** MCDA has new providers for their Senior Centers, and the Chair would like the Commissioners to be active in visiting a senior center so they can provide feedback on their visit as well as attending a Senior Center Advisory Council meeting. The Chair has asked the Commission to contact the Executive Assistant, Vonda Nyang, to inform her what Senior Center they would like to visit as well as attending an Advisory meeting between now and June 2019.

**Committees/Councils should have at least two meetings at a County owned Senior Center:**

The Marica Coggs Human Services Building is experiencing accessibility Issues with security escorts for those who are in wheelchairs, and with providing handicapped parking for seniors who attend meetings. Therefore, the Chair has requested all Committees and Councils to have at least two sessions at one of the Senior Centers per year. The Committees and Council Chairs are to contact the Executive Assistant, Vonda Nyang, to inform her of the dates, locations, and

times of their meetings to ensure all five-county owned senior centers will be accessed for their meetings.

**Commissioner Contact Information for the cancelation of meetings:** The January 2019 Commission meeting was canceled due to illicit weather, and at that time the Chair and MCDA's staff tried to send a text message to all the Commissioners to inform them of the meeting cancellation. However, the Chair nor the support staff had cell numbers for all of the Commissioners. The Chair has requested all Commissioners to provide all possible contact information to the Executive Assistant in case of a last-minute cancellation.

**Senior Center Field Trips:** Commissioner Jupka informed the Commission that pink sign-up slips were distributed to Commissioners for an upcoming Commission field trip in June at one of MCDA's Senior housing sites. Please contact Commissioner Jupka if you are interested in attending any of the listed field trips. Field trips will take place every other month.

**Commissioner Purple folders:** The purple folders were updated with new documents, including the Presentations/Reflections calendar (schedule may change throughout the year) and Wellness Committee goals for 2019).

**ADRC Governing Board: Commissioner** Debra Jupka is the representative for Milwaukee County on the ADRC Governing Board. One of Ms. Jupka's charges is to report back to the Commission in order to educate the Commission on what the ADRC is working on and how the Commission can collaborate with the ADRC Governing Board. More information upcoming. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Commissioner Jupka.

**Black Excellence Acknowledgment:** Commissioner Jupka acknowledged Commissioner Johnny White, and MCDA staff Mary Proctor Brown, both whom received Black Excellence Awards last week Friday.

- XV. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT:** Matt McGovern, Government Affairs Liaison, Milwaukee County has a structural deficit that the County Board and County Executive are trying to find a long-term solution to keep existing services and programs from being cut. The Fair Deal Workgroup of community leaders representing Milwaukee County was created by the County Board and County Executive charged with finding a solution for the County deficit. Recommendations so far from the workgroup are: To have an opportunity to provide County Government with additional options for local control over their financial destiny with new additional revenue and a reduction in property taxes through a binding countywide referendum. They are keeping shared revenue at the least at the level of inflation and accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid. The workgroup also discussed Wisconsin sales tax, one of the lowest in the country, and property tax is the highest in the region. The County Board voted 18 to 0 to adopt these recommendations and the ICC (Intergovernmental Cooperation Council) also endorsed the proposals unanimously. The goal is to get a bill through the legislature this year that would allow Milwaukee County to do a referendum in the fall of 2020.

- XVI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS:**

**Public comment regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for older adults:**

**Department comment regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for older adults:**



- **State/Office on Aging job openings:** The State Office has two job openings for a C-Set Program Coordinator and a Public Health Educator. If interested, please visit their website.
  - **Chapter 53 and the COA Bylaws:** Chair has advised the Commissioners to review Chapter 53 and the Bylaws, located on the right side of their purple folders, as there will be another review at the next Commission on Aging meeting.
  - **Breaking the Silence,** Addressing Dementia in Communities of Color will be held on Friday, April 5, from 8:00am – 12:00pm at Italian Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, and Wisconsin Geriatric Center.
  - **Senior Citizen Hall of Fame:** MCDA will be taking applications for the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame until March 1, 2019. Please contact Jill Knight if you are interested in nominating someone.
  - **Coffee & Community** on February 28, 2019, from 9:00am – 11:00am at the Timbers of Tannery of Virginia. A Milwaukee County Transit representative will be conducting the presentation.
  - **Crisis in Caregiving** held by Department of Health Services on February 26, 2019, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, at Independence First. The event will discuss how you can be involved around the caregiver crisis for both paid and unpaid caregivers.
  - **Clinton Rose Advisory Council meeting will be held on February 26, 2019.**
  - **MCDA Senior Statesmen Program:** Applications for the Senior Statesmen program have been added to your packets. Please pass on to someone you may know that would be interested in attending the program.
  - **Department of Natural Resources, DNR Conservation Congress Spring Hearing,** interested fisherman, fisher ladies, and hunters are welcome to attend the hearing on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 7:00pm, at Nathan Hale High School, Auditorium in West Allis, WI
- XVII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:11am. The next Commission on Aging meeting will be held on April 26, 2019, at Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant