



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2020**

Commissioners

Richmond Izard, *Chair*
Sharon Abston-Coleman, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*
John K. Griffith, *Secretary*
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*
Ronald Byington
Amber Miller
Gloria Miller
César Pabón
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ph.D.
Reverend George P. Pumphrey, Ph.D.
Bettie A. Rodgers, J.D.
Charles Vang

Commissioners Absent

Charles Vang

Milwaukee County Staff

Jon Janowski, *Director of Administration*
Andrew Bethke
Dan Idzikowski
Rachael Kaehney-Frank
Jill Knight
David Muhammad, DHHS
Clarence P. Nichols, Ethics Board
Gaylyn Reske

Milwaukee County Staff...Continued

Rebecca Schmitt
Brett S

Guests

Barbara Bechtel
Sally Callon
Maryland Calteaux
Cristine Carter, *LGBT Milwaukee*
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
Kathy Gale, *ERAS*
Vi Hawkins
Matthew Hayes, *Senior Law*
David Hoffman
James Kimble
Fred Kneuppel
Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Pam Matthews
Gloria Miller
Harold Oemig
Stephanie Sue Stein
Judith Troestler
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Chair Richmond Izard welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Marcia Cogg Human Services Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.

II. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. **Executive Committee recommendations for non-Commission on Aging appointments to standing committees and councils:** The Commission discussed the process for appointing members to COA Standing Committees pursuant to recently adopted amendments to COA bylaws, as well as the MCDA's commitment to ensuring committees and councils are optimally staffed with diverse persons appointed to represent all stakeholders.

Recommendations for appointments to Standing Committees: The chair announced all nominees for each standing committee with the additional nomination of Harold Oemig to Advocacy (Jon Janowski has all penciled updates): Advocacy, Service Delivery, and Wellness Committees (See attached appointment letter for "COA standing committee nominees for

2020", dated, February 4, 2020.) The chair then asked for approval of the Standing Committees as amended.

Chairman Izard advised the Commission of an inherent administrative problem, and a discussion proceeded. At issue was the unrealistic timetable allotted for timely administering the selection and vetting of Standing Committee and council appointments, which necessarily follow January COA elections of officers and thus impede the desired goal of timely confirming committees and councils at February COA meetings.

Recommendations for appointments to Advisory Council: The chair announced all nominees for the Advisory Council with the addition of Barbara Wyatt-Sibley (Note: Jon Janowski has all penciled updates) (See attached appointment letter for "COA standing committee nominees for 2020", dated, February 4, 2020.) The chair then asked for approval of the Advisory Council as amended.

Current bylaws require the COA chair and vice-chair to present Standing Committee nominations and supporting documents to the full Commission at least one (1) month in advance of Commission action.

MOTION: To change the time reference for the Commission to review Standing Committee appointees from one (1) month to seven (7) business days in bylaw Article V, Section 1, Part B, Paragraph 4.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pumphrey Motioned, Pitchford-Nicholas Second)

MOTION: To accept all Standing Committee nominees as amended as the new membership rosters, effective seven (7) business days following the subject confirming action.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Abston-Coleman Moved, Rodgers Second)

- B. Election of Commission on Aging Legislative Officer: Chairman Izard advised the Commission of the Legislative Officer's roles and duties. The chair opened the floor for Legislative Officer nominations. Rev George Pumphrey received the only nomination, and the Commission unanimously elected Commissioner Pumphrey to the office of Legislative Officer by voice vote.

III. REFLECTION BY COMMISSIONER RICHOMOND IZARD

Chairman Izard greeted everyone in both ASL and Spanish and said if 2020 weren't a leap year, today would signify a cumulation of Black History month and 2020 being the year for reflection and foresight. Leaders take time to reflect on their mission, vision, history, future, call, charge, and purpose to overcome barriers and impediments to fulfilling their assignments serving the underserved. "We don't need dreams teams but green teams." Chair Izard ended his reflection by saying are call, charge, and our purpose is to go green with eyes wide open and boots on the ground without fear or trepidation.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 24, 2020, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the January 24, 2020, Commission on Aging meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pumphrey Moved, Abston-Coleman Second.)

V. ACTION ITEM: PRESENTATION OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN “ENVISIONING THE FUTURE” REPORT: BETTIE RODGERS, CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Commission voted on adopting all seven recommendations summarized in the Advisory Council's “Envisioning the Future of Milwaukee County's Senior Centers 2020 report”.

Recommendation 1: Advocate for a dedicated base of support from Milwaukee County for senior center programming in Milwaukee County

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #1

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Pumphrey Second.)

Recommendation 2: Advance the Fair Deal/Forward Milwaukee initiative to respond to the need for additional revenue to address senior center infrastructure and programming by strengthening the partnership between Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin by allowing Milwaukee County local control to generate new revenue and reduce the current reliance on property taxes through a binding referendum as well as increasing contributions from the state toward the provision of current and any new state-mandated services

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #2

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Pumphrey Second.)

Recommendation 3: Milwaukee County should continue to maintain and sustain the existing Milwaukee County senior centers, build on them, and improve them to promote equity of services and activities in all senior centers.

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #3

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Griffith Second.)

Recommendation 4: Milwaukee County should explore other models of senior centers that include public-private partnerships such as travel, recreation, housing, banking, education, and health care and existing senior centers should partner with other community resources to increase participation and revenue.

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #4

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Griffith Second.)

Recommendation 5: Address access to senior centers by establishing transit stops at each Milwaukee County senior center and adding other up to the door transportation, as well as ensuring Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility standards are met at all centers.

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #5

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Haas Second.)

Recommendation 6: Establish a working Program Committee or Senior Center Committee of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging that would include membership from the Commission on Aging, Advisory Council, representatives from each of the five Milwaukee County senior center SOA advisory councils, a representative from the Milwaukee County senior center programming vendor, representatives from other senior centers in Milwaukee County, and other interested members of the public to: Evaluate the suggestions provided by the public in this report; Characterize these suggestions as long or short term; Review and prioritize the infrastructure needs

at each of the Milwaukee County senior centers; Develop and monitor both short and long-term strategic plans for senior centers in Milwaukee County; and Determine what resources will be necessary to carry out the plan. The Commission decided to discuss establishing a select committee at the next Commission on Aging, this item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #6

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Griffith Second.)

Recommendation 7: Add or assign a staff member or independent contractor within the Milwaukee County Department on Aging with responsibility to: Staff support for the proposed Senior Center or Program Committee; Assist the Commission to develop and monitor its strategic plan for senior centers; Work to ensure access to senior center programming exists across the county; Assist the senior center programming vendor in identifying best practices; and Coordinate interdepartmental efforts within County government and between County and municipal governments, foundations, and private firms to pursue new grants, partnerships, revenue streams and capital finance.

MOTION: To adopt recommendation #7

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Pumphrey Second.)

VI. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. The Advisory Council meeting minutes for December 3, 2019, and January 16, 2020, the Wellness Committee meeting minutes for October 17, 2019, the Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for January 6, 2020, and the Executive committee meeting minutes for October 29, 2019, all were mailed and distributed for a comprehensive explanation of topic discussions.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda for the Advisory Council meeting minutes for December 3, 2019, and January 16, 2020, the Wellness Committee meeting minutes for October 17, 2019, the Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for January 6, 2020, and the Executive committee meeting minutes for October 29, 2019.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Rodgers Second.)

Chairman Izard expressed the need for the Commission to have access to vital documents before their finalization process. The Commission needs to have up-to-date knowledge on all committees and Councils business before the release of their meeting minutes so that Commissioners can conduct Commission business on behalf of the department. The Chair would like the department to explore new ways for the Commission to have access to these types of documents. Mr. Janowski stated that he would investigate a solution and discuss this with the chair after the meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JON JANOSWKI AND DAVID MOHUMMAD,

Jon Janowski provided departmental updates:

- The department is currently recruiting for the Program and Planning coordinator position. The department expects to have someone hired in the next two months.
- Bekki Schmidt accepted a promotion to be the department's new Community Program Coordinator; she will oversee the Health and Wellness Unit, in addition to the Marketing and Outreach programming.

- Mr. Janowski discussed the department's initiatives, quality improvements, and best business practices, vendor training, pilots, and expansion of services.
- Included in today's packet was a one-page report from the Department on Aging and Commission for your review. The report covered the departments and Commissions' accomplishments in 2019.
- Mr. Janowski special thanked County Board Supervisor Haas for his partnership in piloting a warming house and facilitating difficult discussions at public meetings this year.

David Mohammad provided an update on DHS facilities project.

- The Director is working on a relocation plan for the County's Departments located in the Marcia Coggs Building (DHS, DRC, BHD, the ARC's and Aging) to move to a Facility within a 4-mile radius from the current address. The relocation is due to the accessibility and maintenance issues of the current location. The County Board and the Board of Finance has allocated \$660,000 to hire a design and real estate consultant for this project.
- The "No Wrong Door" program focuses on integrating services that focus on family, health, and individual support, and population health. A discussion ensued with questions and answers regarding the relocation of the County's offices.

VIII. STATE UPDATES AND REPORT: Laura Langer from the State Office on Aging provided a few updates:

- The state's research analysis, Corey Steinmetz is currently working with Wisconsin's counties in mapping various parts of the state to identify meal sites, bus routes, 60 plus and minority populations, and poverty levels. The goal of the study is to highlight key points that would benefit most from the nutrition programs. See summary report from the GAO in your packet.
- The Administration on Community Living, ACL, indicates the State of Maryland is conducting a study as to how to increase participant contributions for the Meals on Wheels program and congregate meal sites.
- The State Council on Aging created a clearinghouse for caregivers, hotline, website and other resources. See your packet for more information.
- The State has three bills currently pending: Wisconsin CARE Act, Tax Credit for Caregivers, and Support Family Medical Leave expansion act.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: RICHMOND IZARD

- Commissioner Izard stated he has attended multiple committees and councils' meetings and had decided to appoint himself to those councils and committees to be engaged as an active member.
- Mr. Izard acknowledged previous chairs, Commissioners, and former director of MCDA, a few of them attended today's meeting (Stephanie Sue Stein, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Debra Jupka, and Vi Hawkins. Chair Izard asked Ms. Hawkins to speak at today's meeting.
- Commissioner Pumphrey provided a brief report on the training he received from the Census 2020 Complete County Committee.

- Vi Hawkins provided a report on Washington Park Senior Center's Black History Month celebration.

X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: JASON HAAS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

County Supervisor Haas gave updates on the County Board:

- As of the April 7th election, there will be five new County Board Supervisors as Supervisors Lipscomb, Alexander, Dimitrijevic, Sebring, and Schmitt are leaving the board.
- Supervisor Haas briefly discussed the Wilson Senior Center Warming Center. Supervisor Haas stated he would ask the new County Executive to establish a blue-ribbon committee to address the need for warming centers particularly for the southside of Milwaukee

XI. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH,

Ms. Fitch announced they are celebrating the commitment that Milwaukee County has made to moving toward racial equity for a healthy community. One of Milwaukee County's initiatives is to move Milwaukee from being the 71st of 72 counties to healthiest county in state. Milwaukee County is the first county in the nation to declare racism as a public health crisis. Ms. Fitch outlined a timeline for racial equity initiative through the tenure of the current County Executive. The Executive's Office is working on an ordinance to ensure this effort continues beyond the transition of new leadership.

XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

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

- The Commission thanked the entire community for their participation in providing their feedback with the Advisory Council's "Envisioning the Future of Milwaukee County's Senior Centers 2020 report.
- The Senior Statesman program is scheduled for March 25 thru March 27 this year. See attached flyer in your COA packet for more information.
- Chair Izard reviewed the announcements found in the COA meeting packets.
- Bekki Schmitt provided an announcement from Direct Supply, a talent showcase (Handout wasn't in the COA meeting packet, there were handouts provided).

XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020, at Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53221.