



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 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
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ph.D.
George Pumphrey, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*
Bettie A. Rodgers, J.D.
Shirley Sharp

Milwaukee County Staff

Mary Jo Meyers, *Interim Executive Director*
David Muhammad, *DHHS Deputy Director*
Jon Janowski, *Director of Administration*
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
Andrew Bethke
Aleta Hutcherson
Dan Idzikowski

Guests

Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*

Commissioners Absent

César Pabón
Charles Vang

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, April 24, 2020. Chair Richmond Izard welcomed everyone, assisted Commissioner Byington with technical issues connecting and then called the virtual/audio teams meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TOM FRAZIER

The Chair requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Tom Frazier, who was very instrumental within Milwaukee County and an advocate for older Americans, as well as for friends and families who have lost loves or are still sick due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken verbally by Chairman Izard.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PROCESS AND STANDARDS FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

RICHMOND IZARD: Chairman Izard informed the Commission that he and Jon Janowski had discussed the standards for publicizing, hosting, and accessing virtual meetings. The Chair stated that the Commission needed to meet now more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure seniors are being served. Mr. Janowski provided the Chair with a memo from the Office of Corporation Counsel that advised all county boards and commissions can legally convene meetings remotely via telephone or video conference during public health emergencies. However, committees and councils must have their meetings publicly noticed. There was an unconfirmed question concerning the recording of

public attendance. Mr. Janowski will contact Corporation Counsel to confirm whether public attendance should be tracked for remote meetings, and he will report back to the Commission at the next COA meeting.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

A. YEARS OF SERVICE COMMENDATION LETTER FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CHRIS ABELE: The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission send a letter of commendation to County Executive Chris Abele, thanking him for his years of service.

MOTION: To send a letter of commendation to County Executive Chris Abele.

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

B. LETTER OF COMMENDATION FOR MCDA STAFF AND VENDORS FOR COVID-

19 RESPONSE: The Executive Committee recommended the Commission email and deliver a printed letter of commendations to each of MCDA's staff, as well as mail commendations to vendors who were part of the COVID-19 response.

MOTION: To provide a letter of commendation to each of MCDA's staff and vendors who were part of the COVID-19 response

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pitchford-Nicholas Moved, Sharp Second)

County Supervisor Haas left the meeting due to another engagement.

C. CREATION OF SELECT SENIOR CENTER WORKGROUP

To ensure Milwaukee County Senior Centers remain viable and responsive to the needs of seniors, the Advisory Council recommended that the Commission create an oversight committee to monitor the progress of their recommendations provided in their Senior Center report. The Chair advised the Commission of bylaw protocols pertinent to creating this type of committee.

The Select Committee will be composed of Commissioners, vendors, and members of the public, and will be an ongoing committee until the Commission decides that it is no longer needed. Commissioners Amber Miller, Abston-Coleman, Griffith, and Pumphrey have noted they would like to serve on this committee.

MOTION: To create a select Committee to oversee Milwaukee County Senior Center recommendations.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Rodgers Moved, Pitchford-Nicholas Second)

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: MARY JO MEYERS, INTERM EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR: Mary Jo Meyers provided an overview of what transpired in the past 55-days

with MCDA & DHHS, including the transitioning of the new County Executive coming into the County Executive's Office. Ms. Meyers also provided a brief report concerning critical services being provided by the department during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Focus areas include the Aging Resource Center, Meals on Wheels program, Dining Curbside Meals, Wellness Calls to seniors, and transportation. See the attached MCDA COVID-19 Update report for more information.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2020, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

MINUTES: The Commission tabled the COA meeting minutes for February until May's COA meeting. Chairman Izard discussed the need for a process to be in place for all Committees and Councils to have their meeting minutes drafted, reviewed, and finalized promptly for Commissioners to review them before the next Committee/Council meetings. The Executive Committee will discuss this further at their next monthly meeting.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved Executive Committee meeting minutes for February 3, 2020 and March 2, 2020.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda for the Executive Committee meeting minutes for February 3, 2020 and March 2, 2020.

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

IX. STATE UPDATES AND REPORT: LAURA LANGER: There were no State Updates.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: RICHMOND IZARD

- Pursuant to recommendation of Commissioner Byington, Commissioner Izard advised the Commission elects to use Zoom for its May meeting.
- The Commission decided that all presenters should provide a one-page report or a few bullet points on what they will discuss at the COA meetings.

XI. REFLECTION BY COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR JASON HAAS

Supervisor Haas provided a reflection on Mary Keppler and her husband. He asked that our work serving seniors would honor them and their legacy. He requested a moment of silence for everyone who may have experienced a COVID-related tragedy.

XII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: JASON HAAS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

County Supervisor Haas gave updates on the County Board:

- March 5, 2020, meeting addressed Assembly Bill 521.
- The new County Board Chair is Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair is Sequanna Taylor, and Second Vice Chair is Steven Shea.
- New County Supervisor for the 4th District is Ryan Clancy.
- The first County Board meeting is scheduled in May to discuss the pandemic.

XIII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Schinika Fitch thanked the Commission for giving a “years of service” commendation letter to County Executive Chris Abele. The new County Executive Elect, David Crowley, will be sworn in on May 4, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, Commissioner Wachos’s appointment hearing with the Health & Human Needs Committee was canceled in March in light of the County Executive election and transition. Mr. Janowski provided an update on the appointment status of two possible Commissioners. It is now up to the newly appointed County Executive to decide if he wants to move forward with appointments for Walt Wachos and Dr. Elliott Moeser. If so, both Moeser and Wachos would appear before the Health & Human Needs Committee for approval.

XIV. 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:

- Chairman Izard reviewed the Committees/Councils meeting scheduled for May 2020. There were two changes made to May’s meeting schedule; the Advisory Council’s meeting date changed to May 13, 2020, and the Wellness Committee’s meeting date changed to May 22, 2020. Both the Advisory Council and Wellness Committee’s meetings start at 1:30 p.m.
- The Chair announced Commissioner Pumphrey as the new Legislative Officer. Chairman Izard thanked the Department on Aging for providing daily updates to the Commission and committee members concerning the COVID-19 Crisis.
- Mr. Janowski announced that the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Ceremony was post postponed until the fall due to the pandemic. MCDA’s website displays the COVID-19 Crisis daily updates, and so does the main Milwaukee County’s website for those who are interested in reading those updates.
- Commissioner Gloria Miller would like to assist seniors who require face masks. Commissioner Izard has volunteered to donate some money to this cause. The Chair has asked the Department to contact Corporation Counsel to research if the department will face any risks or liability with assisting with this project.

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

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2020, as a virtual meeting.