



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2020

Commissioners

Exiting Vice-Chair Fred Knueppel
Chair Richmond Izard
Vice-Chair Sharon Abston-Coleman, PhD.
Secretary John K. Griffith
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*
Ronald Byington
Debra Jupka
Bettie A. Rodgers, J.D.
Shirley Sharp

Commissioners Excused

Chair Barbara Wyatt Sibley
César Pabón
Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.

Commissioners Not Excused

Secretary Maria Castrejon-Pérez
Charles Vang

Milwaukee County Staff

MCDA Interim Executive Director Mary Jo Meyers
Andrew Bethke

Milwaukee County Staff...Continued

Samta Bhatnagar
Jon Janowski, *Director of Administration*
Dan Idzikowski
Rachael Kaehney-Frank
Jill Knight
Vonda Nyang
Gaylyn Reske

Guests

Sarah Milnar McLaughlin, *County Executive's Office*
David Farwell, *Corporation Counsel*
Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Kristine Carter, *LGBT Milwaukee*
Amber Miller
Reverend George Pumphrey, Jr.
James Kimble
Tom Gossett, *Goodwill*
Judith Troestler
Gary Mikolajczyk
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Pam Matthews
Hector Hernandez, *UCC*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Exiting Vice-Chair Fred Knueppel welcomed meeting attendees and called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in the Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.
- II. **NEW COMMISSIONERS:** Soon to be Commissioners Reverend George Pumphrey, Jr. and Amber Miller introduced themselves to the Commission.
- III. **COMMISSIONER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Jon Janowski, MCDA Director of Administration and Sarah Milnar McLaughlin, Deputy Chief of Staff from the County Executive's Office, acknowledged Commissioners Jupka, White and Knueppel for their years of service on the Commission.
- IV. **REFLECTION BY COMMISSIONERS FRED KNUEPPEL AND DEBRA JUPKA**
Exiting Vice-Chair Knueppel thanked the Commissioners for their service and stated it was a pleasure working on the Commission with everyone. Commissioner Jupka reflected on her years of service as a Commissioner. She learned a lot from working on the Commission. She noted that Commissioners need to be proactive, begin with an end in mind and think "win-win," always seek first to understand, then to be understood, and don't forget to take care of themselves. Commissioner Jupka ended her reflection with a quote from Jimmy Valvano, former basketball Coach from North Carolina State University: "If you laugh, you think, and

you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special."

V. ACTION ITEM: NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF COMMISSION ON AGING

OFFICERS: The Commission elected new Officers during the meeting. There was only one candidate nominated for each office of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Commissioner Richmond Izard was nominated and elected Chair, Commissioner Sharon Abston-Coleman was nominated and elected Vice-Chair, and Commissioner John Griffith was nominated and elected Secretary for the Commission on Aging.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2019, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the November 8, 2019, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

VII. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Nutrition Council meeting minutes for August 20, 2019, Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 7, 2019 and Advisory Council meeting minutes for November 14, 2019 were mailed and distributed prior to today's meeting for a comprehensive recap of COA business.

Chairman Izard asked and received permission for the Commission to suspend the rules to pull out the Advisory Committee meeting minutes (November 4, 2019) to address an issue appearing on pages 1 and 4 concerning purported UHS false claims. Izard asked the department to follow-up on Dr. Moeser's concern regarding FBI investigation of UHS. The goal is to make sure the department is not exposed to any unknown risks pursuant to the said point of discussion.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda for the Nutrition Council meeting minutes for August 20, 2019, the Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 7, 2019 and the Advisory Council meeting minutes for November 14, 2019.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Jupka Moved, Knueppel Second.)

VIII. MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING 2020 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES AND ONGOING POSITIONS, AND THE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 4, 2019, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

The Advocacy Committee requested Commission approval of MCDA's Public Policies for 2020 as written, except for item 6) Milwaukee County Department on Aging should maintain an independent department not combined with DHHS or any other Milwaukee County Agency" being tabled for a later date. Item six may to be revisited by the new Advocacy Chair in 2020 when a new County Executive and a new Department on Aging Executive Director are in office.

MOTION: To accept the Advocacy Committee's report, "Milwaukee County's Commission on Aging 2020 Public Policy Positions and List of Priorities for 2020," as written, and to accept the Advocacy Committee's recommendation that the Department on Aging remain a separate County department.

ACTION: Motion prevailed with 8-Yes and 2-No, (Griffith moved, Sharp second.)

MOTION: To accept the November 4, 2019, Advocacy Committee meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed with 9-Yes and 1-No.

- IX. PRESENTATION: TRENDS AND ISSUES IN MCDA'S HOME-DELIVERED AND CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAMS: GAYLYN RESKE, SENIOR DINING PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Gaylyn Reske spoke about the Milwaukee County Department on Aging congregate meal sites and the "Meals on Wheels" program. Ms. Reske provided statistics concerning the number of diners provided for both programs, site contributions and further explained the gradual decline in congregate participate numbers at most sites during the past three years. Notwithstanding congregate declines, Meals on Wheels participant numbers continue to climb, however, due to more seniors living at home and preferring delivered services. Ms. Reske also discussed the eligibility and enrollment process for both programs, as well as future opportunities with the Senior Dining Programs.

- X. ACTION ITEM: 2020 GREATER GAILILEE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO OLDER ADULTS IN THE 53206 ZIP CODE:** MCDA requested Commission approval of the 2020 Greater Galilee contract to provide senior center programming and meal program services for the 53206-zip code area. Greater Galilee has addressed all administrative issues and met requirements and obligations for continued funding.

MOTION: To approve the 2020 Greater Galilee Contract for Services to Older Adults in the 53206 Zip Code.

ACTION: Motion prevailed with 9-Yes and 1-Abstained (Abston-Coleman Moved, Second Knuettel.)

- XI. EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM CONTRACT:** MCDA requested Commission approval of the 2020 Evidence-Based Prevention Program Contract being fulfilled by Jennifer Lefeber, Evidence-Based Program Coordinator for the Department. Ms. Lefeber has been under contract with department since 2011 and has coordinated and facilitated the department's Evidence-Base programs for older adults throughout Milwaukee County.

MOTION: To approve the 2020 Evidence-Based Prevention Program Contract

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Jupka Moved, Knuettel Second.)

- XII. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSION ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTATION: "ENVISIONING THE FUTURE" REPORT: BETTIE RODGERS, CHAIR**

Commissioner Rodgers provided a summary of the "Envisioning the Future" Advisory Council report on Milwaukee County's Senior Centers: 2020. The report includes a compilation of surveys taken both online and in-person by seniors, community conversation meetings, the Senior Center Assessment Project, and report findings by the County's facilities management. Commissioner Rodgers stated that in the next five years, major systems would need replacement in all the County's Senior Centers, and due to the County's 14-million-dollar shortfall, there isn't a certainty that all the Senior Centers would remain open. MCDA is examining various models of Senior Centers, including the possible ways to deliver services to seniors via one-stop-shop.

MOTION: To accept the Advisory Councils "Envisioning the Future" report, and to table recommendations shown in Section 6 until the February Commission meeting.

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

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: MILWAUKEE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN HALL OF FAME

UPDATE: JILL KNIGHT: Jill Knight, Program Coordinator for MCDA, announced that Friday, February 28, 2020, is the deadline for submitting nominations for the Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Milwaukee County's Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, established in 1997, honors outstanding older adults in Milwaukee County who have served in the community as a volunteer and or advocate on behalf of older adults. A nominee must show distinguished volunteer service. Ms. Knight asked for three Commissioners to volunteer to serve on the Nomination Committee. Anyone who is interested in serving on the committee should notify the MCDA Executive Assistant, Vonda Nyang, via email. The Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame recognition ceremony will be held at Wilson Park Senior Center on May 22, 2020. A cake reception will follow.

XIV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: INTERIM DIRECTOR MARY JO MEYERS

Ms. Meyers introduced herself to the Commission and provided information on her educational and professional background, as well as who she is as a person. Ms. Meyers informed the Commission about how she became the Interim Executive Director for the Department on Aging. She also advised the Commission to think about the possibility that the Department on Aging might be missing out on opportunities in light of its existing organizational structure being separate from other departments. Ms. Meyers briefly discussed analysis that she and Jon are preparing for the new County Executive that will show opportunities, concerns, risks, resources, contacts, practice models, IT systems, budgeting, and transportation.

XV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: RICHMOND IZARD

- Chair Richmond IZard noted he attended the County Executive's forum, hosted by the "League of Progressive Seniors" at Mitchell Street Library in which candidates discussed how senior issues, concerns and programming align with their respective campaign platforms.
- The Commission and the Executive Committee are looking to recruit seniors who reside in Milwaukee County suburbs to serve on the Commission. Contact Commissioner IZard if you know someone interested and qualified to serve as a Commissioner.
- The Chair asked the Commission to think about serving in a leadership role as a Chair or Vice-Chair on a standing committee and or council. Additionally, the Greater Milwaukee Complete Count Committee needs a few seniors to serve on their committee in preparation for 2020 Census. Interested persons should contact the Chair.
- Commissioner IZard announced that the Commission would start utilizing "Speaker Slips" starting at the February Commission meeting. If a person is interested in speaking at a Commission meeting, they are to fill out a speaker slip and hand it to any Commissioner and MCDA staff member who will forward to the Executive Committee. As time permits, the Chair will call upon the persons who have submitted speaker slips specifically aligned with agenda items.

XVI. STATE UPDATES AND REPORT: Laura Langer from the State Office on Aging provided a few updates on the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) efforts, as well as a couple of department state-wide initiatives. And she discussed the importance of reporting units of service into SAMS, which allows organizations to advocate for local, state, and federal funding for programming. Fiscal accountability, accuracy, and timely reporting are a must.

- Thomas Balsley is the New Office Director for the Office for Resource Center Development, ORCD
- Phoebe Hefko is the New Program & Policy Supervisor for Office for Resource Center Development, ORCD
- Jeff Becker works now for DHS Office of Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Unit
- Senior Community Services and Employment Program, SCSEP office moved from Brookfield area to Milwaukee location. Office located in the YWCA Building at 1915 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Jr.
- State Aging Advisory Council will meet on February 14, 2020, in Madison to address the progress of the State Aging Plan Goals for 2019 and discuss the expectations for 2020.

XVII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: JASON HAAS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR:

- County Supervisor Haas provided a brief report on how the warming shelter was created at Wilson Park Senior Center, and he thanked everyone instrumental in creation of the warming room: County staff, Wilson Park Senior Center Staff, and Serving Older Adults staff. Supervisor Haas would like a joint effort in providing outreaching in getting the word out about Wilson's warming room to those in need whereas there are only two months left of winter weather and utilization of the warming room. Since the warming room's opening, the center has noticed a decline in lunch attendance.
- Supervisor Haas mentioned there was a structural damage incident to Wilson Park's building due to a cigarette butt being placed on a ledge. The County's No Smoking Ordinance (No smoking within 25 ft from a building) signs were posted, but not enforced. Supervisor Haas would like to see this ordinance enforced at all County Senior Centers.
- The Commission thanked Supervisor Haas for his leadership in helping the homeless population.

XVIII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT: SARAH MINAR MCLAUGHLIN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF: Ms. Milnar McLaughlin announced Move Forward Milwaukee is proposing a one percent sales tax increase with property tax relief to fund important services for the County, which included senior services. A bill was referred to two committees: The Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions, and likewise the Assembly's Committee Ways and Means. Information about the bill and talking points were distributed to the Commission. There will be a hearing later in February or early March, and supporters will organize a visit to Madison.

There are two Commissioner appointments for the January 29, 2020 County Board meeting: Gloria Miller and Gloria Jean Pitchford. If they are confirmed, they will be sworn in at the February COA meeting.

XIX. ACTION ITEM: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSISON ON AGING BYLAWS: David Farwell from Corporation Counsel has consolidated COA meeting minutes, Bylaws Workgroup recommendations, and Corporation Counsel's recommendations that were accepted by the Commission to form the Amended COA Bylaws. Mr. Farwell reviewed the

Bylaws to ensure the syntax, wording and formatting were consistent throughout the document to eliminate any redundancy.

Mr. Farwell found a discrepancy with one of the Bylaw votes taken on April 26, 2019. There was a vote to adopt the County Board's practices on appointing chairs, vice-chairs and non-Commission members on Standing Committees. The Chair of the Commission will nominate a Vice-Chair and the non-Commission members. However, on August 23, 2019, COA meeting, there was additional discussion on how non-Commission members are appointed to Standing Committees. The Commission decided the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee shall submit recommendations for non-Commission members for appointments, which then get submitted to the full Commission for final confirmation. This vote is the discrepancy to April 26, 2019, COA meeting vote. To harmonize both Bylaws, Mr. Farwell made a provision to Article 4, section 4 A2. To state, "The Commission Chair shall appoint all Commission members of the Standing Committee members."

MOTION: To accept the provision to Article 4 section 4 A2 to state, "The Commission Chair shall appoint all Commission members of the Standing Committee members."

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

XX. 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: No Announcements

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

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020, at Marcia Coggs Human Services Center, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53205.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant