



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
**Department on Aging**

**Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee Meeting  
October 5, 2020**

A quorum of Executive Committee members convened virtually on Monday, October 5, 2020. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting, which was hosted on Microsoft Teams via the videoconferencing and conference call options (computer or telephone).

**Members Present:**

Richmond Izard, *Chairman*  
Sharon Abston-Coleman, Ph.D., *Vice-Chair*  
Rev. George Pumphrey, *Legislative Officer*  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

**Members Excused**

John Griffith, *Secretary*

**County Staff Present**

Schinika Fitch, CEX *Director of Community Relations*  
Isaac Rowlett, CEX *Strategic Planning Coordinator*  
Pam Matthews, *DAS-PSB*  
Tim Schabo, CEX *Senior Executive Assistant*  
Vonda Nyang, *Executive Assistant*

**County Staff Present**

David Muhammad, *DHHS Deputy Director*  
Jon Janowski, *Interim Executive Director*

**Commissioners**

Elliot Moeser

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair Richmond Izard called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. with roll call. (Attendance noted above.)
- II. **Review and approval of the September 14, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes**  
MOTION: To approve the September 14, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes.  
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Abston-Coleman Moved, Pumphrey Second.)

**III. Discussion and Action Items:**

**A. Discussion and Possible Action Items:**

**1. Update on Commission on Aging vacancies**

The Commission has one appointment that the County Executive's Office appointed to serve on the Commission, and they are in the final stages for approval. Commissioner Izard asked the Executive Committee for ideas on the process for vetting possible Committee and Council members. Currently, the MCDA interim Executive Director receives online application forms from interested candidates who want to serve on the Commission's Committees and Council's through the Department's website. The Director then forwards those applications to the

Commission Chair. The Executive Committee discussed processes for vetting and placement of candidates and decided that the Chair should contact the interested parties asap and assign them to a Committee and or Council within a month rather than waiting to appoint them in the following year.

## 2. **Governance and Authority**

Chairman Izard advised the Executive Committee that Chief of Staff Meyers emailed him on behalf of CEX Crowley. The said communication extends an opportunity for the commission to help inform strategic planning. The process begins with answering three questions posed by the CEX:

- How would the Commission like to partner with the County Executive's Office on Milwaukee County's overall strategic plan?
- What role would the Commission want to play in carrying out the comprehensive plan?
- How will the Commission on Aging work to improve and assure a seamless process of obtaining care for the aging population's needs?

CEX Crowley appointed Isaac Rowlett to take the lead in facilitating such discussion. Mr. Rowlett serves as Director of Strategic Planning in the County Executive's Office. Chairman Izard invited Rowlett to today's Executive Committee meeting to discuss ways for the Commission and the CEX Office to collaborate.

Jon Janowski, Interim MCDA Executive Director, reminded the committee of upcoming Area Plan development. The Commission will have the opportunity to work with County stakeholders to create a blueprint for what services they think are most important for Milwaukee County Seniors. Working with the department to develop a 3-year Area Plan is a primary responsibility. Next year the department is tasked with working on the new plan, a lengthy process to which the Commission must sign-off. In addition to the Area Plan, Izard noted that the Advocacy's Committee's 2021 Public Policy Priorities will be reviewed towards the beginning of the year. The Committee then discussed what should be the Commissions approach be with implementation.

Director Rowlett mentioned the County Executive has invited stakeholders within and outside the County to partner with and support the County in achieving Milwaukee County's vision of being the healthiest County through racial equity. The County Executive asks the Commission as well.

The Executive Committee discussed if they should accept the County Executive's invitation and, if yes, how they will move forward. There were several questions raised by Executive Committee members. How does the strategic plan integrate into the Department from financial, staffing, and philosophical perspectives? "How does that tie into the department?" "How does the Commission connect into all of this?" With MCDA being a division under another department, is the financial perspective viewed from DHHS's level on making those decisions? "Is the department growing

staff, losing staff, and or maintaining staff?” “What is the benefit of being a division of DHHS versus a standalone department?”

The Executive Committee accepted the County Executive’s invitation. Chairman Izard advised that he and Commissioner Moeser (as Chair of the Strategic Governance Committee) would be appropriate to represent the Commission. Additional discussion ensued with an Executive Committee member stating that if DHHS is going to make all the decisions, why should the Commission make any suggestions because DHHS will make the final decisions, nevertheless. In response, Director Rowlett informed the Executive Committee that DHHS is deeply committed to working with the Commission in improving services, as well as access to services for seniors. Rowlett advised, DHHS is not going to make decisions on their own as they take stakeholder, public and community engagement seriously concerning decision-making.

Discussion turned to expected benefits the department would realize under DHHS, including the following services:

- Money and staff: It would provide a cushion to Aging services (due to the deficit – likely to see future cuts if no extra revenue is received.)
- Improving services – increase in staff and services, more accessible access to services
- Bridging gaps in health disparities

A Commissioner requested to have Commissioner Pumphrey join the County Executive’s strategic plan group.

In advancing the strategic plan, Isaac Rowlett will contact the Commission regarding the County Executive’s strategic planning and the 2020 Public Policy Document.

The Executive Committee decided that Commissioners Elliott, Chair Richmond, Pumphrey, and at least one female Commissioner should be part of the strategic planning team. Vice-Chairwoman Abston-Coleman motioned to accept this recommendation.

MOTION: To accept Commissioners Elliott Moeser, Richmond Izard, George Pumphrey, and at least one female Commissioner to work with the County Supervisor’s Strategic Planning team.

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

Director Janowski reiterated how MCDA is already involved with the strategic planning process through their Outreach programs that target communities’ people of color who live in poverty, the racial equity budgeting tool, spending and services, and the diversifying of staff. An Executive Committee member stated that the Commission needs to be reviewing the plan every quarter. Chairman Izard concurred, adding that

an effective logic model will help facilitate successful planning. He will draft the document and share it with Director Rowlett, Director Janowski and the Executive Committee.

3. **Budget Issues, Concerns and Recommendations**

A. **Budget Deliberations:** Chairman Izard reported that the County Board of Supervisors met on October 1, 2020 to discuss the 2021 Recommended Budget. Izard also briefly addressed the press release he issued concerning issues about the No Wrong Door whitepaper, Commission being unapprised of 2021 budget development, and so forth. The release was well-received by local reporters including Urban Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Izard mentioned that a few County Supervisors heartedly embraced the concerns. Overall, the feedback was very positive. Chairman Izard also informed the Executive Committee that Corporation Counsel Margaret Daun advised him that the Commission should present any concerns and questions directly to Corporation Counsel in writing in lieu of going through the Department on Aging. This is because Corp Counsel responds confidentially to each client. In conclusion, the Chairman advised all members of the Executive Committee to watch the Committee of the Whole meeting video from October 1, 2020, at 1 p.m. All efforts are 100% aligned with prescribed advocacy duties and responsibilities; communications should not be misconstrued in any way as adversarial; it is vitally important that the voice of seniors be heard.

B. **Action Items: Setting the October 23, 2020, Commission on aging meeting agenda:** The Executive Committee discussed the process, procedures and considerations for setting the COA agenda. There was a request to the Chair to have the COA agendas and attachments mailed and emailed out later than a week before the COA meeting. The agenda for October 23, 2020, was set. **Announcements:** No Announcements

IV. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. live streamed (virtual and audio) in Microsoft Teams and via teleconference.

Submitted by,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant