



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
Department on Aging

**Commission on Aging  
Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2021**

**Commissioners**

Chairwoman Bettie Rodgers, J.D.  
Amber Miller, *Vice Chair*  
John Griffith, *Secretary*  
Elliot Moeser, Ph.D., *Legislative Officer*  
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*  
Ronald Byington  
Richmond Izard  
Gloria Miller  
Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Ph.D.  
Shirley Sharp  
Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Shakita LaGrant, *DHHS*  
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*  
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*

**Milwaukee County Staff Continued...**

Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*  
Pam Mathews, *DAS Office of PSB*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*

**Guests**

Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*  
Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley  
Jon, *Interpreter*  
Scottie, *Interpreter*

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

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, January 29, 2021. Chairman Richmond Izard welcomed everyone, and at 9:07 a.m., called the meeting to order. Secretary Griffith took roll call.

- II. MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF CASPER GREEN:** In honor of Casper Green, who recently passed away, the Commission on Aging gave a moment of silence. He was a pillar in the community and a long-term advocate for the Department on Aging (MCDA) and seniors in Milwaukee County. He served on Commission on Aging and Advocacy Committee. An executive proclamation from the County Executive was presented in honor of Mr. Green by Schinika Fitch, Director of Community Relations from the County Executive's Office. Chairman Izard also announced that Jean Haase, wife of Bob Haase, and James Kimble's wife, both have passed away. Mr. Haase serves on the Advocacy Committee and Mr. Kimble serves on the Advisory Council.

- III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The Commission decided to have a closed ballot vote. They cast each vote by sending emails to MCDA's Executive Assistant for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Legislative Officer. There were two nominees for Chair - Commissioners Izard and Rodgers; there were two nominees for Vice-Chair: Commissioners Amber Miller and John Griffith, and only one nominee, each for Secretary and Legislative Officer. The Executive Assistant reported the results as follows: For COA Chair: 8 votes for Rodgers, one vote for Izard, and 2-abstained. For Vice-Chair, 7-votes for A. Miller, 3-votes for Griffith,

and 1-abstained. The Commission moved to accept both the secretary and Legislative Officer by acclamation.

#### **IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2020, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the November 14, 2020, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. The Executive Committee meeting minutes for May 18, 2020, and October 5, 2020; Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for November 3, 2020, and December 7, 2020; Nutrition Council meeting minutes for January 20, 2020, and July 28, 2020; Service Delivery Committee meeting minutes for November 5, 2020; and the Wellness Committee meeting minutes for September 16, 2020.

One correction to both Executive Committee meeting minutes regarding attendance. Commissioner Griffith arrived late to both meetings, so he should show as in attendance.

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes upon correction noted above.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Izard Moved, A. Miller Second)

#### **VI. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. **Overview of Strategic Planning Process:** DHHS Executive Director Shakita LaGrant provided a PowerPoint presentation on DHHS and Aging integration. She reviewed DHHS Priorities, strategic planning for providing integrated services, the "No Wrong Door" and the County Executive's racial equity focus, improving community health outcomes, and the system of care across the lifespan. DHHS is working on aligning its strategies with Milwaukee County. Director LaGrant provided information on the various project team members (Executive Sponsors, Program Manager, Team members, and Governing Authorities) and the five project categories in which these members are all working collaboratively towards their goals. For additional information, please refer to the attachment titled "AI Overview".
- B. **Overview of Area Plan Planning Process:** Dan Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator for the DHHS Division on Aging, provided a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the department's strategies sequentially with developing their new 3-year Area on Agency Plan for 2022-2024. For more information, see the handout titled "Milwaukee County AAA Plan Planning".
- C. **Overview of ADRC Integration Application Project:** Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Aging Resource Center Manager and lead staff for the ADRC application integration process, provided a report on the ADRC integration and application project. A Letter of Intent is

due to the State DHS by the end of August and the ADRC application (a 50- page narrative on the department's framework on how they will provide core services) by the end of September. Currently, the workgroups are working on the department's future-state organizational chart and various internal processes. The ARC Manager will present at the next ADRC Governing Board meeting on February 2, 2021. She will give an overview of the application elements and processes and highlight areas that the ADRC can use to assist them with their projects.

**VII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

There are two Commissioners up for reappointment: County Supervisor Jason Haas and John Griffith. Director Fitch reached out to the Commission for their assistance in recommending nominees to serve on the Commission. There are five positions open currently. Commissioner Pitchford-Nicholas has requested to have a copy of the Commission Ordinance sent to all the Commissioners to assist with finding candidates to serve on the Commission.

**VIII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JON JANOWSKI, INTERIM DIRECTOR**

Interim Director Janowski provided service updates to the Commission. He informed the Commission that the federal government had approved the second round of COVID-19 relief funding for all ARC's around the country. This year, there is only funding for nutrition services. However, the Unit expects to receive an allocation to subsidize other services and nutrition services later this year. The Division continues to provide meal delivery through American United Transportation (AUT) for congregate dinners who cannot pick-up their meals at meal sites.

The Division also hopes to have two new positions filled in the next few months: The Elder Benefits Specialist position and the Transportation Coordinator position. The Division is concentrating on having staff, vendors, and volunteers get vaccinated. Division staff is also working on the next steps in the integration plan process. The five County Senior Centers remain closed to the public for at least the first quarter (End of March), and the County will keep the Commission apprised of when they do re-open. Janowski also addressed how Division staff is troubleshooting on keeping in contact and getting information to older adults during COVID-19.

**IX. STATE REPORT: LAURA LANGER, STATE OFFICE ON AGING**

Laura Langer from the DHS State Office on Aging reported that MCDA submitted an addendum to their 2019-2022 Area Agency on Aging Area Plan, which is in its final review. They should receive an answer in the next few weeks on whether the Amendment is approved. Ms. Langer also provided pandemic updates: The State is holding twice a month monthly meeting forums with the Aging and Disability network to provide them with information from lead medical professionals and other community partners on COVID-19 updates, vaccinations, and additional information on questions asked by the public. The State DHS is encouraging everyone to check its website for current information as it can

change daily. It will take time to vaccinate those who are 65 and older, and at this time, they expect to have them vaccinated by the end of March 2021, depending upon the supply chain.

**X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Former Chairman Izard congratulated the new Chair, Commissioner Bettie Rodgers. Commissioner Izard gave a reflection on the Commission's accomplishments last year. The Commission stayed strong advocates for seniors throughout the year and have accomplished a strong position in working with the Division on Aging, DHHS, and the County Executive in their communications and ensuring accountability is there for seniors.

**XI. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** County Supervisor Jason Haas thanked Commissioner Izard for his service as COA Chair and provided the following report.

- A constituent worried about transmitted diseases requested to have automatic faucets and soap-dispensers installed in all County-owned senior centers. Supervisor Haas is working with Milwaukee County's Facilities staff to have this request granted. He expects to have an answer sometime next week. He will keep the Commission posted.
- The County Board's Finance Committee recently heard the integration reports from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and its Division on Aging. If you would like to see the video from this meeting, you can access it on the County's Legislative Information Center (CLIC).
- Supervisor Haas reported that the Washington Park Senior Center had repairs completed to its chilled water piping that had deteriorated. Having the pipes replaced will lower the water pressure in the pipes, which should result in better performance.

**XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Bekki Schmitt, Community Programs Coordinator for the Division on Aging, discussed two departmental announcements at today's meeting. Flyers on those announcements are in today's COA packet.
- **St. Ann's Center Fundraiser:** St. Ann's Center has their "2 Annual Virtual Indaba African Ball" next Saturday at 7 p.m. You can join the ball using this link: <https://stanncenter.org/indababall/> For more information, please contact Commissioner Gloria Miller.
- **St. Ann's Center:** A discussion ensued on funding for St. Ann's Center.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at **11:08 a.m.**

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021, as a Google Meets virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant