



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes May 28, 2021

Commissioners

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

Commissioners Not present

Gloria Miller
Shirley Sharp

Milwaukee County Staff

Shakita LaGrant, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Pam Mathews, *DAS-PSB*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*

Guests

Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Rick Flowers
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Eva, *Interpreter*
Jessica, *Interpreter*

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (39 Participants)

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, May 28, 2021. Chairwoman Rodgers welcomed everyone, and at 9:00 a.m., called the meeting to order. Secretary Griffith took roll call.

- II. REFLECTION, COMMISSIONER WILBERG:** Commissioner Wilberg reflected on a life-changing experience in which she wrote an essay on 3-years ago titled "Billy." The essay was about the day her son was in a severe car accident, and a homeless man named Billy had helped save her son from his burning car. She discussed how this day turned out to be a mind-opening experience that had changed her thoughts and heart. As a result, she no longer hides behind data; she is now a person and a friend to outsiders.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the April 23, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consists of the following meeting minutes: The Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 1, 2021, Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for April 5, 2021; Nutrition Council meeting minutes for January 19, 2021, The Senior Center Select Work Group meeting minutes, March 23, 2021, and the Wellness Committee meeting minutes for March 23, 2021.

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda amended meeting minutes.

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

V. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: JON JANOWSKI, INTERIM DIRECTOR

Director Janowski presented for Schinika Fitch, Director of Community Relations, as she was unavailable to attend today's meeting.

The County Executive has made two appointments scheduled for review by the County Board at the June 16th Committee meeting and then at the June 24, 2021, County Board meeting. Currently, the County Executive's Office doesn't have any Commission candidates scheduled for interviews beyond those two appointments. Director Fitch has asked Commissioners to continue their recruiting efforts to identify potential Commission candidates and pass their information on to her.

This year is Milwaukee's 50th Anniversary of Juneteenth Day (Emancipation Day), which takes place **on Saturday, June 19, 2021**. The County Executive will be the Grand Marshal for the parade, which starts at 9:30 a.m. There are various festivities planned for this year's festival. Also, the County Executive will attend Milwaukee's 50th Anniversary salute to Juneteenth Pioneers Reception, an evening event **on June 11, 2021**. More information forthcoming on this event later.

VI. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Informational Item: Overview of Strategic Planning Process, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):** Director LaGrant-McClain provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed DHHS future state organizational chart structures to receive feedback and input from the Commission. The Director discussed the "No Wrong Door" philosophy and how it's working with the coordination of services, changes that have happened before and after the integration, the expansion of services, collaboration between Division areas (such as Aging, Housing, Behavioral Health, Disability Services, and Veteran Services), and the guiding principles (the feedback that DHHS has received from each of the board's representations Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board, County Combined Services Board (CCSB), Veteran's Commission, Housing Advisory Committee, Mental Health Board, and Commission on Aging)

Director LaGrant-McClain covered the pros and cons for each of the three proposed organizational chart options: Options A, B, and C. The Commission provided feedback and generally agreed that they favored organizational Chart A.

- b) **Informational Item:** Overview of Area Plan Planning Process, Jon Janowski, Interim Director, Division on Aging

Jon Janowski provided an update on the Area Plan on behalf of Daniel Idzikowski, Program and Policy Coordinator for DHHS Division on Aging. The online area plan survey will close **on June 1, 2021**. There were over 7,000 paper copies of the survey distributed to various sources and locations (Aging network clients, community organizations, partner organizations and vendors, and subsidized and unsubsidized housing clients.) Aging staff anticipate receiving at least 1,000 surveys back from the community. And Aging staff held two public listening sessions to reach and obtain more feedback from the public. The next step in the Area Plan planning process is to tabulate survey information to identify themes to create a draft of the Area Plan goals.

CHAIRWOMAN RODGERS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO TAKE A FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

- c) **Informational Item:** Update on Integration Project, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Manager, Aging Resource Center: ARC Manager Kaehny-Frank informed the Commission that the Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) has half of the integration application completed and is under review by staff and the ADRC Governing Board. They are in the process of aligning the integration application with the upcoming County Budget. Currently, they are working on the “provision of services” section on the integration application and have started training for Aging, Disability, and Veteran staff.
- d) **Informational Item: Aging Resource Center Programs and Services**, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Manager, Aging Resource Center: Manager Kaehny-Frank, provided an overview of the current Area Resource Center (ARC) services and long-term care (LTC) Medicaid programs. She discussed how the ARC currently operates from the first initial call made to the Information and Assistance Call Center who conducts the intake, then assigning clients to an Access Worker/Options Counselor (staff) to assist them with finding the services and programs they need. See pdf titled “ARC and LTC Access Overview” for more information.
- e) **Informational Item:** Review and approval of Wellness Committee and Advisory Council Members

MOTION: To accept Christy Sanhuber as a member on the Wellness Committee.

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

VII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR’S REPORT: JON JANOWSKI, INTERIM DIRECTOR

Interim Director Janowski briefly discussed Milwaukee County's "Healthy Homes" project, an in-home vaccination outreach project, which targets the isolated population of people who cannot leave their homes to get vaccinated. Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin made hundreds of calls to isolated seniors to connect them to vaccination opportunities.

The Division on Aging has hired an Information and Outreach Coordinator who starts **on June 14, 2021**, and they are hiring a Transportation Coordinator for the Division.

The Director announced that Randy Mueller, Manager of Long-term Care Services, is retiring after working with the County for 28 years. He thanked Randy for his service and wished him well.

Also announced was the reopening plan for all five Senior Centers that was executed on May 24, 2021, which was the first day of reopening. Approximately 125 seniors in total visited the centers, and the seniors were thrilled that the centers are now open. Mr. Janowski also noted that the restaurant pilot is working very well. He encouraged everyone to call the senior dining program to receive more information at the main phone number (414) 289-6995.

In May, to celebrate Older American's Month, a virtual symposium event sponsored by the Division on Aging and AARP had over 100 people in attendance. He thanked everyone for their hard work on this event.

Lastly, he provided a funding update on the ARPA Funding. The Division has not received its official award notice: The Director expects to receive notice by June.

VIII. STATE REPORT: LAURA LANGER, STATE OFFICE ON AGING

Ms. Langer reported on the following:

- The State expects to allocate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in June or July at the latest. The ARPA funds are accessible through 2024.
- The aging units (Wisconsin's counties and tribes) are in the process of collecting their Area Plan data and creating their area plan goals.
- The State Health Department has provided guidance for reopening nutrition sites and senior centers, which now has a 25% reopening rate.
- The State Office on Aging has some staff transitioning back to the state department; however, most staff will continue to work remotely from home due to the need to distance in the work environment properly.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Commissioner Bettie Rodgers

Chairwoman Rodgers encouraged everyone to vote (Please inform your family, relatives and friends).

X. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: County Supervisor Jason Haas

Supervisor Haas provided the following report:

Supervisor Haas reported on the reopening of the Wilson Park Senior Center. To keep seniors safe, the County is complying with science and following precautionary measures for safety. Supervisor Haas also informed the Commission that the centers had problems with their phone lines due to the large number of incoming calls coming in at once, which tied up the phone lines and had overloaded their voicemail systems.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The month of June is Pride Month. Pridefest will not take place this year due to COVID-19. Commissioner Griffith requested that the Commissioners, staff, and County Supervisors Contact a senior LGBT member this month to ask them three questions: "What was it like for you growing up?" "What is your situation now?" and "What are your concerns for the future?"
- Due to a scheduling conflict, the Senior Center Select Committee's meeting date has changed due to Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021, as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant