



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes April 23, 2021

Commissioners

Chair 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 Pitchford-Nicholas, *Ph.D.*
Janice Wilberg, *Ph.D.*

Commissioners Not present

Shirley Sharp
Gloria Miller

Milwaukee County Staff

Shakita LaGrant, *DHHS*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Andrew Bethke, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Pam Mathews, *DAS-PSB*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Jill Lintonen, *DHHS*
Claire O'Brien, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*

Guests

Neil Minogue, *State of WI, DHS*
Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Pat Dunn, *ADRC Governing Board*
Judy Troestler
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Sandra Dotson
Shannon Rickert, *Interpreter*
Jill Kenehan-Key, *Interpreter*

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

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, April 23, 2021. Chairwoman Rodgers welcomed everyone, and at 9:00 a.m., called the meeting to order. Secretary Griffith took roll call.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 26, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the March 26, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Pitchford-Nicholas Moved, Izard Second.)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for March 1, 2021.

The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes are to be accepted upon the amendment of taking Commissioner Izard's name off list as being listed as a (absent) member.

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

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

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

Interim Director Jon Janowski provided a report on behalf of Schinika Fitch, Director of Community Relations. The County Board replaced the "Health and Human Needs" committee, one of their standing committees that used to review Commission appointments, with a new committee titled "the Health Equity Human Needs and Strategic Planning" Committee. The new Committee has a broader scope which includes the County's strategic planning. One Commission appointee is waiting to be reviewed by the Health Equity Human Needs and Strategic Planning committee in May, and if approved, the County Board will add the appointee to their next meeting agenda for review and final approval. Mr. Janowski also informed the Commission that County Executive Crowley had testified at the Rhinelander Joint Finance Committee public hearing. A copy of this video will be sent to the Commission to watch after today's meeting. Lastly, two Commission candidates are waiting to be scheduled for interviews by the County Executive's Office in the upcoming weeks.

V. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Informational Item:** Overview of Strategic Planning Process, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): Director McClain provided updates on the Coordination of Services and the three proposed integration organizational charts (Integration Option A, is the integration or Aging with DHHS, which places Aging under one umbrella, Option B would be to keep the ARC and the Aging Unit separate, and Option C is for creating a separate unit). The Department's goal is to have a finalized organizational chart by the end of June 2021. DHHS hired a consultant to work with the organizational structure to include the Aging Resource Center (ARC) Job Evaluation Questionnaires (JEQ's). The Commission voiced concerns about the size and importance of the AAA Area Agency due to the proposed integration plan Options A and B. Director McClain informed the Commission that she is open to feedback and for them to feel free to contact her if they would like to discuss any concerns or questions further.
- b) **Informational Item:** Overview of Area Plan Planning Process, Dan Idzikowski Program and Policy Coordinator, DHHS Division on Aging: Dan Idzikowski Briefly discussed the Advisory Council and Commission's role with the Area Plan. Also, he discussed the Older American's Act charge for the development and coordination of senior services and the purpose of the Area Plan survey. Staff is currently working on disbursing surveys across Aging's network (vendors, partner organizations, and non-profit organizations) and clients 55-years of age and older to receive as much feedback from the community as possible.

The Division on Aging designed a comprehensive survey available online on Aging's website and a direct link from the main Milwaukee County webpage. About 4,000 random Aging Resource Center clients and Aging's vendor clients will receive a paper copy of the survey. The Division on Aging is also holding two virtual listening sessions. The sessions will occur **on Friday, April 30, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, May 11, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.** The Division will also deliver hard copies of the survey to senior housing organizations in the Milwaukee area as they need more feedback from the community through the month of May. The deadline for submitting surveys is the end of May 31, 2021. The goal is to tabulate all the surveys within the first two weeks in June.

Commissioner Wilberg, the Advisory Council Chair, asked for the Commission's assistance with promoting the listening sessions and AAA surveys by contacting their networks to get people engaged with filling out a survey and attending the listening sessions. Another Commissioner suggested two other sources that the Division could utilize with dispersing information: to use the newspaper to publish information and have public service announcements through public radio stations.

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

- c) **Informational Item:** Overview of Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Integration Application Project, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Manager, Aging Resource Center: ARC Manager Kaehny-Frank informed the Commission that the Aging Resource Center, ARC, is aligning their processes with the Disability Resource Center, DRC, and is engaging their frontline staff to assist with this process. Also, they have planned a kick-off event for staff for some time in early May. The integration project is on track with its application benchmarks and its proposed organizational chart, which is still in the finalization process. Also, they have a training workgroup that is in the process of coordinating staff training. Currently, they are arranging subject matters and speakers, which the workgroup hopes to start training for staff sometime in June.
- d) **Informational Item:** Senior Dining Pilot Programs, Gaylyn Reske, Senior Dining Program Coordinator, DHHS Division on Aging: DHHS's Division on Aging has launched a new pilot congregate dining model which features four minority local restaurants (Daddy's Soul Food, Orenda, Antigua, and Vientiane). These dining sites are curb-side pick-up only. The program aims to offer support to minority-owned restaurants in Milwaukee County while providing different (ethnic) menu options that may appeal to current dinners and attract new diners to the program. If successful, this pilot program will become a host site for congregate dinners. The Older American's Act funds this program, and the donation cost for a meal is \$3. If a senior cannot afford the \$3 donation fee, they will still receive a meal. Unfortunately, there isn't an option to have these meals delivered to seniors who cannot pick up their meals. A formal announcement and post on Facebook took place today.

- e) **Informational Item:** Older American's Month Activities, Rebecca Schmitt, Community Programs Coordinator, DHHS Division on Aging: Ms. Schmitt announced that May is "Older American's Month." This year's theme is "Communities of Strength." **On May 26, 2021**, the Division on Aging, in partnership with AARP, is having a virtual wellness symposium titled "Reconnecting for a Healthier Community," which is also "National Senior Health and Fitness Day." This event aims to collaborate and reconnect with their partners and agencies that provide wellness opportunities for older adults. The County Executive will provide the welcome, and the keynote speaker is Carrie Molke from the State Department of Health Services. And, in May, there will be a substantial social media post connecting with partners and sites to highlight their work and capture seniors' stories to be highlighted on the post as well. Lastly, they are creating a short video to showcase MCDA's services and work.

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

Interim Director Janowski announced that the State of Wisconsin's Department of Health Services awarded Gaylyn Reske the Innovation Award for her achievement in innovating a new dining concept. Director Janowski reiterated the importance of the Commission's and senior's participation with the Area Plan. The plan's current focus is having the Commission and seniors fill out a survey and participate in the listening sessions. **On April 28, 2021**, a few of the Advocacy Committee members will testify at the State's Joint Finance Committee hearing. Mr. Janowski emphasized the need for senior participation and their voices to be heard at this event. He also announced that next week is National N4A Advocacy Day.

Director Janowski briefly discussed new funding for an in-home vaccination project, and he provided a staffing update on the Information and Outreach Coordinator and Transportation Coordinator positions. Serving Older Adults (SOA) had submitted a Senior Centers reopening plan to the Division on Aging that they reviewed, but at this time, the Division on Aging doesn't have a date when the centers will reopen. Mr. Janowski provided a breakdown of the federal funding of \$535,000 for nutrition programming awarded to the Division on Aging: catering contracts; \$100,000; Meal delivery services \$100,000; meal site supervision \$150,000; new dining pilot program \$80,000. The Division on Aging still has not received official notice of award from the State relating to ARPA COVID relief funding, and the Division expects to receive the official notice sometime in May.

VII. STATE REPORT: NEAL MINOGUE, STATE OFFICE ON AGING

Mr. Minogue discussed the Aging Unit's funding allocations by providing detail on how Division on Aging money must be spent and what purpose they serve for Title III FFCRA, CARES, Consolidated Appropriations Act, (Title III-C) American Rescue Plan Funding (ARPA), and VACS (Vaccination Funding).

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Month received a proclamation from the Governor recognizing Aging and Disabilities Resource Center's month in Wisconsin, which is also Older American's Month.

Lastly, Mr. Minogue briefly discussed the state guidance they provide to nutrition programs and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers as they consider reopening services to the public.

VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Commissioner Bettie Rodgers

Chairwoman Rodgers asked the Commission to email her agenda items that they want to see added to the Commission on Aging agendas. And she announced that Commissioner Wilberg would provide a reflection at the next COA meeting. Lastly, the Chair announced she was given three resumes from people interested in serving on the Advocacy Committee. She will forward the resumes to the Commission for review.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: County Supervisor Jason
Supervisor Haas provided the following report:

- Supervisor Haas announced that he is working with Interim Director Jon Janowski and Housing Director James Mathy.
- Milwaukee County received \$180 Million of the American Recovery Act funding in which the County has three years to use all funding. Supervisor Haas expects to have an update on the funding allocations at the next COA meeting.

X. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Due to a scheduling conflict, the Senior Center Select Committee's meeting date has changed due to May 4, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 28, 2021, as a Zoom virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant