



Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes August 27, 2021

Commissioners

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

Commissioners Not present

Lily Alvarado
Shirley Sharp

Milwaukee County Staff

Shakita LaGrant, *DHHS*
David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Sumaiyah Clark, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Rick Flowers, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Jim Lautenbach, *DAS*
Jill Lintonen, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Claire O'Brien, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*
Bekki Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

Guests

Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Neal Minogue, *State of WI, DHS*
Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*
Kathy Gale, *ERAS Senior Network*
Debra Jupka, *ADRC Governing Board*
Jessica Toth
Cathy Wood, *SOA*
Eva Eisman, *Interpreter*
Jessica Toth, *Interpreter*

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (44 Participants)

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, August 27, 2021. Chairwoman Rodgers welcomed everyone, and at 9:01 a.m., she called the meeting to order. Secretary Griffith took roll call.

II. REFLECTION, COMMISSIONER ELLIOT MOESER:

Commissioner Elliot Moeser gave a reflection on service. Commissioner Moeser shared personal experiences that led to his desire to want to provide service to seniors. He felt he failed his mother due to his lack of knowledge on resources for seniors to assist his mother. The reflection ended with him saying he wants to do better than he did for his mother for the community for seniors to live whole lives. The Commission has a kinship because they are called to provide service.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 25, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the June 25, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Committee and Council Chairs Report Summary:** The following Chairs provided a brief report on behalf of their committees: Commissioner Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, Chair of the Senior Center Select Committee, Commissioner Amber Miller, Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, and Commissioner Gloria Miller, Chair of the Wellness Committee.

Commissioner Amber Miller requested to provide the Commission with a brief update on the Service Delivery Committee meeting, although there were no minutes at today's meeting. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division on Aging's vendors provided quarterly updates that provided information on current projects and work-goals, successes, and any challenges or shortcoming they may have encountered.

Commissioner A. Miller ended her report by stating that if anyone is interested in joining or attending the Service Delivery Committee meetings they should contact her at Gloria.Miller@milwaukeecountywi.gov

- b) The consent agenda consists of the following meeting minutes:

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 1, 2021, and May 3, and June 7, 2021
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for June 7, 2021
- The Advisory Council meeting minutes for July 14, 2021
- Nutrition Council meeting minutes for April 27, 2021
- Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes (May 4, 2021, May 25, 2021, June 22, 2021, and July 21, 2021)

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

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

V. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS: In Director Fitch's absence, Jon Janowski, Interim Director for DHHS Division on Aging, provided her report.

The County Executive's Office held three 2022 Budget Town Hall meetings for the public and additional sessions for its employees this week. The following steps for the 2022 Budget process are:

- On October 1, 2021, the County Executive's recommended Budget gets released.
- In October, the County Board Finance Committee budget hearings will take place
- In mid-November, the County Board's Budget Adoption meeting will take place

The Commission can assist with the budget process by supporting the "Local Option Sales Tax" advocacy efforts, specifically by contacting their legislators. Legislators can be looked up via <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> And lastly, Commissioners can sign up for advocacy updates at <https://www.moveforwardmke.com/>

The County Executive had participated in the first-ever "Heroes Day" on Sunday, August 22, at the Marcus Performing Arts Center to honor veterans, front-line workers, and first responders. "Heroes Day" shines a spotlight on are many hardworking heroes in our community who are integral in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee County Transit System, and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office were all recognized with awards.

Lastly, the County Executive's Office acknowledges three new Commissioners: Cherie Swenson, Leonor Rosas, and Lily Alvarado. The County Executive's Office is still looking to fill the last two Commission vacancies.

VI. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Informational Item: Overview of Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 2022 Requested Budget**, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director (DHHS), Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator (DHHS), Jon Janowski, Interim Director (DHHS)

Director LaGrant-McClain informed the Commission that today's PowerPoint presentation would cover the 2022 requested Budget and strategic alignment, the upstream investment in prevention, transforming systems, cultivating staff and culture, and building toward the No Wrong Door vision. A few highlights of the report were:

- Pay increases for half of the current Human Social Workers
- Not eliminating any positions through the integration
- Marcia P. Coggs Center Renovation / Co-location
- 2022 ADRC Requested Budget
- 2022 AAA Requested Budget

The Commission requested a correction to the "Option A" chart to show that there is a line of authority from the Commission on Aging to the County Executive and not the DHHS Director. A Commissioner made a suggestion for the Mission vision and Value section to add a six value "equity." under Values in PowerPoint slide #2.

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

- b) **Action Item:** Approval of the Advisory Council Vision Statement for the Milwaukee County Aging Network, Janice Wilberg, Chair, Advisory Council.

Commissioner Janice Wilberg presented the Aging Network Vision statement and supporting goals that the Advisory Council created for the AAA Area Plan to the Commission. The Advisory Council is asking the Commission on Aging to adopt their Aging Network Vision statement and supporting goals.

Motion: To adopt the Aging Network Vision Statement.

Action: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Griffith Moved, Izard Second)

Motion accepted but is contingent upon informing the public of this action and its need to appear within the Area Plan. The Chair asked that goal #2, under health equity, include older adults in its verbiage.

- c) **Informational Item:** Update on ADRC Integration Project, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Manager, Aging Resource Center: Jon Janowski, Interim Director for DHHS Division on Aging provided the report for Manager Kaehny-Frank in her absence.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board and other DHHS managers and Administration reviewed the first draft of the ADRC integration application. The final draft is expected to be completed before the next COA meeting and may be available for the Commission to review before submission to DHS.

- d) **Informational Item:** "Social Security Issues", Megan Forristall, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Social Security Administration (Reginal Office): Public Affairs Specialist Mega Forristall reviewed the Social Security Administration (SSA) website to explain how to maneuver through their website and provide information about the Social Security scams still happening. She also answered a few questions about survivor benefits.

Listed below are the areas that updates and information on hot topics discussed:

- What is the full retirement age?
- Best way to apply for benefits
- What to do for child or spouse survivor claims
- How to locate their field offices
- Provided contact information
- Provide Subscription updates for COVID-19
- Providing emergency assistance to homeowners and renters due to COVID-19

- e) **Informational Item:** "Update on Milwaukee County Brand Shift, Jill Lintonen, Communications and Public Information Officer, DHHS, and Jim Lautenbach, Graphic Designer, Department of Administrative Services.

DHHS Communications and Public Officer Jill Lintonen informed the Commission how the integration of Aging and veteran services had facilitated DHHS to rethink its brand identity. She discussed the process they undertook to design their new brand.

Jim Lautenbach, DAS Graphic Communications Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation that discussed the County's existing brand and its branding components and designed a new brand, a vision logo.

Also, he discussed the symbolism of the logo and DHHS's new brand. He ended the presentation with next steps in the branding process. Please see the following:

- Printed manual ("Branding Components Guide.")
- Online brand resource (DHHS and Brand Portal".)
- Outreach with division and staff
- Development and incorporation (templates, strategy)
- Swag

For more information, see the PowerPoint titled "Commission On Aging PRESENTATION"

VII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jon Janowski, Interim Director, DHHS Division on Aging No report

VIII. STATE REPORT: No report

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: No report

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

Supervisor Haas said that the Board is in August recess and he had no updates to share. He said he is continuing his work with staff from the Aging Division, Housing Division, and County Executive's Office.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m. **(Pitchford Nicholas – A. Miller)**

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021, as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant