



## Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes September 24, 2021

### **Commissioners**

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

### **Commissioners Not Present**

John Griffith, *Secretary*  
Gloria Miller  
Shirley Sharp

### **Milwaukee County Staff**

Shakita LaGrant, *DHHS*  
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*

### **Milwaukee County Staff Continued...**

Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*  
Matt Fortman, *DHHS*  
Debra Horton, *DHHS*  
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*  
Jill Lintonen, *DHHS*  
Pam Matthews, *DAS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Claire O'Brien, *DHHS*  
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*  
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*  
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*

### **Guests**

Pat Bruce, *ADRC Governing Board*  
Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*  
Neal Minogue, *State of WI, DHS*  
Clifford Mixon, *Interpreter*  
Jessica Toth, *Interpreter*  
Cathy Wood, *SOA*  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

## **I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (32 Participants)**

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, September 24, 2021. Chairwoman Rodgers welcomed everyone at 9:01 a.m. and called the meeting to order. Interim Director Janowski, took roll call.

## **II. REFLECTION, COUNTY SUPERVISOR JASON HAAS:**

Supervisor Haas gave a reflection on gratitude. Commissioner Haas had pondered what he should give as a reflection and thought about what quality we all share and what trait is common amongst us all - gratitude. From his observations from his fellow Commissioner reflections, Supervisor Haas saw and felt gratitude from their reflections and childhood stories of overcoming struggles and having shared experiences allowing everyone to learn and grow from one another. He ended his reflection, thanking everyone and bowing his head to everyone in gratitude.

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the August 27, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.

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

### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

a) **Committee and Council Chairs Report Summary:** The following Chairs provided a brief report on behalf of their committees: Commissioners Janice Wilberg and Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas.

- The Advisory Council's Chair, Commissioner Wilberg, reported on the Advisory Council's tasks with reviewing and analyzing the 2022-2024 Area Plan survey data and demographic data. She will provide a full report later in this meeting.
- The Senior Center Select Committee's Chair, Commissioner Pitchford-Nicholas, reported on the Committee's progress with the six questions from the Envisioning the Future Senior Centers report. The Committee meets twice monthly and breaks out into subgroups for discussion, action, and developing the framework for a preliminary report to present to the Advisory Council before the end of the year on what future senior centers would look like and how to address it.

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

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for August 2, 2021
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for August 2, 2021
- The Advisory Council meeting minutes for August 5, 2021 and August 19, 2021
- Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes for August 20, 2021

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

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

### **V. COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE REPORT: SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS: (Director Fitch provided her report after Item VI, C.)**

Director Fitch reported on the County Budget process and Commission vacancies. The County Executive will submit his 2022 proposed County Budget on October 1, 2021. The Finance Committee will hold budget hearing meetings in October, and the finalized 2022 County Budget gets adopted in November.

The County Executive's Office is still working on filling the last two Commission vacancies. They are looking for someone in the healthcare field and someone from the Asian-American Pacific Islanders (APPI) community.

## VI. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Review and Approval of appointments to COA standing committees: The Chair asked for a motion to accept Martha Collins's appointment to the Advocacy Committee.

MOTION: To accept Martha Collins appointment to the Advocacy Committee.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Izard Moved, Wilberg Second)

- b) **Action Item:** Review and Approval of Advisory Council appointments made by the Chair of the Commission on Aging: The Chair asked for a motion to accept Commissioner Cherie Swenson, Amanda Weiler, and Martha Collins as appointees to the Advisory Council.

MOTION: To accept Commissioner Cherie Swenson, Amanda Weiler, and Martha Collins as appointees to the Advisory Council.

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

- c) **Information Item:** Update on 2022 Budget and Other DHHS Activities, Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director (DHHS), Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator (DHHS)

Director LaGrant-McClain provided an update to the Commission on DHHS's August 26, 2021, and August 27, 2021 listening sessions held to discuss what can the newly combined Aging and Disability Services Division do to provide easier access to services and to provide feedback on which of the four choices they choose for the Division's newname. Director LaGrant-McClain requested that the Division on Aging Executive Assistant send the Commission the survey link to receive their input, and it will also be provided to the ADRC Governing Board. The survey will remain open until next week Friday. The four names to choose from are:

- Aging and Disability Services
- Aging Community and Disability Services
- Adult Community Living Services
- Disability and Older Adult Services

DHHS Chief Financial Officer, Matt Fortman, provided a status update on Senior Nutrition Services funding for the 2021 and 2022 County Budget. Due to the pandemic, Senior Nutrition services had to close their congregate dining sites and provide carry-out and delivery services for senior meals, which resulted in a significant increase in meal service expenses. The Division on Aging anticipated the

need to carry over nutrition program funding in the amount of \$700,000 from the 2020 Budget into this year's budget to support the increase in expenses. However, DHHS recently learned that the anticipated carry-over funds from last year's budget didn't carry over for 2021 and will not be available to the Division on Aging. The County will also receive an ARPA fund award of \$4 million that will get disbursed over two years. He is looking into backfilling the \$700,000 amount using ARPA funding. Mr. Fortman doesn't expect any reduction in services as a result of this funding issue.

- d) **Informational Item:** Update on ADRC Integration Application Project, Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Manager, Aging Resource Center (46): The final integration application is complete; however, the Resource Center is finalizing the organizational chart, which will be complete for the Commission to review at the October COA meeting. The Resource Center continues to work on processes and workflows for customer and program services.
- e) **Review and Approval of the 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals,** Commissioner Jan Wilberg, Chair, Advisory Council.

Commissioner Wilberg informed the Commission that the 2022-2024 Area Plan is not in its final stage for review and approval, as the Advisory Council has submitted its proposed goals for public comment to complete its final step before completion. The final Area Plan is expected to be complete and presented to the full Commission at its October COA meeting. Commissioner Wilberg provided an informational report on the 2022-2024 Area Plan. She provided the Area Plan categories and informed the Commission that the Advisory Council and staff created metrics to measure the goals. They are holding public listening sessions to gain input on the plan through an online survey. She will have staff send the link to the Commission to gain their input.

#### **5-MINUTE BREAK**

### **VII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Jon Janowski, Interim Director, DHHS Division

Director Janowski provide an update on the Division's outreach activities. The Vaccination Outreach grant for the ADRC has been completed. The state DHS informed the Division of another vaccination outreach grant in the amount of \$200,000 that they could apply for concerning the senior dining program, only one congregate site remains open, the United Community Center; the Center continues to be monitored regularly. Currently, all other congregate sites will continue to remain closed due to current COVID-19 trends.

Due to COVID-19 trends, the Division's transportation service only provides individual rides, and group rides are not available. Also, the Division has a new Transportation Coordinator, Alena DeGrado, who started September 7, 2021.

The County and the Division on Aging have received their formal notice from the State on their first ARPA fund allocation of \$2 million; however, guidance on expenditures hasn't been received at this time. The County expects its second allocation of \$2

million sometime next year. Milwaukee County has an ARPA Taskforce that has created sub-groups of staff and public members to make funding and program recommendations to the main ARPA Taskforce. For more information on the Milwaukee County ARPA Taskforce, google "Milwaukee County ARPA Taskforce" to receive more information on their charge. Lastly, Director Janowski provided a report on the resource fairs that the Division on Aging coordinated for National Falls Prevention Week.

#### **VIII. STATE REPORT: Neil Minogue and Laura Langer**

Mr. Minogue said that the Bureau and State Office on Aging state is aware of the 2020-2021 budget funding issue and understands the depth of concern. They are working with the Director of the Division on Aging and DHHS's Chief Financial Officer to resolve this issue.

Mr. Minogue provided information on the Dementia Care funding issue and the new state reporting management system. Lastly, Mr. Minogue informed everyone that the State job positions are now looking for their state employees to work from home. They are hiring people that can work from home. If you are interested in seeing those positions, please visit "Wisc Jobs.com" for employment with the State.

Laura Langer reported that a State staffing shortage had created delays with the ARPA funding disbursements, which postponed the distribution of ARPA funding. The State created two new permanent positions to assist with workflow.

The Bureau of Aging and Disability Services also reported on the Senior Community Service Employment Program: Workers are slowly transitioning back on site. They have created new virtual trainings to accommodate staff working from home. Ms. Langer thanked Director Janowski and DHHS staff for their presentation at the Aging and Disability Network Forum in August. They provided an excellent presentation.

#### **IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairwoman Rodgers reminded Commissioners of the 2022 January COA Officer elections, so they should think about whom they would like to elect. She also mentioned that the Commission bylaws state that Commissioners must serve on at least one of the COA's Committees or Councils. If any Commissioner hasn't selected a Committee or Council to serve on, they should contact her via email. And lastly, she briefly mentioned that some Commissioners were discussing whether the COA meetings should continue to be in person or virtually. She asked Commissioners to email her their opinion.

#### **X. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Committee/Council Schedule Correction:** The Senior Center Select Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- **ADRC Survey:** The survey is online, encourage Commissioners and those who use long-term care services to fill out the survey.

- Washington Park Senior Resource Fair, next Friday, October 1, 2021 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. See flyer for more information.

**XI. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** County Supervisor Jason Haas

County Supervisor Haas discussed the County's redistricting process. County Supervisors had received a new map of their Supervisory districts, which has made some of the Supervisors unhappy. The new district maps will be finalized by November 23, 2021. He provided a link to the map via the chat.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. **(Pitchford Nicholas – Byington)**

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021, as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant