



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

Commissioners

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

Commissioners excused

Bettie Rodgers, J.D. M.S.W., *Chair*
John Griffith, *Secretary*
Leonor Rosas
Shirley Sharp

Milwaukee County Staff

David Muhammad, *DHHS*
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
County Supervisor Shawn Rolland
Jon Janowski, *DHHS*
Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Alena DeGrado, *DHHS*

Milwaukee County Staff Continued...

Matt Fortman, *DHHS*
Debra Horton, *DHHS*
Jill Knight, *DHHS*
Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Lorie O'Connor, *DHHS*
Mary Proctor Brown, *DHHS*
Rebecca Schmitt, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*
Nina Yang, *DHHS*

Guests

Laura Langer, *State of WI, DHS*
Neal Minogue, *State of WI, DHS*
Nicholas Di Meo, *State of WI, DHS*
Jen Berkes, *Interpreter*
Sadi Dudley, *Interpreter*
Kathy Gale, *Eras Senior Network*
Melissa Meier
Cathy Wood, *Serving Older Adults*

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (38 Participants)

A quorum of Commission on Aging (COA) members convened virtually on Friday, October 29, 2021. Vice-Chair Miller welcomed everyone at 9:03 a.m. and called the meeting to order. Legislative Officer Elliot Moeser took roll call.

II. REFLECTION: No reflection

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the September 24, 2021, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Izard Moved, Moeser Second.)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Committee and Council Chairs Report Summary: There were no Chair reports.

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

- The Executive Committee meeting minutes for September 13, 2021
- The Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for September 13, 2021
- The Advisory Council meeting minutes for September 14, 2021
- Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes for August 20, 2021

MOTION: To accept the above consent agenda meeting minutes.

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

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

County Supervisor Haas reported that at yesterday's County's Budget hearing, the County Board had approved for McGovern Park Senior Center to receive immediate roof repairs. The County's original facilities plan had McGovern scheduled to receive repairs sometime in 2023/ 2024. Supervisor Haas emphasized that McGovern may not withstand this winter's weather which would cause more damage. Darryl White from the County's Facilities team is overseeing this repair project.

Supervisor Haas also alerted the Commission that the ARPA Taskforce, which is currently in meetings, had discussed the McGovern Park Senior Center's need for immediate roof repairs. Also reported was that the County Board was able to lower the County tax levy, and their expenditures for this year's budget were under the bonding cap that the County Executive had set in the Capital Budget. Lastly, Supervisor Haas announced that he is not running for County Supervisor next year.

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

Director Fitch informed the Commission that County Executives and leaders throughout the nation are participating in advocacy on the Build Back Better (BBB) legislation. (The Commission asked Ms. Nyang to email this legislative information to the Commission for review). This BBB proposal will help create jobs in the communities, create racial equity, make tax cuts, and will lower costs for lower-income families, allowing Milwaukee County to move forward with making Milwaukee County the healthiest county in the state.

Also, Director Fitch notified the Commission that they still have two Commission vacancies to fill (Someone from the healthcare field and someone from the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community). The County Executive's office is also looking for a replacement for County Supervisor Haas as he will not run for County Supervisor next year.

VII. ACTION/INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Review and Approval of Non-Commissioner appointments to Commission on Aging (COA) standing committees:

The Vice-Chair asked for a motion to accept Patrick Lee's appointment to the Service Delivery Committee and Kelsie Lyons's appointment to the Wellness Committee and Senior Center Select Committee.

MOTION: To accept Patrick Lee and Kelsie Lyons appointments to the COA Committee's requested.

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

- b) **Informational Item: Update on Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program;** Nicholas Di Meo, Health Policy Advisor, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Nicholas Di Meo, Health Policy Initiatives Advisor for the state's Office of Administration Medicaid program, is the liaison for Southeastern Wisconsin with Medicaid programs, policies and services, and assisting with new policy rollouts. He used a PowerPoint presentation to review a new contract with a non-emergency medical transportation vendor, Veyo. Veyo's contract time frame is a 5-year procurement cycle. They were awarded the contract in April 2021, and their services start as of November 1, 2021. Veyo provides transportation for Medicaid clients who don't have any other means of transportation to get to their Medicaid-covered appointments.

Mr. Di Meo informed everyone of program eligibility for this service. The following programs have Veyo services available: any of the full benefit Medicaid or Badger Care Plus programs; family planning only services, Badger Care Plus, Badger Care Plus Express Enrollment for pregnant women, tuberculosis related services only, Wisconsin Medicaid, and IRIS.

Veyo has new service and policy enhancements, one being the Interactive Voice Response (IVR). This system allows text messaging and a ride view facility portal. The policy improvements and new standards ensure good public transportation and allow new additional riders who are not medically necessary to ride with the rider. For more information, please review the PowerPoint titled "NEMT-MKE Co Commission on Aging."

- c) **Review and approval of the revised 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals, Commissioner Jan Wilberg, Chair, Advisory Council.**

Advisory Council Chair Wilberg informed the Commission about the timeline, procedures, and processes that the Advisory Council and the Commission on Aging's

Committees and Councils went through in revising and creating new goals for the 2022-2024 Area Plan. The entire Area Plan will be presented to the Commission at a later meeting.

Commissioner Wilberg asked the Advisory Council to approve the revised 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals.

MOTION: To accept the revised draft 2022-2024 Area Plan Goals.

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

- d) **Action Item: Review and approval of the Service Delivery Committee's 2022 Contract Recommendations;** Commissioner Amber Miller, Chair, Service Delivery Committee

Carrie Vallejo, the Division on Aging's Program and Planning Coordinator, reviewed the 2022 contract amounts that were recommended by the Committee. She informed them of a few contract amount reductions that were made and why. For more information, see the document titled "Memo Awarding 2022 Contract Awards to COA" from Director Janowski. The Service Delivery Committee asked for a motion from the Commission on Aging to approve the 2022 contract recommendations.

MOTION: To accept the 2022 contract recommendations made by the Service Delivery Committee

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

5-MINUTE BREAK

- e) **Information Item: Update on Milwaukee County 2022 Recommended Budget and Other Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Activities,** David Muhammad, Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), presented on behalf of Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director (DHHS).

Deputy Director Muhammad provided an update to the Commission on the adult integration project and the renaming of the new disabilities and aging services division. He summarized the vision of adult integration and how it impacts the new Aging and Disabilities Services Division, and the No Wrong Door model. The new integration will be effective as of January 1, 2022. The new name of the Aging Resource Center (ARC) and Disability Resource Center (DRC) is "Aging and Disability Resource Center".

Also, Deputy Director Muhammad acknowledged the County's senior centers and their need for security, safety, and repairs discussed at the McGovern Park's recent public forum. He also discussed the renovation of the Coggs Center as well as services and programs and said that Coggs renovation plans will be shared with the COA for feedback at a future meeting. The renovation plans are expected to be

completed by February 2022, the design phase will end in August 2022, and the start of construction should begin in the Fall of 2023.

- f) **Informational Item: Update on Milwaukee County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation Process**, Jeff Roman, Director Office on African American Affairs.

County Supervisor Shawn Rolland presented on behalf of Jeff Roman. Supervisor Rolland shared a PowerPoint presentation on the amount of ARPA funds that the County has received, who is serving on the ARPA Task Force, their role, and how the County will spend those funds. The ARPA Task Force charge is to solicit input from the community and gather their recommendations and send them to the County Board. The State has sent the County rules on how ARPA funds should be used. (Allowable Uses of the ARPA Funds-PowerPoint Slide 6). For more information, see the PowerPoint presentation titled "ARPA General PowerPoint "

VIII. AGING DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jon Janowski, Interim Director, DHHS Division

Director Janowski acknowledged his staff, the Commission's Committees and Councils, and the ARC Manager's work on the 2022-2024 Area Plan, ADRC integration project, and nutrition programming. Also, the Division on Aging's nutrition team has received a "local government award" from the Wisconsin Policy Forum. There will be a luncheon that some DHHS staff will be attending to celebrate the award. Mr. Janowski thanked Commissioner Amber Miller for assisting with media coverage in the promotion of the Dine-out Nutrition program.

The Division on Aging is still waiting to receive a contract from the state relating to their ARPA funding/Older Americans' funding Act allocations. Once the Division receives a contract, Director Janowski will inform the Commission and set up a meeting to discuss how they might want to spend the funds. Currently, there are no updates on the state nutrition issue raised at the last Commission on Aging meeting.

IX. STATE REPORT: Neil Minogue, Older Americans Act Program Supervisor, DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, and Laura Langer, Program Administrator, DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

The State Office on Aging is investigating what happened with the nutrition funding carryover from the Division on Aging's (DOA) 2020 budget. The DOA should receive a response from the State bureau within the next few weeks.

Mr. Minogue informed the Commission of the State about Office on Aging job listings located on their website. There are five job openings, and since COVID-19, the State has a new hybrid model where new employees can work from home. If interested, visit the website for more information. Lastly, Mr. Minogue commented on the Division on Aging's 2022-2024 Area Plan. There is evidence that the Division on Aging received more public

input since the pandemic due to conducting virtual meetings. Mr. Minogue also congratulated the Nutrition Team for their Wisconsin Policy Forum award.

X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Vice-Chair Miller reminded Commissioners to check their County email regularly. If Commissioners cannot make a Committee or Council meeting, please inform Committee /Council officers and/or staff if you cannot attend. COA Officer elections will be held in January 2022.

XI. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Vice-Chair Miller and Commissioners, as well as Directors Fitch and Janowski, thanked Supervisor Haas for his hard work and commitment as County Supervisor. and wished him well in his endeavors. County Supervisor Haas thanked everyone and gave Kudos to the Commission and staff for their work.
- The Advocacy Committee will meet virtually this Monday at 1:30 p.m. to discuss federal bills and legislation.
- Commissioner Gloria Miller provided a brief report on the Wellness Committee's work. They had recently conducted a wellness symposium and assisted the Advisory Council on aging goals. She mentioned upcoming programming for senior participation, the Stepping On programming, and the Falls Prevention program.
- New Transportation Coordinator Alena DeGrado introduced herself to the Commission. She informed the Commission that she is serving on one of the ARPA subgroups and reminded Commissioners to contact her if they are interested in serving on the ARPA Taskforce.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021, as a virtual meeting.

Respectfully,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant