



# Milwaukee County Meeting Minutes

## Milwaukee County Youth Commission Committee on Community Engagement & Racial Justice

*Chair- Ben Elko (14<sup>th</sup>); 1st Vice Chair- Brody Kaminski (6<sup>th</sup>); 2nd Vice Chair- Zenia Shaker (17<sup>th</sup>);  
Members- Marianna Taylor (Co-Chair), Augie Baum (3<sup>rd</sup>), Kennedy Slaasted (4<sup>th</sup>), Ansh Paranjya (11<sup>th</sup>),  
Bradley Rhode (16<sup>th</sup>), and Eva Vang (18<sup>th</sup>).*

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**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**Room 203-R & Microsoft Teams**

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### HYBRID MEETING

HYBRID MEETING: This meeting will be held in Room 203-R and live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: [Milwaukee County - Milwaukee County Youth Commission \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com).

### CALL TO ORDER

### PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

This meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format. In addition to in-person attendance in Room 203-R, per Section 1.01(d) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, this meeting is also being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Anyone who would like to speak to Committee members during a hybrid meeting is welcome to provide public comment by:

- Filling out a Public Comment Card in Room 203-R, or
- Visiting [milwaukee.gov/PublicComment](https://milwaukee.gov/PublicComment) and following the instructions provided to participate via Microsoft Teams.

Individuals may submit a written eComment via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) at: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com>, upon publication of a committee agenda.

### ROLL CALL

Roll Call at 5:34 PM

Present            8-Baum, Paranjya, Slaasted, Taylor, Vang, Elko, Kaminski, Shaker

Absent            1 -Rhode

1. **Brief Social Media Training by Eddie Cullen, Office of the County Clerk (Information Only)**-Today we will discuss these three areas
  - a. Social Media
  - b. Best Practices
  - c. Press releases

#### Social Media

Youth Commissioner Facebook page and Instagram you have 100 plus followers so far.

Social media content must be approved before posting. Two contact managers must approve before posting. Adult Advisors will have permission to update passwords or lock outs.

### Best Practices

Be care what you post make sure that content is uplifting like “today a panda was born here at the Milwaukee Zoo.” Be careful not to address negative posts, we encourage a positive post when something negative is posted. Also be careful what you post on your personal page enough what you like it all shapes how others view you.

### Press Release

Essentially an email to the media, you are crafting your message putting it on official letterhead and saying here is my statement. We write in the same way as a news story. Your statement should present a fair explanation of what’s going, being objective as possible, if you write a statement that says, “The Milwaukee County Youth Commission are the best in the world no other youth commission can stand up at all.” The media is going to look at that as an objective so they will fact check that and when they see its true (insert smile) Milwaukee County uses AP style for writing their press releases please read that on your own. Alos put less important pieces of information at the bottom of the page for the press release in case they decide to cut during printing.

## **2. Presentation on Better Ways to Cope campaign by Jeremy Triblett, Prevention Integration Manager, Behavioral Health Services, Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services (Information Only)**

Better ways to Cope-Presented the dashboard from over the past 3 years that showed how many people died from overdoses of people under 20. The numbers are very low for this age group however if we look at the next chart this is for people over 21 and you see how much higher the deaths are, this means the other people get the more they use drugs.

Jeremy: “I want to ask you all is: “Why do you think youth under twenty years old is using substances and what can be done to encourage another way to cope.”

Mr. Chair- We will need a few minutes to think about that question.

Jeremy -- should I keep going and then come back or would you like time to think now?

Mr. Chair-Yes let’s keep going and come back to the question.

Jeremy- These dashboards give us overdoes data however this dashboard shows other things that youth deal with that cause them to seek ways to cope. The arrows you all see on the screen show us if we are going in the wrong direction or the right direction. If you look at the arrow to the left it shows that Wisconsin is going in the wrong direction. Youth are struggling with other things other than drugs. Data shows that 70% of youth in 2024 in Wisconsin doesn’t feel like they can trust adults. That’s a high number and it shows an area in which we

need growth in. What we discovered was that mental health plays a huge roll in why the numbers are so high with ways youth cope. The question I want ask you all is: "What do you think Milwaukee County should focus on to ensure youth has better ways to cope? It's 6:05pm I will give you all 5 minutes to discuss this before I share what we are doing next.

Ms. Nikki-Addressed the Mr. Chair to speak: Mr. Chair acknowledged Ms. Nikki and Ms. Nikki shared with the Commissioners on clarity as to what Jeremy was asking from the youth. Ms. Nikki shared that Jeremy is asking them to share what they were already talking about.

Permission to Speak: Commissioner Shaker—Thank you so kind of what we were discussing here is like informing people before it becomes a bigger issue, for my person experience I'm in clubs that are anti-drug abuse, but if you asked me where to go if I was abusing drugs and I wanted to use a space to get out of it, I couldn't tell you, Like I feel like making it more clear to high school students like where to go if they need or like how to avoid drug abuse I think that would be more beneficial.

Mr. Chair-Permission to speak: Commissioner Vang- Yes, I do agree with what was said here, I definitely think it's important to educate the youth about drugs and drug abuse and the damage it can do to you. I saw that through your statics like the youth did not feel connected in schools but school is where the youth are held eight hours a day five days a week, so it's a place where they are the most so it's very important that they are clearly educated and that way the understand the consequences that come with drugs and how to prevent that.

Mr. Chair-Recognizes Co Chair Commissioner Taylor Permission to speak I also agree with everyone here has said. Also, that social outlet that peer support or even from teacher is very important even through clubs. I feel like today there are less spaces for youth to go and even feel connected to someone their age and like expressing any feelings they may have especially after COVID where everyone was so distant from each other and online it's like there is no connection. It's really hard when you are going through something. I think that providing support for someone going through something will be beneficial.

Person from the Public permission to speak: Commissioner Cockfield--Lower the cost of drugs, not allow citizens to use illegal or none prescribed drugs. I think that it would be an effective way to not use substitutes that are harmful. One of our action items is having equal access to Mental health for those that need it. Like we have an action item of increasing counselors in our schools to help youth in our schools thank you.

Mr. Chair-Permission to speak: Commissioner Parajyia- I just want to address that counselor thing, I really think that schools should offer maybe we could recommend that counselors talks to students more like once a month or more.

Mr. Chair- I think that is it for or responses is that good?

Jeremy—Yes, that is what we are looking for a group of young people who are ready to take our ideas and run with them. Over the last 3 years we have given

out about 5 million dollars to the community. My question to you all is how can we incorporate more of a youth focus on this? What do you appreciate about our website and what we've done so far and what do you think is missing?

Mr. Chair-Co Chair Taylor you may speak I think you guys have really well in ensure that many different group are represented so there is something geared towards every age group to make sure that you all are connecting with the schools because I know a lot of schools send out emails and they have Instagram pages for their schools clubs.

Mr. Chair permission to speak- Commissioner Vang-I would also like to add on to the idea that you guys should connect with the schools more something my school does is have speakers come to the school and everyone from the whole school will listen to what the speaker has to say and you can connect on another level. If you come speak about your mission that will get the message out to the students.

Mr. Chair permission to speak—Nicko Adult advisor-Thank you Mr. Chair-Thank you for being here Jeremy I am so impressed with the page and all that you have on it. I want to say that in terms of collaboration I don't think there is no, better set of young people other than the Milwaukee County youth commissioners than to collaborate with not only are they our commissioners they really are ambassadors for their community, not just in our building but also in the community. I would love to see a video of you all asking this amazing body of youth how they cope and ways that they work through it. Thank you, Jeremy, for being here today.

Jeremy- Thank you I have 3 more questions before we go:

1. Would you all like to partner with me to create a youth component for the youth conference coming up in September.

Mr. Chair-Yes, we would love to.

2. How can adults become more a part of the commissioners?

Ms. Julia-Thank you Jeremy for coming tonight and wanting to work with them we really appreciate that. As you can see there are Adults here tonight we are full right now but please give me your email address I can send you their meeting dates. Ms. Nikki -if I can Jeremy, we can invite you to our event on April 26, we love how you facilitate meetings and we would love for you to be apart of that event.

Jeremy-Thank you, that is all I have for you all tonight. I will reach out about putting together your portion of the conference.

### **3. Juneteenth Jubilee Parade 2025 Planning- Presentation by George Akpan, Juneteenth Parade Co-Chairman (Information Only)**

- George explained the history of Juneteenth and why it is important to the history and culture of the people.
- The theme this year is: A Celebration of Love, Life, and Freedom
- The parade will begin at 9AM-11AM it will go down Atkinson to King Drive and Locust.
- How can you assist us:
  - How can we get more youth involved?

- Encourage participation through your schools
  - Promote the parade social media etc.
  - Volunteer opportunities- set-up, hand out t-shirts etc.
  - Help shape the youth
- Impact of your involvement-Empowering young leaders
  - Building community,
  - Youth engagement.

Ms. Julia permission to speak Mr. Chair- recognized Mr. Julia permission granted-Thank you Mr. Chair- I want to add that we had a meeting, and Juneteenth was mentioned as us being able to possibly have like marching bands and HMONG dance groups get involved. I can contact you after this meeting to share some of their ideas with you. Thank you.

#### 4. Take a Child to Work Day- Overview and Planning Update (Information Only)

- Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025
- Theme: Infrastructure
- Location: TBA
- The Planning Committee will make planning-related decisions as needed.

Ms. Julia permission to speak-Mr.Chair permission granted-Infrastructure I want to speak about so we are still in the planning stages but the committee has talked about moving it to the park. We will incorporate vehicles to do a tour we talked about having MCTS there as well, it is still in the planning stages.

Mr. Chair seeing no more discussion we will move on to number 5.

#### 5. Social Media and Content Approval Policy Review (Action Item)

Background: In July of 2023, the Milwaukee County Youth Commission passed the following process. The Commission should review and revise/update this policy annually.

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the following updates to the Social Media and Content Approval Policy (**changes in red**)

Authored by: Commissioners Slaasted, Vang, and Paranjija

Updated process (3/2025):

- The Committee on Community Engagement & Racial Justice will manage the social media content for the Milwaukee County Youth Commission.
- The social media content managers for the Milwaukee County Youth Commission's official social media page(s) shall include: the two Youth Commission Co-Chairs, **and** Chair and Vice Chair(s) of the Committee on Community Engagement & Racial Justice, for approval, **and the Communications Officer(s).**
- The social media content managers shall complete a brief social media training with the Office of the County Clerk prior to approving/managing posts.
- Any Youth Commissioner can send proposed social media content to the content managers via Direct Message on the social media platform.
- **Approval shall be granted by no fewer than two of the content managers and pushed through to be posted.**

- **For posts related to events in which the Youth Commission has participated or will be participating, posts should be coordinated by the Adult Advisor in charge of social media to avoid multiple posts about the same event.**
- In addition to the content managers, the following individuals shall have login credentials for the Youth Commission's social media page(s):
  - Communication Team within the Milwaukee County Clerk's Office
  - Adult Advisors
  - Operating Partner **(primary contact)**
  - Youth Commission **Administrative** Coordinator (Milwaukee County employee)
- **Milwaukee County can retract or delete a social media post that it deems to be inappropriate or inconsistent with the values and ethics of Milwaukee County.**
  - If a post must be retracted or deleted by Milwaukee County, the Youth Commissioner(s) who suggested and approved the content shall be required to complete additional training from the Office of the County Clerk before they are allowed to suggest posts or manage content again.
- Comments, responses, and other activity on approved posts may be made by any content manager or any individual with login credentials/access.
- If social media pages/platforms are connected for replicated posts, one approval shall satisfy the requirement for both pages/platforms.

Action Item: Shaker moves to approve item; Slaasted 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion:

Open for discussion: - Cockfield member of the public-I like this content it really is well written for us I want to amend the motion to say 3 instead of 2 since we have 6 people now.

Ms. Julia if I can provide clarification for the Operation Partner primary contact is referring to Safe and Sound which our primary contact person is Ms. Teneen and the adult

Chair- Commissioner Kaminski permission to speak-Given the explanation given by member of the public I move that we amend the motion for line 17 to say 3 instead of 2.

Chair recognizes Ms. Teneen – Thank you Mr. Chair- Since there is an amendment on the floor you must vote on the amendment and then return to the original motion.

Mr. Chair- Thank you Ms. Teneen motion is the floor can we call the roll Ms. Nikki sorry to interrupt Mr. Chair but there needs to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> before you can vote on the amendment.

Mr. Chair is there a 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Parajyia 2<sup>nd</sup>

Call the roll: 8 Ayes 1 Absent

0 against motion passed

Back to original motion: Shaker move to approve item action 2<sup>nd</sup> Slaasted -Are there any questions to the motion with amendment: 8 Ayes

1 absence

0 against

Motion passed.

## 6. Preview Upcoming Events & Responsibilities (Information Only)

Review the 2025 Youth Commission Calendar of Events. Upcoming events include:

- Day of Advocacy- April 9, 2025
  - Wisconsin State Capitol, 2 E. Main St., Madison, WI 53702
  - 7 AM-4:30 PM
    - NOTE: Directly following the April 9 Day of Advocacy event is the April Governance, Finance, & Evaluation Committee meeting at 5:30 PM.
- Take a Child to Work Day- April 24, 2025
  - Location TBD
  - Time TBD
- Spring Retreat- April 26, 2025
  - Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53132
  - 11 AM-2 PM

## 7. 2025 Quarterly Volunteer Opportunities (Action Item)

Background: In March of 2024, the Milwaukee County Youth Commission passed the following process.

Proposed: The Milwaukee County Youth Commission approves the following resolution to require participation in community service opportunities **(changes in red)**

Updated policy (3/2025):

*The Milwaukee County Youth Commission requests that the Office of Strategy, Budget, & Performance schedules **four one** community service **opportunity-es per quarter year, generally one per quarter**, and requires that every Youth Commissioner participates in (at least) two of the opportunities per **calendar-year 12-month period** as part of their commitment to the Youth Commission **(prorated for terms that are less than one year)**.*

### SAVE THE DATES:

- **Saturday, June 21, 2025 and Saturday, September 27, 2025**
  - 10:30 AM-1:00 PM
  - Preparing and distributing food to individuals and families at the Gathering- Running Rebels location
  - 1300 W. Fond Du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53205
  - RSVP form forthcoming
- Possibilities for November and December
  - Milwaukee County Parks Breakfast with Santa (December)
  - Another shift at the Gathering- Running Rebels location (November or December)
  - Food volunteer opportunity with Rooted & Rising- Washington Park (more information available upon request)
  - Please reach out to the administrative coordinator if you have further suggestions for your final two 2025 volunteer opportunities.

Action Item we need a motion: Commissioner Parajyia-I moved to approve this item Commissioner Shaker 2<sup>nd</sup>

Is there any debt: Seeing none please call the roll:

8 Ayes

1 Absent

**8. Open Forum (Time Permitting)- No time**

Commissioner Vang I move to adjourn meeting all in favor say yeah Aye 7  
All against say No 1 No motion passed meeting adjourned @ 7:01 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation requests:

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.