



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2022**

Commission Members Present:

Damien Buchman
Norma Duckworth
Debra Falk-Palec
John Haupt
County Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr.
Anne Kearney
Susan Pickering
Margaret Steimle

Milwaukee County Staff Present:

Michelle Allison, *DHHS*
Michael Bonk, *DHHS*
Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Rachel Kaehny-Frank, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Fran Musci, *MCTS*

Commission Members Excused:

Denise Koss
Barbara Leigh
Cheri M. McGrath
Marcia Perkins

- I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Meg Steimle called the meeting to order at 1:11pm, filling in for Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec.
- II. **Roll Call:** Introductions by all Commissioners and guests listed above.
- III. **Review and approve the December 13, 2021, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes.**

Motion: To Approve the December 13, 2021 Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes.
Action: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Haupt Moved, Pickering Second)
- IV. **Special Report:**
 - A. **Informational Report: Rachel Kaehny-Frank, Director of Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

Director Kaehny-Frank provided an overview of services about the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Aging and Disability Resource Centers are now statewide with Dane County joining in. Mission is to be the first place that people go to get accurate unbiased information on resources. Both for people who are aging and people with disabilities or differing abilities. As of January 1st the Aging and Disability Resource Center are serving all adults in Milwaukee County no matter person's ability or age.

Core Service: Information and Assistance, Providing accurate and timely information regarding community resources.

Option Counseling: One-on-one Consultations about private and publicly funded long-term care services to support individual needs.

Disability or Elder Benefits: Information about public and private benefits including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security among others.

Dementia Care: Dementia Care Specialist can connect individuals to dementia and care services as well as resources in the community.

Youth Transition: Assisting students to navigate the transition from children's/school system to the adult service system.

Publicly Funded Long-Term Care: Entry point to determining eligibility for Wisconsin's Long-term Care Programs.

Adult Protective Services: Serving as a link to Adult Protective Services. Ways to report abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation options are online or calling.

Questions: Commissioner Duckworth voiced a concern about elder clients needing help with home cleaning services. Resources with hoarding for elder clients. Director Kaehny-Frank provided a volunteer organization ERAS. Administrator Luster recommended to complete a referral form online or to call. Adult Protective Services can deal with situations before they get extreme. Commissioner Steimle asked Director Kaehny-Frank about upcoming listening sessions to see if dates have been provided. Director Kaehny-Frank will provide those listening session dates to the Commission. Commissioner Kearney asked if there are collaborations that could be happening between the ADRC, and the Commission, and what is expected from the Commission. Director Kaehny-Frank asked to attend commission meeting more frequently to become exposed and have experience, and encouraged Commissioners to visit other county public meetings such as the

V. Transit Plus Report: Fran Musci, Director of Paratransit and Transit Plus, Milwaukee County Transit System

December Ridership was 24,000 rides, that is just 70% below pre-covid levels. Still struggling to hire and train drivers as well with other staff. Transit Plus will be moving forward with four mitigation strategies. Transit Plus will be reinstating the no-show policy, that was suspended due to covid. Increase on-time pick up window from 0-25 minutes to 0-30 minutes will allow vendors flexibility in scheduling drivers and vehicles. Shortening booking window from 14 days to 7 days. Closing reservations at 4:30 to match Transit customers services hours 8:00am-4:30pm. Effective March 1st, letters will be going out to all customers to make aware changes are coming as well as posted on website and phone lines. Transit fixed routes and Paratransit got official notice they will be undergoing their triennial review. MCTS has suspended service on several freeway flyers until March 6th, due to current staffing shortages.

VI. Committee Updates

No Committees Met

VII. Review Office Report – Michael Bonk, Director Office for Persons with Disabilities

Updates: RFP mentioned last month, the recreational contract was approved by County Board. Easter Seals of Southeast Wisconsin will be the vendor for the next three years for the recreational programs and summer camps. Meetings regarding spring, summer and fall programming have begun as well for summer camp. The Office for Persons with Disabilities is focusing on making summer campus a success this year. Concerns have come up regarding inclement weather since space is shared with tenants at both of the Wil-O-Way sites. With covid precautions/ guidelines, pop up tents may be needed to ensure safety. Group activities would stick together in rotation for designed activities to eliminate large groups. Staggering transportation is also an idea, to avoid large grouping. Staff also provided an informational report on the construction at Wil-O-Way Underwood. The hardy board siding has been installed. The Contractor will be coming back in Spring to fix touch up paint, and ensure all caulking has sealed.

VIII. Commission Discussions

A. Integration:

Director Bonk directly reports to Administrator Luster. Director Bonk explained that many of the facility management duties that the Office for Persons with Disabilities were previously doing are now managed by the Facility Management division. Facilities Management will be handling

contractors as well as maintaining the buildings. Director Bonk commended Administrator Luster for all of her assistance with the integrations. As a part of the integration, the Office for Persons with Disabilities will now have assistance in working with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Aging and Disability Services staff will now assist in managing the Agenda's and Meeting Minutes. Staff Christel Colorado is present during today's meeting taking the minutes and will be done by Staff Vonda Nyang in future meetings. Administrator Luster commented if anyone needs assistance to make her aware, she will help in any way possible.

B. Recreational Updates:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities met with Easter Seals and discussed the Wil-O-Way Key Card program, which is the sports tickets distribution program as well as offering discounts for recreation opportunities. One thing that was noticed was the turnover of the Wil-O-Way Key Card members it had limited incentives within the programs guide. Discussion about discount offers within the spring, summer and fall adult recreational programs, if they are Key Card members. Trying to build more incentives to be a member of the Wil-O-Way Key Card program. There are many great benefits, since you can get multi-ticket offers. Currently in season Admirals are providing up to four free tickets per game for two games per month. We also get discounted tickets offers for the Brewers and the Bucks as well, Marcus Center and Fiserv Forum.

C. Chairperson's Report

Nothing to report currently.

IX. Other Matters by Commissioners:

Guest Tom Campbell is speaking next month regarding Disability Housing issues. Annual basis, of electing the Chairperson, the Vicechair will be moved to next month's agenda due to Deb not being present.

X. Other Matters by Public:

XI. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson Jr., Commissioner John Haupt second the motion. Meg Steimle adjourn the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christel Colorado
Executive Assistant