



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Area Agency on Aging - Legislative / Advocacy Committee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

9:00 AM

via Zoom

The Wednesday February 23, 2022 AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting is being held virtually. The public can access the meeting with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cwXG7vE4SMeZJeG5ilzPsQ

This link will be active until the end of the meeting.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 867 0087 81

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for committee members, please send them to MATULLE.CINDY@COUNTYOFDANE.COM. In the subject line please state: Written Comment for this meeting or Handouts for this meeting. Please include the name of the meeting and date.

PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO REGISTER TO SPEAK ON/SUPPORT/OPPOSE AN AGENDA ITEM MUST REGISTER USING THE LINK ABOVE (even if you plan to attend using your phone).

Registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Staff and Guests Present: Cleveland James, Cindy Matulle, Carrie Springer and Angela Velasquez.

A. Call To Order

Chair OLSON called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Present 7 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, JILL MCHONE, ESTHER OLSON, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and GAIL RUTKOWSKI

Absent 2 - ANNA LEZOTTE, and MAI ZONG VUE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) Minutes from January 26, 2022
[MIN-641](#)

Attachments: [2022_0126 AAA Legislative-Advocacy Comm Mtg Minutes](#)

A motion was made by CASTANEDA, seconded by KAUD, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, MCHONE, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and VUE

C. Action Items

1. Diversity Work Group

Approve Nomination of New Member. Cleveland C James

Mr. Cleveland James introduced by KAAUD and nominated to join the Diversity Work Group. Mr. James provided his background in Admissions at several prominent Universities. While at UW-Madison was instrumental in the development and implementation of the People Program. The People Program provides youth of color the opportunity to experience college during the summer over several years. Successful participation in the program ensures admission to UW Madison at no cost. The People Program started at the high school level and is now being offered in grade school. Mr. James retired from a position of Director, Equity and Inclusion from New York State University at Buffalo, New York and returned back to Wisconsin looking for ways to keep active in helping POC be successful.

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, to approve Mr. James as a Member of the Diversity Work Group.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, MCHONE, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and VUE

[2021](#)
[ACT-487](#)

2022 Diversity Work Group Goals

Attachments: [AAA Diversity Work Group 2022 Goals](#)

KAUD reviewed the 2022 Goals for the work group. After some discussion, language changes were made to the goals to better define the individuals they are recruiting.

Acting AAA Manager Angela Velasquez reported that a new recruit will be joining the AAA Nutrition/Wellness Committee in March. Mr. Jules Lee is the Food Security Manager at Middleton Outreach Ministry. Mr. Lee has worked with the AAA dietitian during the pandemic to secure nutrition supplements for older adults and self-identifies as Black.

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by RUTKOWSKI, to approve the amended 2022 Goals as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, MCHONE, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 2 - LEZOTTE and VUE

2. Advocacy Supporting Federal & State Programs

OLSON reported the Federal funding for OAA is still pending due to continuing resolution and failure to pass the FFY budget. The State Legislature has a full slate of voting legislation that would make it more difficult for older adults to vote. The Common Cause group has developed an education piece about the voting changes. OLSON stated she will forward this piece to Committee members. The WI Senior Advocacy group is also crafting a statewide message to make older adults aware of legislative attempt to restrict voting. The impact on absentee voting is the biggest concern for older adults. WAAN is meeting March 2, 2022 to decide their course of action. The League of Woman's Voters is sending out absentee voting information in March with home delivered meals. OLSON stated older adults make up the largest percentage of voters.

Dane County Lobbyist Carrie Springer reported 120+ new bills presented by the Legislature since February 1, 2022. Twelve of the bills are voting changes which have passed the Senate but still have to go through the Assembly. A bill requiring voters to upload ID's for each time you vote instead of for a period of time is being proposed. It is difficult enough for some older adults to do this once but requiring them to do so for every election will put an additional barrier in place. Clerks would not be able to change/add a missing zip code. Another bill affects older adults who are indefinitely confined making it harder for their vote to count. OLSON asked for an update on the Caregiver Tax Credit bill. SCHMIDLKOFER stressed the need to educate older adults on those getting elected into office and what stance these elected officials have on these bills. OLSON inquired if there were resources to translate educational pieces into Spanish and Hmong.

No Action Taken at this time.

D. Presentations

None.

- Present** 5 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, and GAIL RUTKOWSKI
- Absent** 4 - ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and MAI ZONG VUE

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2023 AAA Budget Priorities

VELASQUEZ noted that the Focal Point Directors had a meeting in February and brought forth the need for increased funding in case management and nutrition site management. VELASQUEZ stated the Access Committee was going to discuss emerging trends learned from case managers at their March 7 meeting.

2. ADRC Governing Board

OLSON reported the ADRC Board is working on questions for a public hearing to get input from the community on services offered. Shawn Tessmann will be a speaker at the March meeting.

3. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

Discussed in the Action Item.

4. State's Aging Advisory Council

OLSON stated DHS has hired five Policy & Analyst positions to help with ARPA funding. BADR working with these new positions to make sure better communication happens with the AAA's about funding in the future. State's Aging plan is due to be submitted this fall. OLSON has seen a draft copy of the plan and has asked permission to release this draft to the aging network prior to the public input phase of the Plan. Suggested when plan is available to the public that the committee look at plan and offer feedback.

5. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

OLSON reported WAAN is submitting a letter to the Legislators regarding the voting bill about the rights of confined older adults.

6. Dane County Broadband Task Force

[2021
PRES-233](#)

Dane County Broadband TaskForce Public Hearing Registration

Attachments: [Dane County Broadband Task Force Public Hearings](#)

VELASQUEZ emailed the announcement of the public hearings. OLSON reported the state Broadband Task Force doesn't seem to be advocating for older adults to have service as much as the Dane County Broadband Task Force. A lot of data gathering and determining where the needs are is one of the issues to be investigated. Committee members were shown, on the County Board Supervisor's Website, where to go to test their internet connection speed. The Task Force would like as much data as possible about access and speed as there is a discrepancy in what providers are reporting and what really is happening.

7. Chair & Staff Report

VELASQUEZ reported that on March 7 at the AAA Board meeting, ACS Division Administrator Todd Campbell would be announcing the appointment of the new the AAA Manager.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Wednesday, 23 March 2022, 9am via Zoom

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by KAUD, seconded by BUNCK, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:33 am. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, OLSON and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 4 - LEZOTTE, MCHONE, SCHMIDLKOFER and VUE

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Matulle, AAA Clerk III.