



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, March 23, 2022

9:00 AM

via Zoom

The Wednesday March 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):

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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 & Guests Present: Cindy Matulle, Sridevi Mohan, Carrie Springer, and Angela Velasquez.

A. Call To Order

Chair OLSON called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

- Present** 6 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, ESTHER OLSON, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and GAIL RUTKOWSKI
- Absent** 3 - ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, and MAI ZONG VUE

B. Consideration of Minutes

1. Minutes from February 23, 2022

[2021](#)
[MIN-660](#)

Minutes from February 23, 2022 meeting.

Attachments: [2022_0223 AAA Legislative-Advocacy Comm Mtg Minutes](#)

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

Ayes: 6 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 3 - LEZOTTE, MCHONE and VUE

C. Action Items

1. Diversity Work Group

KAUD reported having a meeting with Representative Hong to see if she can help us with recruitment. KAUD is having a hard time contacting the Director of Central Hispano the past several months. Is trying to work with their Board members to reach out to us. The members are selecting their goals to work on for recruitment of members for the AAA Committees. Deadline for this is next week.

Long discussion with committee members about whether Diversity Work Group should be listed on the AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee Description. Aging Specialist Angela Velasquez and AAA Manager Sri Mohan will review and then follow up with KAUD on what the next steps will be. If needed the Committee Description can come back for review.

No action taken.

2. Advocacy Supporting Federal & State Programs

[2021](#)
[ACT-508](#)

AAA Legislative/Advocacy Recommendation to AAA Board

Attachments: [Leg-Adv Committee Recommendation Mental Health 040422](#)

VELASQUEZ reviewed the letter drafted by the AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee to request the AAA Board send out to Wisconsin lawmakers about Mental Health Access for older adults. The Legislation was introduced in 2019 but did not make it out of Committee. AAA supported the legislation at that time with a letter of support. The bill allows medical professionals to bill Medicare for mental health services. Currently we have a huge shortage of mental health providers that can bill Medicare so we need everyone we can to help provide this important service to older adults.

A motion was made by CASTANEDA, seconded by RUTKOWSKI, to approve recommending the AAA Board send a letter supporting the passage of Senate Bill 828 and HR Bill 432 to the state's congressional delegation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 3 - LEZOTTE, MCHONE and VUE

OLSON is a member of the Wisconsin Senior Advocates (WSA) and wanted to know if the committee members wanted a separate reports section for this advocacy group on their agenda. Members would like to see this section added to the Reports to Committee so that all information can be obtained and work isn't being duplicated. This report will be added to future meetings.

OLSON mentioned elections for April to make sure the word is out for people to vote. We need all representatives to work with us on advocacy.

SCHMIDLKOFER mentioned the bills that have gone through are things we still need to fight for the rights of older adults to vote. The Governor's race is just as important to keep older adult rights in place.

VELASQUEZ talked about issues with the state transportation services. Case Managers instructed to report any complaints with the state because this is a state service funded by the Medicaid program. CASTANEDA reported the program is not user friendly for older adults who do not use technology. Very long wait times on the phone leads to frustration and people hanging up. Carrie Springer asked how this program became a state program. SCHMIDLKOFER explained as a cost containment issue. Was a local program but State decided they should take it over so everyone had equal access to transportation. Some areas didn't have local services and the State thought they could save money. Program no longer serves the public but attempting to save money. Providers are not in Wisconsin and process is up for bidding. Has been a problem program since the State took over. OLSON said she would bring this up at the WAAN meeting as this continues to be a service issue for older adults.

D. Presentations

None.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2022 WAAN Aging Advocacy Day

May 11, 2022 and to be done virtually again this year. Email that was sent out by VELASQUEZ was shared again with committee members.

2. 2023 AAA Budget Priorities

VELASQUEZ reported that Focal Point Directors asked for additional Case Management funding. VELASQUEZ is crunching numbers on services and time to justify to the County Executive such a request.

3. ADRC Governing Board

Supervisors Ratcliff and McGinnity are presenting on the Dane County Task Force for Broadband at next month's meeting.

4. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

Dane County Lobbyist Carrie Springer reported a budget increase of 1.50% in the Older Americans Act. Springer checked into the Care Giver tax credit bill. Democrats introduced the bill the last day of hearings and the bill went nowhere. Bills are with the governor to be approved or vetoed.

5. State's Aging Advisory Council

OLSON reported they will meet at the end of April early May. Will review the State Aging Plan and finalize it before sent to agencies. Currently no membership north of Wausau or in the Platteville area.

6. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

OLSON will forward the agenda for the meeting next week. Will report concerns of the Statewide Transportation issues.

7. Chair & Staff Reports

None.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Wednesday, 27 April 2022, 9 am 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 10:19 am. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 3 - LEZOTTE, MCHONE and VUE

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Matulle, AAA Clerk III.