



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, December 8, 2021

9:00 AM

via Zoom

The Wednesday December 8, 2021 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

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When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 867 0087 8125

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/OPOSE 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: Cheryl Batterman, Cindy Matulle, Wesley Sparkman, Carrie Springer, and Angela Velasquez

A. Call To Order

Chair OLSON called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Present 8 - TED BUNCK, JODIE CASTANEDA, FAISAL KAUD, ANNA LEZOTTE, JILL MCHONE, ESTHER OLSON, JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and GAIL RUTKOWSKI

Absent 1 - MAI ZONG VUE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)
[RPT-692](#) Minutes from October 27, 2021

Attachments: [2021_1027 AAA Legislative-Advocacy Committee Minutes](#)

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

Ayes: 8 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 1 - VUE

C. Action Items

1. Diversity Work Group

No Action Taken.

2. Advocacy Supporting Federal & State Programs

OLSON reported services of ADRC's are being reviewed across the state. Access capability versus the need of ADRC services is something being reviewed. A lot of money from ARPA to agencies but not enough staff to provide all services. Some agencies are having a hard time spending the money wisely. Aging Coalition is working with Legislators to update these issues. Wisconsin Senior Advocacy Group is working with WAAN on three top areas: 1. Lack of caregiver service providers; 2. Voting rights of older adults; and 3. Transportation. Older adult isolation continues to be an issue as not all ADRC's are offering services because of staffing levels.

AAA Manager Cheryl Batterman updated about the State's nutrition funding lapse in 2021. Meeting was held with AAA's as a follow up to questions asked by Dane County AAA Board about this situation. State has taken responsibility for not communicating in a timely manner the underspending of agencies affecting the Nutrition Program. The unspent money was transferred to the State's GPR funding and will not be redistributed to AAAs. Many counties in GWAAR's service area underspent money that was allocated to them. Unspent 2021 money will be redistributed to Dane County and Milwaukee County, in addition to GWAAR. The State is hiring four people to manage the ARPA money. The State also agreed to quarterly meetings with AAA Directors to reduce miscommunications. Communication from the State seems to be a concern as the state's internal mailings often times do not include Dane and Milwaukee AAAs. Due to an increase in Federal OAA funding and the ARPA money, Dane County AAA will have \$250,000 to award in caregiver grants in 2022 which is double of what has been received in past years. With this large increase, a 10-hours/week LTE will be hired to assist the AAA Caregiver Specialist with the application process and distribution of funds.

D. Presentations

1. Office for Equity & Inclusion

Dane County Office for Equity & Inclusion (OEI) Director Wesley Sparkman explained his office not only provides equity & inclusion guidance for Dane County employees but it also reaches out to community organizations. There is a County Ordinance that includes hiring and contracting for woman, minorities, and those disabled. There are several positions that specialize in different areas of recruitment and support for community involvement. Diversity recruitment staff work with multiple community organizations to provide internships for future jobs. The office has an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator who helps employees who have physical needs to make their work environment more productive. Currently working on closing the gap in Criminal Justice disparities and ensuring everyone is given the opportunity for COVID-19 vaccines.

Discussion and feedback about what the committee was looking for lead to more resources looked at.

BATTERMAN explained how the Diversity Work Group was developed and what they are looking for. Batterman will share our master list of community contacts with Sparkman of whom we have reached out to. Need help in educating the community in who AAA is and what services we offer. Some of the community members who did respond wanted a stipend for providing their services instead of volunteering to be a voice for their community.

KAUD explained what the work group is looking for in recruitment from the community. AAA is looking for members who are generally age 60+ and be actively involved of bringing forward things happening in their communities. KAUD is looking for help in reaching out to the minority communities as our attempts with phone calls and emails have resulted in no responses.

OLSON wanted to have committee members who are active and not just named to the committee. Batterman will contact Employee Relations about possibly putting a flyer in the Dane County retirement packet to recruit retirees who are POC and/or identify as LGBTQIA+ to serve on the AAA Board and Standing Committees.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2022-2024 Dane County Aging Plan

[2021
RPT-691](#)

Public Hearing Agenda for December 14, 2021

Attachments: [2021_1214 AAA Agenda Aging Plan Public Hearing Agenda](#)

BATTERMAN reminded members about the public hearing to review the draft plan. The final plan will be approved by the AAA Board on 1/3/22.

2. ADRC Governing Board

OLSON reported the board is looking at the core services provided and meet the needs of the public. There are community members who don't know the ADRC exists and how to get the word out about services. Barb Nichols is returning to the Board and OLSON will reach out to see if she would help on the Diversity Work Group.

3. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

BUNCK is concerned about National Guard called up by the State to help staffing at Mendota. There are severe workforce staffing shortages that are impacting core services.

4. State's Aging Advisory Council

OLSON reported there will be a meeting in January or February to review how agencies will spend the additional funding they have received.

5. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

OLSON stated voting rights continue to be a concern for older adults across the state. WAAN is starting to plan for 2022 Advocacy Day and will determine if it will be virtual or in person.

6. Chair & Staff Reports

BATTERMAN asked Committee members to submit comments or questions to her concerning the Aging Plan if they are unable to attend the public hearing.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Wednesday, 26 January 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 SCHMIDLKOFER, seconded by CASTANEDA, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - BUNCK, CASTANEDA, KAUD, LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON, SCHMIDLKOFER and RUTKOWSKI

Absent: 1 - VUE

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Matulle, AAA Clerk III.