

AAA Committee Recommendation Report

Report to the AAA Board

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From: Access Committee Legislative/Advocacy Committee Nutrition/Wellness Committee

History/Related Actions

The Diversity Work Group was established by the Legislative/Advocacy Committee in the first quarter of 2021 to:

- I - Increase awareness for the need to have members of BIPOC and other marginalized communities serving on AAA board and its standing committees including the Diversity Work Group.
- II - Recruit BIPOC/underrepresented community members to serve on Diversity Work Group, AAA Board and its standing committees.
- III - Establish a relationship with diverse community partners reflecting Dane county's growing population (Organizations/Churches led by BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, other marginalized communities).
- IV - Disseminate and seek input on Dane County Aging Plans from diverse community partners to truly understand the need of BIPOC/marginalized older adults.

In order to achieve the goals of the Diversity Work Group, work group members Kaud, McHone, Castaneda, Bankston and James have worked together to reach out and educate members of the BIPOC communities about the AAA Board and have encouraged them to be part of the Board/Committees when opportunities arise. As this work continues to grow, there has been lot of insights and thoughts at the committee level that this work needs the focus and guidance of the AAA Board so AAA on the whole (programs, policies, Board/Committees, agency) can become more inclusive and equitable as well as sustain the work of this workgroup.

Hence, at the 5/25/2022 - AAA Legislative/Advocacy committee meeting, sustainability and oversight of the diversity work group was discussed:

Long discussion by committee members about the sustainability of the group being with the AAA Board as oversight instead of being tasked to the AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee. The AAA Board has a higher level of authority to continue the work done by this group should any of the members not be involved anymore.

Motion made by KAUD, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, to recommend the AAA Board consider redefining and enhancing the work of diversity work group, hence reinforcing the Older American Act charge to reflect the diversity of Older adults organizationally and in the programs and oversight of our work.

Motion carried on voice vote.

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

Absent: 1 - RUTKOWSKI

Financial/Budget/Other Resource Implications (if any)

None to Dane County

Recommendation

The Legislative/Advocacy committee is recommending the AAA Board to more clearly define and enhance the diversity & equity work goals for AAA as a whole as well as assume direct oversight of this work for sustainability, thus reinforcing the Older American Act charge to reflect the diversity of older adults organizationally, in our programs and oversight of our work.

Attachments

None