



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Area Agency on Aging - Legislative / Advocacy Committee

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

9:00 AM

AAA/ADRC
2865 N. Sherman Ave., Rm. 108
Madison, WI 53704

AAA/ADRC-Room 108

A. Call To Order

Chair Van Rooy called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Staff and guests present: Cheryl Batterman, Jim Krueger, Howard Thomas, Angela Velasquez, and Sam Wilson.

Present 9 - ROB GUNDERMANN , MYRA JOSEPHSON, FAISAL KAUD, PAUL KUSUDA,
ESTHER OLSON, MARY PIKE, PAUL VAN ROOY, DIANE WALDER, and
NIKOLE CHAPMAN

Absent 2 - THOMAS FRAZIER, and JILL MCHONE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2015](#) MINUTES FROM JUNE 24, 2015
[MIN-195](#)

Attachments: [2015_0624_Leg-Adv Committee Mtg](#)

KAUD moved, JOSEPHSON seconded, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - GUNDERMANN, JOSEPHSON, KAUD, KUSUDA, OLSON, PIKE, VAN ROOY,
WALDER and CHAPMAN

Absent: 2 - FRAZIER and MCHONE

C. Action Items

2016 AAA BUDGET ADVOCACY

[2015](#)
[RPT-295](#)

SENIOR ADVOCACY 2016 AAA BUDGET

Attachments: [Senior Advocacy--2016 AAA Budget \(2\)](#)

Batterman and Velasquez presented updated data requested by the Committee pertaining to advocacy efforts for six areas of the 2016 AAA budget: Bilingual Case Management, General Case Management, Mental Health Consultant, Nutrition Site Management, Caregiver Support Program, and Special Projects Fund.

At the Committee's request, Batterman asked the 15 Senior Focal Point Directors to rank the six areas in order of greatest need. Nine of the Executive Directors responded with the following priorities: 1. General Case Management; 2. Nutrition Site Management; 3. Mental Health Consultant; 4. Bilingual Case Management; 5. Caregiver Support Program; 6. Special Projects Fund.

Kusuda noted the growing Latino and Hmong populations in Dane County that will generate an increased need for bilingual case-manager help and suggested moving Bilingual Case Management to the No. 3 priority while dropping Mental Health Consultant to No. 4.

OLSON moved, CHAPMAN seconded, to recommend the AAA Board prioritize advocacy efforts for additional AAA funding in 2016 in the following order: General Case Management, Nutrition Site Management, Mental Health Consultant, Bilingual Case Management, Caregiver Support Program, and Special Projects Fund. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - JOSEPHSON, OLSON, PIKE, VAN ROOY, WALDER and CHAPMAN

Absent: 4 - FRAZIER, GUNDERMANN, KAUD and MCHONE

Abstain: 1 - KUSUDA

D. Presentations

AARP: SAM WILSON

AARP State Director Sam Wilson provided an overview of the 825,000-member Wisconsin organization and distributed the 2014 WI AARP annual report and current resource guide.

Wilson reported Helen Marks Dicks and Lisa Lamkins lead the AARP's state advocacy efforts and that more than 100 volunteer advocates are active, either through direct action during legislative sessions or through weekly conference calls that provide updates on state and federal issues. In addition, there are 51,000 members registered as e-mail activists and a group of telephone activists.

Wilson said AARP Wisconsin has two major advocacy efforts planned when the Legislature reconvenes in September: Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act, which requires that hospitals notify caregivers of any patient status changes; and Work and Save in Wisconsin, a public-private partnership that would provide all workers access to a retirement savings program through payroll deduction. Both bills have been introduced without subsequent legislative action.

Batterman shared with Wilson the Legislative/Advocacy Committee's primary objectives and some recent successes, including the launch of the Senior Advocacy Training Program, which provides tools for effectively working with elected officials, and the Elderly Advocacy Network, which distributes regular policy and advocacy updates to several hundred e-mail subscribers.

Batterman noted that AAA of Dane County was not extended an invitation to the recent White House Conference on Aging regional forum in Cleveland, Wisconsin representation organized by AARP, and asked that AAA of Dane County be invited to future events. Olson reiterated that request. Velasquez pointed out that the AARP Wisconsin Caregiving Resource Guide included in "State Caregiving Resources" the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) but left out Area Agency on Aging of Milwaukee and Area Agency on Aging of Dane County. Wilson made note of the omissions.

E. Reports to Committee

1. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD

Pike stated the Board's meeting on 23 July was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

2. COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Olson stated the U.S. Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015 on 16 July and suggested Committee members urge stakeholders to advocate for its passage in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Batterman solicited the Committee's guidance about how to distribute analyses of the recently passed 2015-17 state budget, one by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and a second by Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator for the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). Committee members suggested the analysis of items affecting seniors be pulled out of both documents and combined into single document while providing a link to the full documents for individuals seeking more information.

3. WISCONSIN AGING ADVOCACY NETWORK

Olson said she would compile a report on the White House Conference on Aging held 13 July.

4. CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Batterman explained work staffed by Velasquez and herself continues on the 2016-2018 AAA Area Plan, a three-year service blueprint that includes goals, with workgroups meeting weekly to draft yearly goals in five focus areas: caregiving, elder abuse, healthy aging, nutrition revitalization, and dementia.

Velasquez and AAA Dietetic Technician Mary Browning have been busy preparing for a state nutrition audit on 29 July.

Velasquez reported the three nutrition pilot projects funded through the revitalization grant received last year are now completed, with a final report on each project due to the State by 1 August 2015. Further, Velasquez reported an additional Request for Proposals to revitalize the congregate meal program has been released by the State and is due on 17 August 2015. Several Focal Points are considering projects for the AAA to submit on their behalf.

Velasquez noted the recently-approved state budget shifts the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) to the Division of Medicare and Medicaid Services. She shared concerns about how that could affect emphasis placed on providing services to seniors through the Older Americans Act.

Olson stated 16 people have registered for Senior Advocacy Training, a four-session program that begins 4 August 2015. The maximum number of participants is 20.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2015, 9 AM @ AAA/ADRC

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjournment

OLSON moved, JOSEPHSON seconded, to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at 10:51 am.

Respectfully submitted by Howard Thomas, Clerk Typist.