

Advocacy by Focal Points/Seniors

Oregon Senior Center:

In April, the Oregon Area Senior Center ran an article in our Newsletter about the potential cuts to Medicaid. The article was three-quarters of a page and included contact information for our senators and congressman. That article was adapted from an article prepared by the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. Additionally, the subject of potential cuts has been on the Agenda of our Senior Center-affiliated 501(c)(3), the Oregon Area Council on Aging, three times in the last four months, with advocacy being a central focus of those Agenda items. Our case managers have also worked one on one with people who want to advocate on their own behalf on this subject.

Northwest Dane Senior Services:

We have shared contact info and a few of our volunteers have shared with me that they called directly. One has family in Washington DC and has made a few connections. She is a great advocate for many.

Waunakee Senior Center:

The front page of our June newsletter was titled Your Voice Matters and described all the proposed cuts that may happen and the impact it would have on older adults. Since the newsletter came out people have asked for the contact information for their representatives so they can write, call or email them. We put together that list and have it available at our reception desk.

Stoughton Senior Center:

Staff contacts representatives with concerns with budget changes and the consequences those will have on local older adults. We placed an article in our newsletter on possible effects cuts to the federal budget would have on the Senior Center and local older adults and if they wanted to contact their representatives, where they can do that. Our Commission on Aging wrote a letter to all our state and federal representatives encouraging them to support older adults and veterans and keep those services that serve those populations. They also wrote letters to the editors of local newspapers. Senior Center staff tries to keep up to date with information coming out and sharing that with Commission on Aging and local leaders.

Mt. Horeb:

We used the template that you sent out after our first In-Person Director's meeting in March. I made eight copies of this template and sent them to WI U.S. Senators' Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and WI U.S House of Representatives, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, Glen Grothman, Tom Tiffany, Derrick Van Orden and Scott Fitzgerald, along

with 100 signatures of seniors on each letter, who came in for Bingo and other programs that week. I am planning on printing around 80 templates of the last letter you emailed and have individual seniors who come for Bingo this Friday, sign the letter and we will get them sent out to our Congress men and women. Our seniors were more than willing to sign these letters and have their voices heard!

DeForest:

We have posted on social media about advocacy day. I brought a board member with me to advocacy day. I have emailed and met with my Dane Co. supervisors. We have invited our Dane Co supervisors to events here. I have sent advocacy information to older adults that enjoy getting involved and have asked about possibilities. I have seeked out older adults to serve on boards.

Fitchburg:

At this point Director regularly shares information with the City Board and nonprofit board regarding cuts or potential cuts to our programs. In addition they have a “safe table” where they put any advocacy information that AAA, WAAN and others share regarding legislation that will have an impact on older adult programs.