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, June 24, 2026 **9:00 AM** **Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at 2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 109, or virtually via Zoom.**

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public testimony.

Interpreters must be requested in advance; please see the bottom of the agenda for more information.

Los intérpretes deben solicitarse con anticipación; consulte el final de la agenda para obtener más información.

Yuav tsuam tau thov txog cov neeg txhais lus hau ntej; thov saib hauv qab kawg ntawm qhov txheej txheem rau cov ntaub ntawv ntxiv.

يجب التقدم بطلب خدمات الترجمة مقدمًا. يرجى الاطلاع على أسفل جدول الأعمال للمزيد من المعلومات

The Wednesday, June 24, 2026 AAA Legislative/Advisory Committee meeting will be conducted in hybrid fashion. Members of the public can either attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

The public can attend in person at the Aging & Disability Resource Center, 2865 N. Sherman Ave., Room 109, in Madison.

The public can access the meeting virtually with the Zoom application.

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://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S9WkopwJSDGDGXkKxAFLdA

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 toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 998 6320 0129

PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

IN PERSON: Any members of the public wishing to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item can register in person at the meeting using paper registration forms. IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER VIA THE ZOOM LINK ABOVE EVEN IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING IN PERSON.

In person registrations to provide public comment will be accepted throughout the meeting.

VIRTUAL: 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). Virtual registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.

In order to testify (provide public comment) virtually, you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak to the body.

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board members, please send them to: matulle.cindy@danecounty.gov

A. Call To Order

Guests and Staff present: Lacy Fox, Cindy Matulle, Esther Olson, Emily Petersen, Claire Purkis, Lynn Riley

Vice Chair Raemisch called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Present 4 - TED BUNCK, NATALIE RAEMISCH, JODIE CASTANEDA, and AMY WURF

Absent 2 - JIM SCHMIDLKOFER, and ANNA LEZOTTE

B. Consideration of Minutes

2026 MIN-014 AAA Leg/Adv Minutes from April 22, 2026

A motion was made by CASTANEDA, seconded by WURF, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0.

C. Action Items

None.

D. Presentations

1. Introducing Emily Petersen, GWAAR Advocacy and Public Policy Director

2026 PRES-051 GWAAR ADVOCACY UPDATE

Attachments: Advocacy Update_GWAAR Board_6-12-26

2026 PRES-052 GWAAR NEWSLETTER

Attachments: GWAAR Newsletter 06-09-2026

Petersen shared that as Advocacy and Public Policy Director for GWAAR she is the liaison to the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, a coalition of professional and older adult-focused organizations and groups that advocate for policy priorities related to older adults.

WAAN held its 2026 Day of Action, which included an advocacy training session, on May 6 as part of its Older Americans Month activities with the intention of energizing aging-focused professionals and citizen advocates to have a conversation with legislators about priorities.

WAAN has identified four state funding advocacy priorities for 2027 -- Home Delivered Meals, Aging & Disability Resource Centers, Falls Prevention Initiatives and Specialized Transportation Programs -- ahead of the state budget season. Efforts continue to make contact with legislators who are in their districts due to the session having ended ahead of upcoming elections and may wish to elevate aging-related initiatives while campaigning.

Petersen shared this is an excellent time for citizen advocates to get involved in advocacy events such as the In-District Legislative Information Session co-hosted by AAA and ADRC of Dane County on June 17 or by starting a conversation with the elected officials in their districts.

Educating legislators about issues that impact older adults will be a priority in early 2027 as newly elected officials take office, including a new governor and state agency secretaries. That effort will extend to newly elected federal officials following the mid-terms.

Petersen shared that WAAN will soon send a save-the-date notice for Aging Advocacy Day at the state capitol on May 11, 2027.

E. Reports to Committee

a. ADRC Governing Board

2026 RPT-147 2026_0608_ADRC GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

Attachments: 2026_0608_ADRC Governing Board Minutes

No report.

b. County/State/Federal Legislative Update

Dane County Executive Assistant Lacy Fox reported that she continues to monitor issues pertaining to her former position as Dane County Government Affairs Director as the process continues to fill the vacancy created by her job change, which was announced on April 30.

c. State's Aging Advisory Council

State Aging Advisory Council Chair Esther Olson provided an overview of the group's activities, which began in mid-2018 with the creation of bylaws.

The Council, which aims to include representatives from all parts of the state and all tribal organizations, elevates aging-related matters to the State Office on Aging within the Bureau of Aging & Disability Resources and disseminates information back to counties and tribes.

A major focus of the group, which meets six times per year and works with the State Office on Aging to determine the agenda, is to provide input on programs and supports delivered through the Older Americans Act.

The Council received a presentation about the financial exploitation of older adults from Gena Schupp, Adult Protective Services Coordinator with the State Office on Aging, during its June meeting. Olson suggested the new AAA Advisory Council may benefit from hearing the presentation.

Olson reported the Office on Aging has hired a grant specialist who may be able to assist AAAs, and shared that the state's representative in the Administration for Community Living had returned to the position after a significant restructuring that created a service gap.

Olson reported a major topic of discussion has been Wisconsin Act 115, which passed in the legislature earlier this month and impacts incapacitated individuals who do not have a valid Power Of Attorney by allowing "Next of Kin" to make the decision to transfer them out of the hospital to a post-acute care facility without establishing court-appointed guardianship. The Office on Aging plans a major education effort in hopes of increasing the number of individuals who have a POA. AAA Manager Lynn Riley shared that AAA and the ADRC of Dane County hope to conduct outreach regarding the importance of having a POA.

d. U.S. Aging Legislative Update

i. "Urge Your Senators to Support OAA Funding Increases"

Advocacy Tools:
https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1842

Riley stated AAA employees are members of USAging, which supports the national network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocates for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs, and offered to add members and guests to the organization's email list if desired.

Riley referenced USAging's Advocacy Tools for Fiscal Year 2027 Older Americans Act appropriations.

e. Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

Riley reported she is a member of the WAAN leadership team and will keep the Committee advised about the organization's activities.

f. Chair & Staff Reports

i Update from the In-District Legislative Information Session

Riley reported that Dane County staff were pleased with the In-District Legislative Information Session co-hosted by AAA and ADRC of Dane County on June 17. Dane County Executive Melissa Agard and Dane County Department of Human Services Director John Schlueter made opening remarks and attended the proceedings. ADRC Acting Manager Bill Huisheere and Riley provided overviews of their agencies and four community members provided moving testimonials about how services involving WAAN's four 2027 funding advocacy priorities -- Home Delivered Meals, ADRCs, Falls Prevention Initiatives and Specialized Transportation Programs -- improved their situations. Riley stated that in addition to the elected officials, the event had a meaningful impact for the 40-plus individuals in attendance.

ii. AAA Advisory Council Update

AAA Aging Program Specialist Claire Purkis reported the inaugural meeting of the AAA Advisory Council is scheduled for 3 p.m. today. The agenda for the 12-member group, which will advise the AAA Board, includes introductions, an overview of AAA, initial education about the Older Americans Act and the AAA Aging Plan, and officer elections.

iii. Any Suggestions for Future Presentations?

Olson suggested that BADR's Helen Sampson be invited to provide her presentation "Reframing Aging." Riley plans to invite Sampson to an upcoming AAA Board meeting and will invite members of this body to attend.

F. Report Out Items to AAA Board

No items were identified.

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 9 a.m.

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

J. Adjournment

A motion was made by BUNCK, seconded by WURF, that the Meeting be adjourned.. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.